**21st February is the
First Sunday of Lent.**

The link for our pre-recorded worship is:
<https://youtu.be/EAXsctQa3Uc>

**Collect:**Heavenly Father,

your Son battled with the powers of darkness,

and grew closer to you in the desert:

help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**The Lenten 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.

Gospel:** Mark 1:9-15.

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 for 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.’

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%40gmail.com)

**Foodbank News**Our friends at All Saints’, Chatham have been in touch to say that there is **considerable increased need** at the present time. There is, once again, difficulty handling gifts of provisions, so they are commending on-line giving in either of two ways:
**1)** You can purchase items for the Medway Foodbank’s ‘need list’ held at [www.spareable.co.uk](http://www.spareable.co.uk) or
**2)** By donating at [medway.foodbank.org.uk/give-help](medway%2Cfoodbank.org.uk/give-help).