

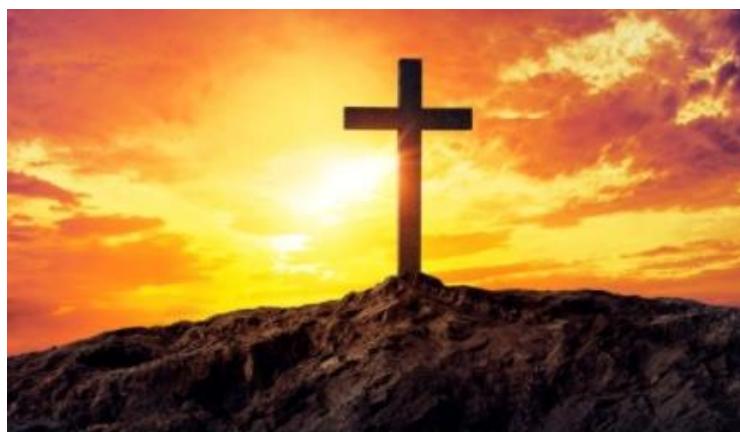


## MONTHLY LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAINCY

Sunday February 14<sup>th</sup> 2021 – Lent

**WELCOME** to the latest letter from the Chaplaincy as we approach the season of Lent together.

While the disciplines of Lent are a good and positive thing in themselves, we should never forget that Lent is a journey rather than a destination – a journey that leads us to walk with Jesus through the darkness of rejection, betrayal, suffering and death and into the new



life of Easter. It is Easter that changes everything, giving us hope even at a time of continuing uncertainty and desperation, because Easter is God's way of telling us that our human

lives matter to him, and matter infinitely. The story of the last days of Jesus that we will recall again together during Passiontide and Holy Week is not like a TV serial where we don't know how everything will work out and have to come back next week for another episode.

Right from the start we know how this story ends – with eternal life for us and for the world, and yet year by year we trace the story of the Passion, so as to learn more and more about the depths of God's love for us in bringing us through death to our eternal Easter with him. The Cross can only be a triumph, not the place of defeat, because we know the end of the story, and it is God's story, and God is for ever faithful.

So although we begin Lent with ashes on our foreheads, the ashes are in the sign of the Cross of our salvation. We walk forward into

the wilderness in confidence and trust, knowing that Christ has walked there before us and walks with us today. Even as we remember our mortality, we remember God's undying love for us, and his promise of eternal life and joy.



Don't forget as ever that I am here for you if there is any way in which I can help you – [chaplain@scilly.church](mailto:chaplain@scilly.church) / 423911.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Just to remind you all that we have a special Zoom service



for Ash Wednesday –  
17<sup>th</sup> February -  
beginning at 7.30 p.m.  
It will be in our usual  
Zoom meeting room,  
which you can join by  
using the Meeting



Code – 477 892 334 and the Passcode 019127, or the usual shortcut code.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/477892334?pwd=aWVpWXVidksralpVm1yUjN6VDg0dz09>

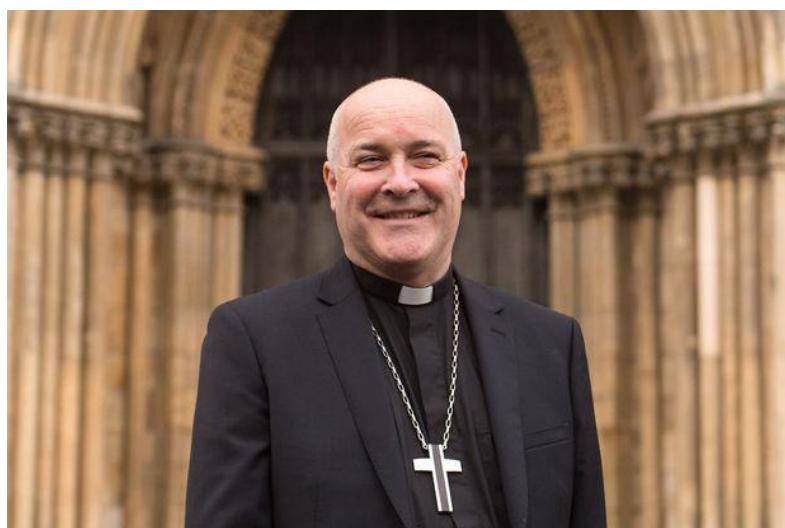
The meeting room will be open from 7.00 p.m. ready for a prompt start at 7.30 p.m. We will have to imagine the ash this year, but I can promise you some beautiful music, including part of Allegri's Miserere, as well as some more contemporary offerings. I hope to see many of you then as we begin Lent together.

## KEEPING LENT TOGETHER

The present lockdown restrictions mean that it is impossible for us to meet for our usual Lent discussion groups, but help is at hand. The Church of England is making available a whole range of resources for Lent under the title 'LiveLent – God's Story / Our Story'. There is a Lent book that you might like to read, and a series of shorter daily reflections that you can purchase. But there are three ways in which you can access the daily reflections for free:



- You can download the special free LiveLent app on to your smart phone or tablet, and read or listen to the meditation each day.
- You can sign up for the reflections so that you receive one by email each day of Lent (use the web link below)
- You can use your telephone to ring the Daily Hope number 0800 804 8044 and listen to the reflection for that day.



For further details why not go to [#LiveLent 2021 church resources: God's Story, Our Story | The Church of England](#), watch the video featuring Stephen Cottrell, the new Archbishop of York, and decide for

yourself? If you have any issues with the technology, as ever, please give me a ring!

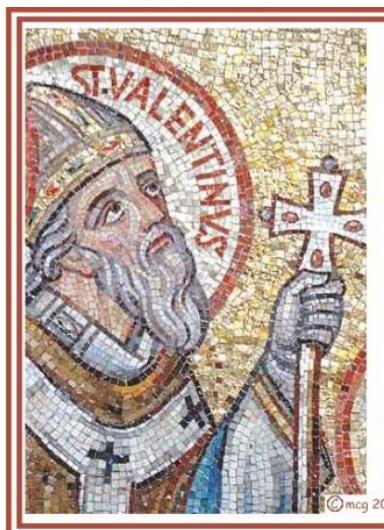
## ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day is considered the most romantic day of the year, with nearly 200 million roses purchased around the world for the 14 February celebration. Around 145 million cards are sent from admirers and spouses - with 25 million sent in the UK. But the history behind this date is actually quite grisly, involving Saint Valentine, in 269 AD.

Valentine was a priest or bishop in Rome. He was allegedly jailed by Roman emperor Claudius II for his deceit and unwillingness to obey the emperor's orders to stop performing Christian marriages. He was also said to be guilty of helping persecuted Christians. Claudius had ruled against Christian teaching as he did not want people to worship anyone other than him.

According to legend, Saint Valentine wrote letters to Claudius' daughter, and miraculously rid her of blindness. He also befriended Claudius, but when he tried to convert the emperor to Christianity, he was condemned to death. Valentine wrote his final letter to the daughter of Claudius before his execution, signing it "from your valentine". He was beaten with clubs and stones, then beheaded outside the Flaminian Gate in Rome before being buried at a Christian cemetery on the Via Flaminia.

As we begin Lent together and journey towards the Cross, we might



**St. Valentine**  
beheaded 269 a.d.

*The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist.* Pope St. Gregory the Great

want to reflect on what Valentine has to teach us about the cost of love, and especially the cost of love to God.