

***Collect for the Third Sunday of Lent***

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Message from Richard***

*Our Gospel reading is John 4 vv 1-42  
Jesus talks with a Samaritan woman.*

Today's passage is about one of the most astonishing conversations that ever took place in scripture. Here Jesus has an appointment with the most unlikely person. Jews and Samaritans were, to put it mildly, hostile to each other. Here Jesus not only talks to a Samaritan; unheard of, but to a Samaritan woman, a woman who was an outcast in her own society. A strict Jew would never talk to a woman in public let alone a Samaritan woman of dubious morals. But Jesus, as always, turned to those who really needed him.

Those were conscious of their need; the ordinary people, the common people, the tax collector, the publican, those regarded as sinners and this Samaritan woman, this outcast. One day Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." In other words, blessed are those who know they are spiritually needy.

Friends, we are all spiritually needy. Jesus literally went out of his way to single out this woman and he came to her just as she was, just as he comes to us as we are. I am reminded of the words of an old hymn:

I need thee every hour,  
most gracious Lord;  
no tender voice like thine  
can peace afford.  
I need Thee, oh I need Thee,  
every hour I need Thee.  
Oh bless me now my Saviour,  
I come to Thee.

What did Jesus offer this woman? Living water! He said "If you drink the water I give you, you will never thirst again." He was saying to her as he says to us, "I am the only one who can satisfy the longing of your heart; I can bring to your life that elusive something of which you can say, "Yes, I have found what real life is, for now and for all eternity.""

***Prayer Ministry***

Andrew will be at the front after the service for those wishing private prayer. Prayers offered will include all those named in this News Sheet.

*We are here as God's family to draw closer to God,  
to live out our faith and welcome all into the love of God.*

<b>March</b>		
Sunday 8th	10:30	Third Sunday in Lent: Morning Praise
Monday 9th	2:00	Ecumenical Lent Bible Study at Aley Green Methodist Church
Tuesday 10th	12-2	Soup 'n' Sandwich at the Rising Sun
Wednesday 11th	10:30	Little Stars, doors open at 10
Thursday 12th	9:30	Bible Study on Zoom
Sunday 15th	10:30	Fourth Sunday in Lent: Mothering Sunday Morning Praise
Tuesday 17th	11:00 12-2	Care Home (next to St A's) Service Soup 'n' Sandwich at the Rising Sun
Wednesday 18th	10:30	Little Stars, doors open at 10
Thursday 19th	9:30	Bible Study on Zoom
Sunday 22nd	10:30	Fifth Sunday in Lent: Holy Communion
Monday 23rd	2:00	Ecumenical Lent Bible Study at Aley Green Methodist Church
Tuesday 24th	12-2	Soup 'n' Sandwich at the Rising Sun
Wednesday 25th	10:30	Little Stars, doors open at 10
Thursday 26th	9:30	Bible Study on Zoom
<p><b>Saturday 28th</b> 10 - Noon</p>  <p><b>St. Andrew's Community Coffee Morning</b> <i>Drop in for Tea, Coffee &amp; Good Company!</i></p>		
Sunday 29th	10:00	Palm Sunday: Family Service

**Count your plastic for one week from 9th to 15th March!**

# THE BIG PLASTIC COUNT

Thousands of people from households, schools & communities are taking part in the UK's biggest people-powered investigation into household plastic waste. By taking part you'll help gather important evidence showing the true scale of the crisis, telling the government we need to produce less plastic. Since our last campaign, the new government, says it's serious about tackling plastic waste.

***This is our chance to put their promise to the test.***  
*For more information, refer to [thebigplasticcount.com](https://thebigplasticcount.com)*

## **Access Thursday Bible Studies on Zoom!**

Enter the number 589 233 412 passcode 090636 or link to  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/589233412?pwd=d1LLLOE2Y0w4dDdpUXlTR0pHcGdSQTO9>

## **Practical help for the Community**

**Azalea thanks us for food, toiletries, cash, gift aided donations, etc.**

They regularly collect our items, gratefully received, particularly the warm gloves and mittens we have given them at this chilly time!

## **We drop off food to the Foodbank monthly.**

They express gratitude for our deliveries and our financial & Gift Aided donations: needs are greater than ever. Next drop off 24th February.

*So, before you leave home for church, 'Grab a Tin & bring i'tin!'*

*NB: If you wish to contribute, pick up a copy of the Food Bank 'Advent Calendar' from the back of church, which lists seasonal items to donate throughout the year.*

## **Recycle it!**

***Please drop your Medication Blister Packs at the back of church for Sue Lyons to take for recycling.***

**Contacts @ St Andrew's**

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Readers Richard Palmer 07904 152674

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