

**Lent Reflection—by Rev Jemima Strain**

My spiritual director once said to me, ‘perhaps this lent could be a spa of rest for your soul’. Lent is the time where we Christians remember Jesus in the wilderness for forty days and forty nights without food where he was tempted and tested.

I want to live in the joy, praise and resurrection of Easter and in the past I have struggled with worship during lent. But this lent enables us to hold the pain, trauma and grief that we will inevitably go through and acknowledge it rather than suppress it. Then we can

recognise how we are ultimately transformed through the love of Christ into a new resurrection identity.

Over time I’ve come to value lent in new ways. It’s a place where we focus time and commitment. It enables us to step back from the usual habits and distractions and give particular attention and space for God.

I guess I don’t always give up the traditional things as a consequence. In a culture obsessed with beauty I once challenged myself to give up makeup and another year my

hair straighteners. A simple challenge not to depend on these things, an outward restraint can be a symbol of inner attention.

Other years my life has been so full of noise, a lent away from social media has been the place where I’ve tried to create some quiet without the constant companion of filtered smiles. And there have been the traditional years of fasting and prayer. A friend told me she was going to give up single use plastics and buy nothing new for the whole of lent.

I guess my question is, **what would be something that would change your daily habits? And how might we use lent to draw closer to God?**

We are delighted to announce **Rev Dr Iain Ballard** will be the new Superintendent of the Circuit from September 2020. We look forward to welcoming him, Sarah and their two young children. Iain’s welcome service will be on 6th September at 3pm in Kenilworth Church.

We also welcome **Rev Richard Wilde**, who will have pastoral care of Kineton, Fenny Compton and Knightcote.

**Its here! —Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat Sing-along**

Why not pick a date or two (see below, all at 2:00 pm) and join us for a Sing-along. Perhaps it’s an opportunity to visit a church you haven’t been to. Or to bring a friend who wouldn’t normally attend a service. You don’t even have to sing – there’s a group of singers who will lead it.

**FEBRUARY**

- 15th Bidford
- 16th Wellesbourne
- 22nd Welford Village Hall
- 23rd Kenilworth
- 29th Mickleton

**MARCH**

- 1st Fenny Compton
- 7th Cubbington
- 8th Kineton
- 14th Stockton
- 21st Radford Road
- 28th Henley
- 29th Dale Street



The church was full of singers at Tysoe

**We look forward to seeing you there!** More information on our website: [www.methodist-swc.org.uk](http://www.methodist-swc.org.uk)

**Kineton Chapel** was registered for worship in October 1842. A new, larger building on the same site was opened in December 1893. Sunday worship is at 10.30 am & 6.30 pm.

We have many joint ventures with local Anglicans at St. Peter's Church:

- Songs of Praise—2nd Sunday evening of each month.
- "Meet and Eat"—2nd Tuesday of the month—lunch with entertainment. All are welcome, please book in advance.
- Coffee mornings — 1st Wednesday of the month and on village Farmers' Market days – all are welcome!

Another regular is the fortnightly Women's Circle on Wednesday afternoons. We begin with a short act of worship. Our programme covers a variety of speakers and topics.

Recently we packed shoeboxes of gifts from



members of the congregation for Operation Christmas Child. We would love to welcome new

members to the Circle from other churches in the Circuit. We may be able to provide transport, please contact our President, Val Trinder on 01926 641564.

### Introducing Miranda Tarrant—Circuit Steward



I am in my second year as a Circuit Steward having started at a busy time with the formation of the South Warwickshire Circuit and the Superintendency Stationing. The past 18 months have been a huge learning curve with challenges but also opportunities to serve, getting to know new people and to see a wider picture of Church life.

I am a member of Dale Street Methodist Church. On moving from Harrogate to Leamington 12 years ago I visited several Churches looking for somewhere to worship with my then young family. The warmest welcome we received was from Dale Street and I have attended there since. There is lots going on at Dale Street but for me belonging to a home group and enjoying fellowship amongst friends is a key part of the week.

I am married with 2 daughters and am a Partner in a firm of Solicitors. When time permits I enjoy baking, catching up with friends and a weekly Zumba class!

### Dates for your Diary

#### Bible Study in Lent:

##### Mickleton

Wednesdays (4th March—8th April) 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

##### Stratford

**Mondays** (2nd March—6th April) 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm.

#### Kenilworth Holy Week Reflections

Monday 6th April 10:00 am - 11.30 am

Tuesday 7th April 10:00 am - 11.30 am

Wednesday 8th April 10:00 am - 11.30 am

Saturday 11th April 10:00 am - 11.30 am

### Lent Lunches

4th March Stockton Church 12:00 pm

11th March Napton Village Hall 12:00 pm

18th March Stockton Church 12:00 pm

25th March Napton Village Hall 12:00 pm

1st April Stockton Church 12:00 pm

2nd March Bidford Methodist Church 12:15 pm

9th March Bidford St Lawrence CofE 12:15 pm

16th March Bidford St Joseph the Worker RC 12:15 pm

23rd March Bidford Baptist Church 12:15 pm

30th March Bidford Methodist Church 12:15 pm

**Designers!** - Can anyone come up with a more attractive box for our newsletter heading?

Contact [swc.katetennyson@gmail.com](mailto:swc.katetennyson@gmail.com) with your ideas.