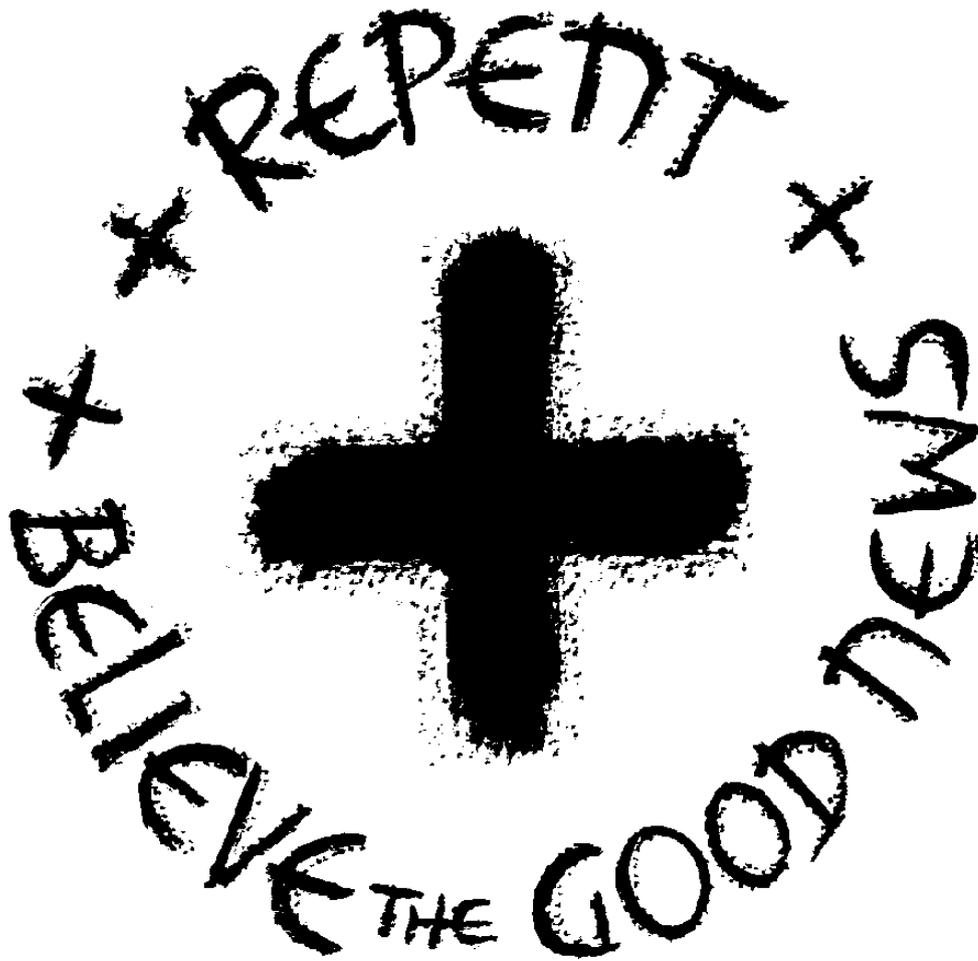


**St Edmund's, Shipston on Stour
Church of the Ascension, Tidmington
All Saints', Honington
St James the Great, Idlicote**



**A Service of the Eucharist
for Lent**

Lent

In the Western churches, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and continues to Good Friday.

It is traditionally a time in which Christians prepare for Easter through study, repentance and self denial. The early church used it to prepare candidates for baptism and reconciliation, which traditionally happened on Easter Day.

In keeping with the season, churches have no flowers or decorations and liturgical dress is simple.

The colour for Lent is purple, and you will see this reflected on altar cloths and in other places around the church.

Prayers and readings as we gather

you may like to read these as you sit before the service starts

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within
me.

Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your
salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to
sustain me.

from Psalm 51

Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.

*Trisagion -
traditional prayer*

The desert waits,
ready for those who come,
who come obedient to the Spirit's
leading;
or who are driven,
because they will not come any other
way.

The desert always waits,
ready to let us know who we are -
the place of self discovery.

And whilst we fear, and rightly,
the loneliness and emptiness and
harshness
we forget the angels
whom we cannot see for our blindness,
but who come when God decides
that we need their help;
when we are ready
for what they can give us.

Ruth Burgess

The Gathering

Welcome and Greeting

As the ministers enter, we stand

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit
Amen

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

Opening Hymn

Confession and Absolution

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
The first commandment is this:
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'
There is no other commandment greater than these.
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
Amen. Lord, have mercy.

We sit or kneel for a time of quiet reflection

The minister introduces the confession with these or other words

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out of darkness to walk as children of light.
Amen**

the minister proclaims God's forgiveness in these or other words

May almighty God have mercy on you
forgive you your sins,
and bring you to everlasting life.
Amen.

The Collect

The minister leads us in the prayer for the day

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading(s)

We sit for one or two readings from the Bible

At the end, the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Gospel Reading

We remain standing.

This acclamation may herald the Gospel reading:

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Lord is great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not your hearts

cf Psalm 95:3,7,8

The Gospel is announced

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N*.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The congregation sits

The Creed

Please stand as you are able

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

We sit or kneel to pray

During our prayers, these or other responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

or

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us,**

and at the end

Merciful Father,

accept our prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

We stand and the minister introduces the peace in these or other words

Christ is our peace.

He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

and also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace

Offertory Hymn

During this hymn a collection will be taken.

Preparation of the Table

God of mercy and compassion,
your Word calls us home to faith and love.
Accept all we offer you this day;
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

The priest praises God for his mighty acts and all respond
Holy, holy, holy Lord,

**God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The priest recalls the Last Supper

**Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer concludes with
Amen*

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

The priest breaks the consecrated bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The congregation sits or kneels for the Agnus Dei

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

The minister invites us to communion in these or other words

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Prayer after Communion

The minister may lead a prayer, or this prayer may be used

Father of all,

we give you thanks and praise,

that when we were still far off

you met us in your Son and brought us home.

Dying and living, he declared your love,

gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.

May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;

**we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Dismissal

Hymn

Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
and the blessing...

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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