

Sunday

in the Parish of Honley with Brockholes

12 February 2017 | Septuagesima



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Leeds

Welcome If you are a newcomer or visitor, we welcome you and want you to feel at home. Please introduce yourself and join us for refreshments after the 9.30 and 11 a.m. services.

WE have reached the 'gesimas' – of which this Sunday, Septuagesima, is the first, followed next Sunday by Sexagesima, and the Sunday after that by Quinquagesima. They are the three Sundays before Lent. 'Septuagesima' means it is (roughly) seventy days till Easter. *Tempus fugit!*

Given Lent is traditionally a season for self-denial (which is an important part of the Christian life) it might be thought Septuagesima ushers in a period of unbridled hedonism. It does not! But we might want to start thinking now about how we shall spend this Lent. We may want to tackle a serious Christian book such as J. I. Packer's *Knowing God*, or make a commitment to saying Morning and Evening Prayer each day. We may even want to give something up. The earlier we think about how we shall mark Lent, the more likely we are to have a good Lent.

The Scouts' familiar motto is 'Be prepared!' The 'gesimas' help us to be prepared, not least for the season of Lent. There is an occasion on which the apostle Peter exhorts his readers to be prepared: 'Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who ask you to give the reason for the hope that you have.' (1 Peter 3.15). Christian hope is sure and certain hope – the hope of God's new creation. Its reason, I take it, is the gospel, the good news about Jesus. Could you briefly summarise the good news about Jesus for a friend? A simple outline such as *Two Ways to Live* (copies available in both churches) will help. But so will Lent – especially a Lent for which we are well prepared.

Today's Worship

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (1662) – St Mary's
9.30 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION with Sunday Club – St Mary's
11.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION – St George's
6.00 p.m. Evening Service – St George's
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (1662) – St Mary's

Readings at 9.30 and 11 a.m.

Ephesians 2.11-end (p. 1174)
Matthew 28.16-20 (p. 1000)

Hymns at 9.30 a.m.

488, 193, 506, 448, 493

Hymns at 11.00 a.m.

608, 680, 420, 818

The Collect of Septuagesima

Eternal God,
whose Son went among the crowds
and brought healing with his touch:
help us to show his love,
in your Church as we gather together,
and by our lives as they are transformed
into the image of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

DIARY

Monday 13th February

Tuesday 14th February

Cyril and Methodius, Missionaries to the Slavs, 869 and 885

Valentine, Martyr at Rome, c. 269

Wednesday 15th February	9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer (1662) – St Mary's
<i>Sigfrid, Bishop, Apostle of Sweden, 1045</i>	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion – St Mary's
<i>Thomas Bray, Priest, Founder of the SPCK and the SPG, 1730</i>	5.00 p.m.	PRAYER GATHERING – Parish Rooms

Thursday 16th February 9.00 a.m. Let's Play – Parish Rooms

Friday 17th February

Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, Martyr, 1977

Saturday 18th February

Sunday 19th February	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (1662) – St Mary's
<i>Sexagesima</i>	9.30 a.m.	HOLY COMMUNION with Sunday Club – St Mary's
	11.00 a.m.	HOLY COMMUNION – St George's
	6.00 p.m.	Evening Service – St George's
	6.30 p.m.	Evening Prayer (1662) – St Mary's

PRAYERS

1. Among the sick and the housebound, we pray for <deleted from the on-line edition>.
2. Our Parish Growth Prayer – please use this in your daily prayers:

Father, you have called us to be disciples of your Son in Honley and Brockholes. May your word be spoken and heard in our parish, and accepted by many with lasting joy. Give us the gift of growth: growth in discipleship, and growth in the number of disciples, to the praise of your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

NOTICES

1. Jenny Lockwood is organising a Picnic Concert at St Mary's. It will be in the evening of Saturday 6th May.
2. There will be a Lent Lunch on Thursday 30th March at 12 noon in St Mary's. Tickets (£5) must be bought in advance from Gillian Greaves.
3. The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place in St Mary's on Saturday 22nd April at 10.00 a.m.
4. Water of Life: the second local meeting will be held on 21st February 2017 in St Mary's at 7 p.m. The meeting will consider 'Where are we now?' regarding our understanding of climate change, the River Holme, and God and our faith. It will be an open forum where all views are of equal value. Tea and coffee will be provided.
5. 'The Real Easter' eggs are for sale: Fairtrade chocolate, with a booklet explaining the Bible's message about Easter. They are ideal for children, grandchildren, &c. There is more information – and a list to sign up if you want to purchase one – at the back of St Mary's.
6. Last week's Candlemas Christingle services of the two Church of England schools in Honley together raised £727.29 for the work of the Children's Society.