**Lent begins this week... join us in prayer**

Lent begins this Wednesday. We won't be holding a live Ash Wednesday service, but there will be one available via the Parish Church website, by clicking on the Sunday Services tab on the front page.

**The next day we have our 24 hours of prayer on Thurs 18th Feb!** You should have got an email from David Grant via Carrie with all the details, so I won't repeat them all.

We are calling the parish to unite in prayer for 24 hours, from 00:00 on Thursday morning, through until midnight. Prayer is as simple as talking to God, and yet powerful enough to turn the tide of history. Please do join us as we call out to God with our needs, listen to his voice and enjoy his presence.
1. sign-up here: <https://www.24-7prayer.com/signup/f91f08/> *(It says it is a ‘Lantern’ prayer room, but ignore that, it’s just because the Lantern already had an account setup - we are all in this together as a parish!)*
2. check out [these resources](https://www.thelanternchurch.org/24hr-prayer-resources)to help you pray ...
3.  If you have Zoom installed, great! If not, think about installing it (<https://zoom.us/download>) for the most seamless experience, but you can access Zoom through a normal web-browser, giving access to your microphone and web camera when prompted.
Once you've signed up on 24-7 prayer (1, above), a Zoom meeting link and passcode will be sent to you nearer the time. This prayer space will only remain open with your help, so do come along for your hour slot and then pass on the baton to the next person/group when they ‘arrive’ in our Virtual Prayer Room! 🙂

Our regular rhythm of prayer (Morning: 8 am on *Canford Parish Church Community* Facebook Page) and evening (8pm on *The Lantern Church* Facebook Page), along with the Lantern's 'Kingdom Come’ Prayer meeting at 7am will be taking place on the 18th in this 'Virtual Prayer Room' on Zoom so do sign up for this slot if you would like to join in!

Then, for the next six weeks of Lent:

**Three choices to invest in your discipleship this Lent**

***Just to be clear, this is not 'instead' of regular Life Groups and the Life Group notes, though individual LGs could choose to use them that way. They are just on offer, pray and see if you feel drawn to one or another and just 'fast' one evening of BBC iPlayer to grow!*

 UP // Prayer Course II** - if you enjoyed the format of the revised Prayer Course, a sequel is here (well it launches on Ash Wednesday), more great video talks and supporting material from 24/7 Prayer and Pete Greig. More info here: <https://prayercourse.org/prayercourse2/> Grab some friends and dive in!

**IN // A book reading challenge** - the Archbishops Lent book is Hannah Steele's *Living his story*, why not read it together as a Life Group, and perhaps someone doing it could set up a weekly Zoom call anyone at church could join? More information here: <https://thebigchurchread.co.uk/living-his-story/>. A chance to grow together and in turn be inspired to missional Christian living*.*You can order the book at several places online.

**OUT // Acorn course** – I would like to introduce individuals to a really simple way to be trained up in a pandemic-proof method of evangelism through simple, intentional phone conversations... a course developed by Michael Harvey of Evangelical Alliance.

I will be holding a series of sessions after Evening Prayer on Wednesdays for those who want to join in. If you’re interested watch Michael’s introductory video [here](https://youtu.be/Lcw16Z_y-k0) and then join me on Wednesday 24 February at 8:30 pm on Zoom [here.](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5399369126) and thereafter at the same time for the next three weeks.

I hope you find the Lent resources helpful and stimulating. If you want a really ‘light touch’ there is always the Church of England’s ‘Live Lent’ App that you can download for free on to your Smartphone. It gives a daily devotional reflection for each day of Lent, starting on Wednesday.

Bless you all, and have a fulfilling and challenging Lent,

Chris