

# NEWSLETTER

## Lent 2023



### *The Rector writes...*

February begins with the Feast of Candlemas (2 Feb) which commemorates the presentation of the infant Christ in the Temple, 40 days after his birth.

In the Middle Ages, it was the day when everyone in the community brought their candles to be blessed by the priest, so they could ward off the darkness and all that sought to diminish human life. Imagine a typically dark, cold day in February inside a gloomy church and the spectacular brightness of hundreds of candles burning on and around the altar. It must literally have been the brightest moment of the whole year.

And accompanying this symbolic act, nature provides the Candlemas bells, or the snowdrops (*Galanthus*) as we now call them, planted around churches and graveyards with this Feast in mind. They are a symbol of hope: the small, delicate looking flowers are yet strong enough to break through the hard, cold earth. They tell us that winter is coming to a close and nature is springing back to life. Their purity and beauty against the dead tones of the winter earth are a sign of resurrection life. (cont...)

### *Collect for Lent*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing  
that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all  
those who are penitent:  
create and make in us new  
and contrite hearts  
that we,  
worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our  
wretchedness,  
may receive from you,  
the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission  
and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ  
your Son our Lord,  
who is alive  
and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen

We wait in hope  
for the Lord; he  
is our help and  
our shield. In  
him our hearts  
rejoice, for we  
trust in his holy  
name. May your  
unfailing love be  
with us, Lord,  
even as we put  
our hope in you.

*Psalms 33:20-22*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

22nd Feb:

Ash Wednesday

19th March:

Mothering Sunday

6th April:

Maundy Thursday

7th April:

Good Friday

9th April:

EASTER DAY

I recently came across a poem called 'Snowdrops' by the American poet, Louise Glück, which resonates very much with state of the world at the moment. It is about recovery and she imagines the flower's fear and joy at survival as it persists, despite the potential bleakness of the earth, eventually to wake to a new world. There is something here about the nature of Lent for me, which has often been called 'the Springtime of the Church,' and an encouragement to look for signs of hope and renewal all around and within ourselves.

### SNOWDROPS

Do you know what I was, how I lived? You know  
what despair is; then  
winter should have meaning for you.

I did not expect to survive,  
earth suppressing me. I didn't expect  
to waken again, to feel  
in damp earth my body  
able to respond again, remembering  
after so long how to open again  
in the cold light  
of earliest spring--

afraid, yes, but among you again  
crying yes risk joy

in the raw wind of the new world.



# Holy Week Schedule



## **Being with Jesus from Palm Sunday to Easter Day**

Please plan to take part as much as possible in our Holy Week and Easter services as we seek together to walk with Jesus from Palm Sunday to the Resurrection.

### **Palm Sunday (2nd April): Entering Jerusalem with Jesus**

10.30am Holy Communion in church

4.00pm Online Service of the Word for Palm Sunday

### **Remaining with Jesus each day during Holy week**

Monday: 8.00pm Compline with a Meditation (online)

Tuesday: 8.00pm Compline with a Meditation (online)

Wednesday: 8.00pm Compline with a Meditation (online)

### **Maundy Thursday (6th April):**

#### **Around the table with Jesus in the Upper Room**

8.00pm Holy Communion Service in church  
with foot washing and Stripping of the Altar

### **Good Friday (7th April): Remaining by the Cross**

2.00pm The Liturgy of Good Friday with Communion  
from Reserved Sacrament and Veneration of the Cross

### **Holy Saturday (8th April)**

8.00pm Easter Vigil with the Easter Ceremonies  
and first communion of Easter in church

### **EASTER DAY (9th April)**

Celebrating the Resurrection

10.30am Holy Communion in church

4.00pm Online Easter Sunday Service of the Word  
All Welcome!

**A Prayer  
for the  
start of  
Holy Week**

## **WALK WITH US**

**Jesus, you know  
what it's like  
to feel  
abandoned  
lost and afraid.  
Walk with us,  
and show us how  
to walk with  
others,  
who live in fear,  
who face death  
through hunger  
or war.  
Show us how to  
pray  
for those we do  
not know  
and will not  
meet,  
but who are  
always loved by  
you.  
Walk with us  
Jesus, Amen.**

**Linda Jones/CAFOD**

Links for the online worship will be sent out in the usual way.  
Please contact the Rector for any further information.



## Online services continue

### **Tuesday:**

Morning Prayer at 9.30am

### **Wednesday:**

Compline at 8.00pm

### **Thursday:**

Morning Prayer at 9.30am

### **Friday:**

Morning Prayer at 9.30am

### **Sunday:**

Service of the Word  
at 4.00pm

## Contact details:

Email the Rector on

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[www.facebook.com/holytrinitydunoon](https://www.facebook.com/holytrinitydunoon)

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# Lent book for 2023

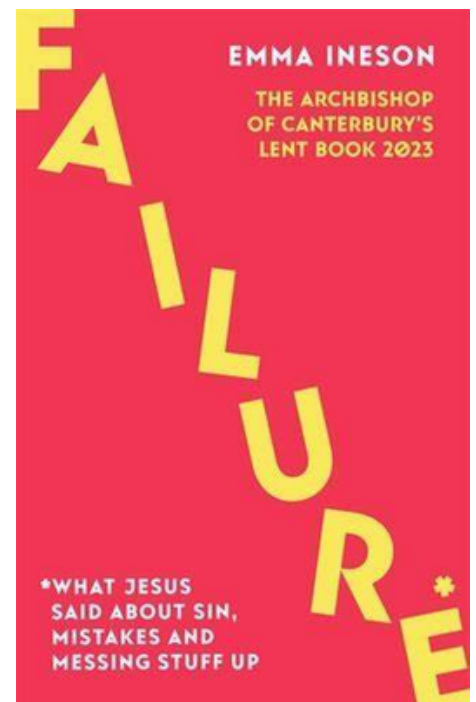
*From the Church Times:*

“Failosophy” is a name given to some recent interest in thinking failure through. This year, the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Lent Book by Emma Ineson, *Failure: What Jesus said about sin, mistakes and messing stuff up*, contributes to the conversation by moving “towards an (imperfect) theology of failure”. Having written a book a few years ago on ambition, Ineson now, in post-Covid days, asks what failure is, as human beings and as a Church. She explores what Jesus said about failure, how he trained his disciples for it, how he spent time with failures, and how all this might translate into our own lives and communities today. Her last chapter, “How to fail really well”, is a helpful and practical encouragement to accept that failure is natural, but fear of failure doesn’t have to be.

Some may find reflections on failure all a bit middle-class. Failure is not so frightening when you have the mental, financial, or time resources to learn resilience and creativity from it. Without those resources, failure can be overbearing and paralysing, feeling utterly

irredeemable.

What faith communities offer people in this situation is a pretty pressing question. Ineson’s gentle humour, honesty, and obvious faith help us to begin to work out why Donald Trump’s dividing of people into “winners” and “losers” is an evil humiliation and shaming of those who do not sit at influential tables or whose fragilities and fractures run deep. Ineson is, at the end of the day, a theologian of sensitive hope.



**There will be an online discussion on the Lent book Thursdays at 10.30am**  
**2nd March**  
**16th March**  
**23rd March**  
**30th March**

**Please contact the Rector if you would like the details of how to join.**