**17th January is Ash Wednesday-  
the first day of Lent.**

The link for our pre-recorded worship is:  
<https://youtu.be/_xcqOweyffc>

**Collect:**Almighty and everlasting God,

you hate nothing that you have made

and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:

create and make in us new and contrite hearts

that we, worthily lamenting our sins

and acknowledging our wretchedness,

may receive from you, the God of all mercy,

perfect remission and forgiveness;

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 for ever. **Amen.**

**Words for ashing… to ponder without ash!**Remember that you are but dust and unto dust shall you return; turn away from sin and be faithful unto Christ.

**An anthem for Ash Wednesday:**www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQtSt32JeTERemember now thy creator in the days of thy youth,  
while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh when thou shalt say, ‘I have no pleasure in them!’  
While the sun or the light or the moon or the stars be not darkened, or the clouds return after the rain; in the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble and the strong men shall bind themselves and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the window be darkened. And the door shall be shut in the street when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird and all the daughters of music shall be brought low. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.  
“Vanity, vanity, all is vanity!” said the preacher.

**Silence as a Lenten discipline**You may well feel that the past year has been like a Lenten wilderness… but it is perhaps equally likely you have sought distraction through busyness and even something like having the radio on in preference to facing the silence and cultivating the practice of waiting and listening for God. We all manage 2 minutes silence at Remembrance. Could you build up your ‘silence fitness’ to 20 minutes during Lent? You may find the words of the following song helpful in ‘changing gear:’

*Refrain: I will search in the silence for your hiding place. In the quiet, Lord, I seek your face.*

*Where can I discover the wellsprings of your love?  
Is my searching and seeking in vain?  
How can I recover the beauty of your Word?  
In the silence I call out your name.*

*I will search in the silence…*

*Where can I find shelter to shield me from the storm,  
To find comfort, though dark be the night?  
For I know that my welfare is ever in your sight.  
In the shadows I long for your light.  
  
 I will search in the silence…*

*Lead me in your footsteps along your ancient way.  
Let me walk in the love of the Lord.  
Your wisdom is my heart’s wealth, a blessing all our days. In the silence I long for your world.***Blessing:**  
Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and all those you love and miss, this day and always. **Amen**.Lent Book:  
**Phoebe: a story** by Paula Gooder,  
ISBN 978-0830852451 available in paperback, hardback, Kindle edition and audiobook.  
Offers to host a book-club styled discussion on Zoom towards the end of March and/or after Easter would be warmly welcomed. Lent Devotional Group:  
**Commitment to Christ**Mondays at 7.30 pm, from 22nd Feb.  
Expressions of interest to Janet Phythian   
Mobile and WhatsApp: 07471-509950.  
*Janet is a member of the congregation in Plaxtol and a returning missionary with links in Mozambique.*

Lent Study Group:  
**Living in Love and faith**Chance to participate in the wider Church of England process concerning Inclusion, gender and sexuality.  
Short online video preparation and Zoom discussions,   
Wednesdays at either 11am or 8pm, from 24th Feb.  
Expressions of interest to Peter Hayler (Rector):  
[rectorswp@gmail.com](https://d.docs.live.net/7317fe87a3798587/Desktop/Lockdown/rectorswp@gmail.com)