

Dear all

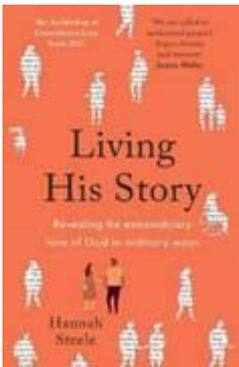
Tomorrow is one of those strangely named Sundays – the Sunday Next Before Lent. I'm not quite sure why the 'next' comes in, but it's interesting that both of the penitential seasons in the church calendar have a countdown... 3rd Sunday before Advent, 2nd Sunday before Lent etc.. We often see Advent and Lent as periods leading up to the exciting seasons of Christmas and Easter, but the church calendar requires us to take them seriously in their own right. What will we be doing for Lent? Let's gear ourselves up... get ready... set... and, go!

In a recent letter I suggested a few books or courses you might be interested in. I also invited anyone to request an ash cross stone, to be left on their doorstep. Please let me know by Wednesday, so that I know how many to prepare.

Tomorrow's service details:

Readings – 2 Kings 2: 1-12; 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6; Psalm 50: 1-6; Mark 9: 2-9

Hymns: Jesus on the mountain peak; 'Tis good, Lord, to be here.



Lent Course:

Next Thursday is the day after Ash Wednesday, and so we will put our study of Mark's gospel on hold, and instead follow our Lent Course. The details are the same as always:

We will meet on Zoom, Thursdays 2.30-3.30ish pm. The Zoom details are:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8109399155?pwd=STVVTU44RzJxTFFHbTY1MnI0bjJZz09>

Meeting ID: 810 939 9155

Passcode: 1w2C9a

Please note that, on Thursday 25th February the Lent Course will take place in the morning, at 10.30am.

A reminder that, for those interested, you can see an interview with the author: **Living His Story with Justin Welby - Hannah Steele in conversation with Justin Welby** about her book written for Lent 2021
Date: Tuesday 16th February at 11.30am.

Register at: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/9316113316059/WN_rad8gGmzQySHgipeeVajEA



I have been asked by our local branch of the British Legion to advertise their need for a new Poppy Appeal Organiser.

Could you run our local Poppy Appeal...?

Langtoft, The Deepings & District Royal British Legion branch needs to recruit a new Organiser(s) to make sure our annual Poppy Appeal can go ahead this autumn...

It's a voluntary but rewarding role:

- Organising the Poppy Appeal in the Deepings and local villages.
- Raising much-needed funds so the Royal British Legion can go on supporting those who served our country and who now need our help.
- Ordering poppies, pin badges and other fundraising materials and keeping records.
- Coordinating and building our team of volunteer collectors and working with local organisations.

Could it be You ...?

- Training and guidance will be given.
- You don't have to have served in the Armed Forces or be a member of the Royal British Legion.

Lest We Forget ...

The Legion is the UK's leading Armed Forces charity providing services and support to all members of the British Armed Forces and their families. Thanks to the Annual Poppy Appeal, we are able to support our Armed Forces community through thick and thin – making sure their unique contribution is never forgotten.

If you're interested and would like to know more, please contact our Branch Chairman Phil Dilks on 07368 256898 or email our Secretary on LangtoftDistrict.Secretary@rbl.community.

One of my pet hates musically is what is called 'crossover', when classically trained singers sing 'pop' music, or vice versa. Even the wonderful Bryn Terfel has made (in my mind – sorry if you disagree) some rather dire crossovers. But occasionally they work. For example, I have a CD with Anne Sofie von Otter which includes Mozart, Mahler, Elvis Costello and ABBA!

I came across, totally by accident, this recording of Dido's Lament by Henry Purcell, sung by Annie Lennox and the London City Voices. The arrangement works pretty well for me, but it is the quality of her voice that is stunning.

[Annie Lennox - Dido's Lament - Choral Performance with London City Voices - YouTube](#)

If you want to compare to the incomparable Janet Baker, about 2:20 minutes in [Dame Janet Baker; "When I am laid in earth"; DIDO AND AENEAS; Henry Purcell - YouTube](#)

As we approach the season of Lent, here is one of the classic Lenten anthems, SS Wesley's *Wash me thoroughly* sung by King's College, Cambridge.

[Wash Me Thoroughly – Easter from King's 2018 - YouTube](#)



Stay safe.

Blessings and love

Mark