

The Benefice & Team Ministry of Tettenhall Wood and Perton
The Parish of Tettenhall Wood

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Dear Friends,

I hope you are bearing up well through these continued hard times.

I hope you were able to follow the Ash Wednesday service during the week. This has brought us into the season of Lent, and so there is a new order of service this week. Attached also are my sermon and intercessions from Jane Woolf.

Readings: Genesis 9: 8-17 Mark 1: 9-15

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. Amen.*

Obviously, we are missing being together in church very much indeed. Whilst there is lots of good news about vaccination and about infections coming down, information this week is that the infection rate in Wolverhampton is still over 200 per 100,000, and the Director of Public Health is still strongly advising against re-opening at this time. We continue to keep the matter under review – including looking at enhanced measures to protect against the new variant – but in common with the rest of our Deanery, Christ Church and Good Shepherd will remain closed to public worship for the time-being. I do hope to have more positive news within a few weeks.

There is some good news! Many of you kindly sponsored Rosemary Malpas in re-growing her hair after chemotherapy. I've heard from her today that the amount she has raised for Compton Care is 'beyond my wildest dreams' – just over £4,500, with more coming in. Thank you to everyone who has supported her.

Remember the Lent course, *Psalms: Prayers for Today's Church*, begins in the week ahead, Tuesdays at 2.00pm and Wednesdays at 7.30pm. There's still room for more, especially in the Wednesday group. Just let me know, and I'll send you the Zoom codes.

May the true good news of Christ encourage, sustain and strengthen you for the week ahead and always.

Phil