

Times and Dates for Lent

Tuesday 1st March: **Introduction to Lent for all**

7.30pm in St Nicolas. Come and discover the stories and music we shall be using in Lent services and Lent groups

Friday 4th March: **Women's World Day of Prayer**

2pm and 7pm in St Nicolas. Our local ecumenical services on a day when women across God's world join in prayer and worship

Tuesday 8th March; **Pancake Party**

7pm at Hawkesley Pastoral Centre
Hawkesley's very special annual party – for all

Wednesday 9th March: **Ash Wednesday**

7.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

12,15pm Holy Communion – and every Wednesday in Lent

8pm Holy Communion with music and ashing

(Ashing is an ancient ceremony for Ash Wednesday where all who wish are signed with a cross using ashes made from last year's Palm crosses – a simple reminder of our need of God's grace and of our wanting to journey with him through Lent. It is an offering to those who wish to receive – not a requirement for all!)

Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th March

Asking the Impossible: Lent Groups begin their journey

Sundays in Lent

Usual service times in each church.

Taize worship is at 6pm on Sundays March 6th and April 3rd

6pm in St Nicolas: Sundays March 13th and April 10th

Holy Communion with Anointing and Prayer for Healing

Monday 11th April at 7pm in St Nicolas

Annual Parish Church Meeting

Sunday 17th April **Palm Sunday** – Holy Week begins at last

Lent 2011 “*Asking the Impossible*”

During Lent, the Sunday Gospel readings tell of a series of dramatic encounters that a variety of people have with Jesus. A secretive visitor is told that he must once again be born. A woman with a hidden past is told her secrets and is promised a limitless supply of water. Someone whose eyes have never opened since birth is given the ability to see clearly. And a dead man lives again...

This Lent in Groups and in the Sunday Gospel stories we will explore these extraordinary stories. All Lent groups are open to anyone. There are five sessions in the course, but each one stands on its own, so don't worry if you can't make it every week. Do come along, and share your thoughts and questions as together we ask the impossible question, “*How can this be?*”

Groups already arranged to “*Ask the Impossible*” are at

Saint Nicolas Place: Tuesdays 7.45-9pm from 15 March.

St Nicolas Church: Wednesdays 10-11.15am from 16 March.

St Nicolas Church: Wednesdays 8-9.15pm from 16 March

No need to sign up. Just turn up! See you there.

If another time will be helpful for you, please tell us. If you'd like to know more about *Asking the Impossible* do ask Rev John or any of us

Exploring Confirmation 2011

The Parish Confirmation Service this year in St Nicolas Church is at 10.30am on Sunday, 15th May with the Bishop of Aston. Confirmation is always a wonderful service, as the Bishop lays his hands upon the candidates and prays that God, through his Holy Spirit, will confirm them in their faith. We shall be getting ready at the following times and places:

Session 1: Sunday 13 March at 4pm at St Nicolas' Church.

Session 2: Sunday 20 March at 4pm at Hawkesley Pastoral Centre

Session 3: Sunday 27 March at 4pm at St Nicolas' Church.

Session 4: Sunday 10 April at 4pm at St Nicolas' Church.

Session 5: Sunday 17 April at 4pm at Hawkesley Pastoral Centre

Please ask Rev John or any of the ministry team if you'd like to know more. Don't worry if Sundays at 4pm are not helpful for you. We can arrange

BREAD!

Next Sunday evening,
27th February at 6pm

Ifakara Bakery

Night

We have a lovely Baptism service at 6pm and then a meal of breads, cheeses, fruit and wines/juices from around the world and an illustrated talk by Gene and Margaret Schellenberg about the fabulous work of the **Free Bread Fund in Tanzania** which they and our church support.