

LENT PREFACE

A long time ago in a galaxy, seemingly, far far away a wise old man wrote to a young and up-and-coming Christian with these words: *'all Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness'* (1 Timothy 3:16). For six years it has been my privilege to edit our diocesan devotionals as we have studied our way through various books of Holy Scripture, and I hope, along with me, that you have learnt a lot about God and His written word. As I have gone on through the Christian life I have been convinced that whilst growing our knowledge of God is important, there is a danger that we end up knowing about God without necessarily knowing God Himself, and that to know God Himself takes being with Him and allowing Him to be with us. So this Lent I hope that you take the opportunity to study the Gospel of Luke but I pray that you will do more than merely study, you will also get up and join in. The Gospels were written not merely so that we could know with confidence what happened 'back then' but far more importantly so that we could be with Jesus now, and by being with Him now *'take up our cross and follow Him'*.

How do we do that? Great question! Since very early on the Church has encouraged us to use Lent as a training ground in Gospel living. To use the next forty-something days as an athlete might use a training schedule to get ready to run a race. Like an athlete we're encouraged to put aside good things in order to get ready for better things; perhaps to give up some food, some TV, some phone-scrolling, and to use the space which giving up those things provides to deliberately make more room for God. Here is where, I hope, this devotional can help. Make space for prayer, or if you pray already make space for more prayer, both on your own and with your local church. As you read the Gospel of Luke, as you read the true story of Jesus coming out of the desert and deliberately walking towards the cross, may we, all of us, choose to do the same, in our hearts, in our minds, and critically in our everyday lives. As you read each one of the following Scripture passages and reflections allow yourself some silence afterwards to ask the Lord 'how can I live this out today?' and then sit in that silence expecting an answer, however that may come. Our Lord spent His time on earth, beginning even before the cradle, walking towards the cross so that He might take you and me with Him to Glory. May this Lent be a time when more and more we rise from our sofas, and from our armchairs, to walk more deliberately with Jesus as He goes to the cross, that through this spiritual exercise we might be *'trained in righteousness'*, preparing ourselves for living with Him in Glory.

The Revd Mike Print, Editor of the Diocesan Devotionals.

Luke Divided Into Sections for Lent 2027

Date		Day	Luke	Author
		Preface		Mike Print
10	02	Ash Wednesday	4:1-13	Sarah O'Dono.
11	02	Thursday	4:14-44	David Arnold
12	02	Friday	5:1-16	Belinda Haigh
13	02	Saturday	5:17-5:39	Matt Guilder
14	02	Sunday	6:1-11	Steve Haskett
15	02	Monday	6:12-19	David Gascoigne
16	02	Tuesday	6:20-49	Hannah Boyd
17	02	Wednesday	7:1-17	Jotham Bate
18	02	Thursday	7:18-35	Guy Jamieson
19	02	Friday	7:36-50	Rachel Anderton
20	02	Saturday	8:1-21	Craig Abbott
21	03	Sunday	8:22-56	Carolyn Barton
22	03	Monday	9:1-20	Canon Pete Baker
23	03	Tuesday	9:21-36	Lara McNelly
24	03	Wednesday	9:37-62	Paul Bye
25	03	Thursday	10:1-20	Fleur Green
26	03	Friday	10:21-42	Joe Kochanski
27	03	Saturday	11:1-13	Cindy Rigney
28	03	Sunday	11:14-54	AD Jane
01	03	Monday	12:1-34	Ian Sarginson
02	03	Tuesday	12:35-59	Catherine Seagrave
03	03	Wednesday	13:1-9	James Lawrence
04	03	Thursday	13:10-21	Sam Johnson
05	03	Friday	13:22-35	Andy Meeson
06	03	Saturday	14:1-14	Helen Scamman

07	03	Sunday	14:15-34	AD David
8	03	Monday	15:1-32	Ben Marston
09	03	Tuesday	16:1-13	Lisa Fenton
10	03	Wednesday	16:14-18	Alex Oehring
11	03	Thursday	16:19-31	Adam Conley
12	03	Friday	17:1-19	Grace Gaze
13	03	Saturday	17:20-37	Calum Mullett
14	03	Sunday	18:1-14	+Jill
15	03	Monday	18:15-17	Iain Parks
16	03	Tuesday	18:18-30	Andy Purcell
17	03	Wednesday	18:31-34	Martin Keighley
18	03	Thursday	18:35-43	Heeso
19	03	Friday	19:1-10	Sam Lee
20	03	Saturday	19:11-27	Barbara Hunter
21	03	Palm Sunday	19:28-48	+Joe
22	03	Monday	20:1-19	Toby Webber
23	03	Tuesday	20:20-47	Lucie Lunn
24	03	Wednesday	21:1-22:6	Tom Woolford
25	03	Maundy Thursday	22:7-30	Natalie Print
26	03	Good Friday	23:13-49	David Whitehouse
27	03	Holy Saturday	23:44-56	Tracy Charnock
28	03	Easter Sunday	24:1-12	+Philip
29	3	Easter Monday	24:13-53	Mike Print