

# THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, PETWORTH



## Letter for parish March communications by the bishop of Chichester

I was recently asked by a reporter whether in the diocese of Chichester Ash Wednesday has become more popular – like Christmas is.

My own experience of offering “ashes to go” outside Brighton station was very informative. Generally, people on their way to work were not very interested and sometimes hostile.

People with a bit of Christian formation and experience were more pleased to see us. I sensed that for some of them, this was an invitation to re-connect with the season of Lent and the renewal of their faith. For others, it was encouraging, giving permission for the hidden, private practice of their faith to be affirmed by someone else in public.

The message of Lent is cheering and simple: God loves you and the Church is starting preparations to celebrate that fact at Easter.

But this year, in particular, the ashes with which we began this season of Lent offered a serious statement of protest.

As destructive fires raged in Australia, ash was everywhere. Our ashes were an identification with all who are the victim of climate change and environmental damage. But perhaps more importantly, ash was an even clearer symbol of the Christian call to repentance, a radical change of heart.

Extinction protests have certainly become more popular. But we might have more yet to do to make the Lenten discipline of repentance more popular within the Church, in order to become a catalyst for repentance in society and global change.

My hope and prayer is that we might emerge from this Lent with a greater sense of reverence for the earth and all its inhabitants. The celebration of Easter will then be marked by a different, freer, lighter way of living, rather than a return to damaging habits we had tried to give up for the time being.

+Martin

## March

### 1<sup>ST</sup> LENT 1

*Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7 Romans 5.12-19 Matthew 4.1-11*

Holy Eucharist	8.00 am
FAMILY SERVICE AT EGDEAN St David	9.15am
Jubilatte Family Mass	10.30 am

### 8<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday of Lent

*Genesis 12.1-4a Romans 4.1-5,13-17 Matthew 17.1-9*

Holy Eucharist	8.00 am
Parish Eucharist (Egdean) (BCP)	9.00 am
Parish Eucharist	10.30 am

### 15<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>RD</sup> Sunday of Lent

*Exodus 17.1-7, Romans 5.1-11 John 4.5-42*

Holy Eucharist	8.00 am
Parish Eucharist	10.30 am
Parish Eucharist (Egdean) (BCP)	9.00 am

### 22<sup>nd</sup> MOTHERING SUNDAY

*1 Samuel 1.20-28 Colossians 3.12-17 John 19.25-27*

Holy Eucharist	8.00 am
FAMILY SERVICE AT EGDEAN with POSIES	9.15am
JUBILATTE FAMILY MASS with POSIES	10.30 am

### 25<sup>th</sup> THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD ~8.30pm and 7.00pm HOLY EUCHARIST

### 29<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of LENT

*Ezekiel 37.1-14 Romans 8.6-11 John 11.1-45*

Holy Eucharist	8.00 am
Mattins (Egdean)	9.00 am
Parish Eucharist	10.30 am

**Tuesday's Holy Eucharist 8.30 am**

**Wednesday's Holy Eucharist 8.30 am**

**Holy Eucharist & LENT COURSE 7.00 pm**

**Thursday's Holy Eucharist 8.30 am**

**Friday's Holy Eucharist 8.30 am**

# PASSOVER MEAL



Following the great success of the Passover meal last year we will be putting it on again.

Please sign up in Church  
Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup> 6.30pm



# Mothering Sunday

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> 9.15 Family Service**  
**at St Bartholomew's, Egdean**

Give your Mum a Posey in Church this Sunday

**10.30 am Jubilate Family Mass**  
**at St Mary's Petworth**

# Christ and The Chocolaterie



St Mary's  
Petworth

This course by Hilary Brand is based around the film *Chocolat*. As the author says, “many films are great starting points for exploring big issues about God, the world and what it means to be human.” We’ll be exploring some of those issues as we look at the experiences of the characters in the film, and

hear what the Bible has to say. A comedy about the influence of chocolate may sound like an odd choice for a Lent course, but it invites us to think about some important Lenten themes - beginning with the idea of giving things up...

**WEDNESDAYS IN LENT**

**7pm HOLY EUCHARIST 7.30 LENT COURSE**

**MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> SEE THE FILM**

**MARCH 11<sup>th</sup> SESSION 1**

**MARCH 18<sup>th</sup> SESSION 2**

**MARCH 25<sup>th</sup> The Feast of the Annunciation. SESSION 3**

**April 1st SESSION 4**