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| ***Please remember in your prayers****Pray for those who are not well at this time and pray for the souls of the recently departed, may they rest in peace.* | *MCSY01657_0000[1]* |

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| ***The Well****We have received a letter thanking us for a total of* ***54kg*** *of gifts and last week we donated another* ***14kg*** *of gifts to The Well – Thank You - keep up the good work!* |

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| ***Lent Groups****Carole will be leading a study group each Monday at 2pm. The first session is in church on Monday 19th February.****Bishop’ Lent Appeal****This year’s Lent Appeal is looking to support families in difficulty in this Diocese and internationally, whatever their shape or circumstance.* *(More information at the back of church)* |

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| ***DCC Meeting****The next meeting of the Bilbrook District Church Council is at 7.45pm (after the 7pm Eucharist) on* ***Tuesday 27th February****.* |

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| ***Women’s World Day of Prayer****This year’s service has been written by the women of Suriname. It is entitled:****‘All God’s Creation is Very Good!’****The service will be held at Holy Cross at 2pm on Friday 2nd March. Everyone welcome.* |

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| Image result for fair trade logo***Come On In!****Come on In and support Fairtrade farmers. Fairtrade fortnight is Feb 26th to March 11th.**We will hold ‘Bring and Buy’ Sales in Church on Sunday March 4th and in the hall on Thursday March 8th. Please donate a Fairtrade item—it must have the logo on it and the price.* *I will collect items in advance if it helps you. Unsold goods will go to the Food bank and monies raised to the Fairtrade Foundation.* *Rosemary* |

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| ***Codsall Arts Festival 6th – 24th March****I have a limited number of tickets for two forthcoming events.**15th March 7.30pm ‘****The Screwtape Letters****’* *at Trinity Methodist Tickets £9 each**22nd March 7.30pm* ***‘Ex Cathedra’****at St Nicholas’ Church Tickets £17 each**Mike* |

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| ***Skittles Night****Saturday 10th March 7pm in the Church Hall Tickets £5 (includes fish & chips Supper) Jo* |

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|  |  | *The Church of England* |
| ***Holy Cross Church*** *Serving the Community of Bilbrook**in the Parish of Tettenhall Regis* |
| *Team Vicar:****Revd. Simon Douglas*** *(212405)**Church Wardens: Janet Pugh (844981)*  *Mike Spragg (845222)* *Website: http://holycross.bilbrook.info/**Parish Office: 01902 751622* *(10am‑12noon Monday‑Friday)* |  |

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| ***Sunday 18th February******First Sunday of Lent******8am Eucharist****(Celebrant: Revd Richard Reeve)****10.45am Sung Eucharist***  *(Celebrant: Revd Allen Roberts)****Coffee/Tea will be served at the back of church after the 10.45am Eucharist.*** ***Please stay and join us.*** |

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| ***Hymns for Sung Eucharist*** |
| *Introit:* | ***145*** | *Forty days and forty nights* |
| *Gradual:* | ***293*** | *Lead us, Heavenly Father, lead us (Mannheim)* |
| *Offertory:* | ***154*** | *Give thanks with a grateful heart* |
| *Communion:* | ***375*** | *O let the Son of God enfold you* |
|  | ***414*** | *Peace, perfect peace* |
| *Recessional:* | ***403*** | *On Jordan's bank* |

***This Week***

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| *Mon* | *19* | *2pm Lent Study Group* |
| *Tues* | *20* | *2pm Craft Group****7pm Eucharist****7.45pm DCC Meeting* |
| *Wed* | *21* | *6.30pm Friendship Club* |
| *Thur* | *22* | ***9.30am Eucharist****10am Coffee Pop-In**1.15pm Funeral of Les Baldwin* *(at Holy Cross)* |
| *Fri* | *23* | ***12noon Eucharist*** |
| *Sat*  | *24* | *10am Place of Welcome* |
| *Sun* | *25* | *10.30am Sunday Club****10.45am Sung Eucharist*** |

***First Sunday of Lent***

**COLLECT**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**FIRST READING Genesis 9.8–17**
**A reading from the book of Genesis.**

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’ God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood
to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds,

I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.’ God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**SECOND READING 1 Peter 3.18–22**
**A reading from the first letter of Peter.**

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL Mark 1.9–15
Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.**

**All: Glory to you, O Lord**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
And just as he was coming up out of the water,
he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’ And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

Priest: This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All: Praise to you, O Christ**

**POST COMMUNION**

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith,

increase our hope, and strengthen our love:

teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Sunday 18th February 8am***

***Sides, Reader, Offertory, Assist:*** *Janet*

***Sunday 18th February 10.45am***

***Welcomers****: Jean H, Gill*

***Reader****: Mark*

***Prayers****: Jo*

***Offertory****: Grace, Rebecca, Malcolm*

***Assist****: Carole, Malcolm*

***Pebble Pool:*** *Mary*

***Sunday 25th February 10.45am***

***Welcomers****: Jean M, Mary*

***Reader****: Mike*

***Prayers****: Carole*

***Offertory****: Rita, Sheila, Gill*

***Assist:*** *Rebecca, Mike*

***Pebble Pool:*** *Andrea*