



20-26 March 2022 • Faith 24/7

One more year

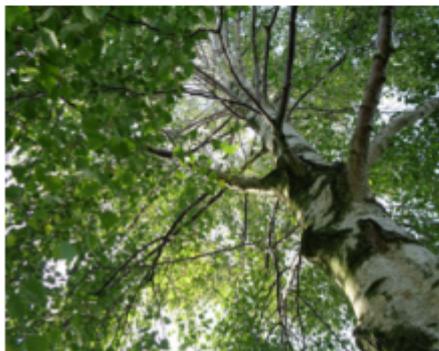
Luke 13.1-9

People tell Jesus about a group killed by the collapse of a tower, questioning the meaning of the event. Jesus tells them not to speculate but to consider their own behaviour, looking forward, and he tells them a story to help.

Now read Luke 13.1-9 see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

Jesus firmly knocks on the head the idea that suffering is the result of sin. And he warns his hearers not to judge other people. The parable of the fig tree stresses that there is always another chance, if we choose to take it.



How might you look at your life from a different perspective?

Hands-on Lent



This week's Gospel theme explores allowing time for things to change. Plants take time to grow. Why not put some seeds into your Hands-on Lent bowl this week? For example, wildflower seeds (you can buy really good mixes of these – search online). Once the seeds are shared out, you can all scatter them in your garden or an appropriate place local to you. As you give them time to grow, think about how you are changing and growing in your relationship with God.

3

SPRING SOWING

Spring is a good time to do some plant growing. Jesus told a story about a fig tree that was not growing very well. The gardener said he would look after it carefully and see if things improve.

Try sowing some seeds in different conditions and work out what helps them to grow best. Use something like lettuce seeds or marigolds that grow quickly. Use three flowerpots or used yoghurt pots, with a few holes in the bottom. Fill one with proper seed compost, one with some soil from somewhere outside, and one with a mixture of damp kitchen roll and old coffee grounds or tea leaves squished up together. Sow a few seeds in each of the pots, water them and then put them on a warm windowsill. Look at them each day until they are strong enough to go in larger pots or a garden. Which seeds grow best?

Sorry stories



Cut out two people outlines for each person present. Invite everyone to make up a little story about why one of the 'people' needs to say 'Sorry' to the other. Tell the little stories to each other.

CHANGES

Think back over the last year and write down together some changes that have happened. There have been so many! Jesus said to the people he was talking to that instead of talking about other people, they needed to repent, to change for the better. Select one way that you can each try to change for the better in the coming weeks.

Build a tower. Babies and toddlers love knocking down towers made of wooden bricks; a family might work out a design and build the highest tower possible out of Lego™; a couple of adults might try a game of Jenga™ or Tumbling Towers™.

People have built towers from earliest times and they still do. You could research the tallest tower in the world today. The Bible has plenty to say about towers, in addition to the story in this week's reading. Look in a Bible at Genesis 11.1-9; 2 Chronicles 14.2-12; Proverbs 18.10; Isaiah 5.1-2; Luke 14.23-33. Why do people build towers?





Hosting Ukrainian Refugees

The government is facilitating a scheme where UK residents may offer up empty homes, or rooms in their home, to accommodate Ukrainian refugees. The Worcester South East Team would like to be a sponsoring organisation to help match refugees with appropriate available accommodation in our parishes. If you would like to register your interest to host (and are able to do so for a minimum of 6 months), please let Rebecca know in Team Office. We will keep a list in the office for now, until such time as the government opens up this stage of the scheme. There is no commitment yet, it is simply for our information.

If you would like to offer alternative help or support the Ukrainian refugees when they arrive in Worcester (it is not just accommodation which is needed there will be needs such as transport to appointments, a place for refugees to meet up with friends, refreshments at such events, baby equipment etc) and / or have already registered to offer accommodation, please could you email worc4ukr@gmail.com giving an idea of what you might be able to offer/ what help you may need.

Don't forget... Bishop Martin will be with us next week on Mothering Sunday 27th March to lead our worship – please be here if you can.

As the war in the Ukraine shockingly continues into another week, we may struggle to handle our sadness at the loss of life and homes. Watching scenes of devastation, young children and mothers making long treacherous journeys to escape the fighting, fathers separated, we long for their suffering to end. Do you talk about your feelings over the war with your family or friends? It can help to be open about things that are taking up your thoughts and emotions. And pray together. Gather together, in person or online, light a candle, and pray for Ukraine. Rather than entering into the 'why' of tragedies, Jesus' concern is for us to respond to the fragility of life, by living out the Kingdom values of love, compassion, forgiveness and grace. Our day-to-day actions, attitudes and choices are opportunities to enable a more compassionate and loving society. Do you have an attitude that you wish to change? Pray for change each day this week, and that you may become more 'fruitful'.

Daily Readings for week commencing 21 st March 2022		
Monday	Genesis 47: 1-27	Hebrews 4: 14-5:10
Tuesday	Genesis 47: 28-end of 48	Hebrews 5: 11-6:12
Wednesday	Genesis 49: 1-32	Hebrews 6: 13-end
Thursday	Genesis 49: 33- end of 50	Hebrews 7: 1-10
Friday	1 Samuel 2: 1-10	Romans 5: 12-end <i>The Annunciation</i>
Saturday	Exodus 1: 22-2:10	Hebrews 8

Pray for those in need... Please pray for the people of Ukraine...for those on need of God's healing touch...Heather, Dorothy, Pat, Sue, Joyce, Maureen, Shane, Bryn, Katie-Lou, Dennis and Janet... ***Please remember those who mourn the loss of a loved one at this time...Pauline***