

**George Herbert**, priest & poet (1593-1633).

Educated at Westminster School and Trinity College Cambridge, George Herbert was destined for a life in public service, but in 1629 he became a priest. He is recognized for his lyrical, devotional poetry. In his poem *Love*, we are given guidance for our keeping of Lent. If we are to be God's beloved guests at His table, how best might we prepare ourselves to be that guest?

**Love**

*Love bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,  
Guilty of dust and sin.*

*But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack  
From my first entrance in,  
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning  
If I lacked anything.*

*"A guest," I answered, "worthy to be here."  
Love said, "You shall be he."*

*"I, the unkind, the ungrateful? Ah, my dear,  
I cannot look on Thee."*

*Love took my hand, and smiling, did reply,  
"Who made the eyes but I?"*

*"Truth, Lord, but I have marred them: let my  
shame*

*Go where it doth deserve."*

*"And know you not," says Love, "who bore the  
blame?"*

*"My dear, then I will serve."*

*"You must sit down," says Love, "and taste my  
meat."*

*So I did sit and eat.*

**The Annunciation.** (25 March)

Today we remember Mary's "yes" and picture the scene with the angel. Denise Levertov's poem reminds us of the cost to Mary and how we all face such moments in our lives.

A section of the poem "Annunciation" by Denise, Levertov (1923-97)

*But we are told of meek obedience. No one  
mentions courage. The engendering Spirit did not  
enter her without consent.*

*God waited.*

*She was free to accept or to refuse,  
choice integral to humanness.*

*Aren't there annunciations of one sort or another in  
most lives?*

*Some unwillingly undertake great destinies,  
enact them in sullen pride, uncomprehending.*

*Most often those moments when roads of light and  
storm open from darkness in a man or a woman,  
are turned away from in dread,*

*in a wave of weakness, in despair and with relief.  
Ordinary lives continue.*

*God does not smite them.*

*But gates close, the pathway vanishes.*

This echoes the longing of God to bring us closer to Himself, expressed in George Herbert's poem "Love", and God's great courtesy. He will not force us against our will.

This Lent may we grow in courage, so we might say "yes", as Mary did, when He calls, and not experience the aching regret when we spurn an encounter with God.

**Be still and know that I am God.**

These are some of the passages used by the Silent Prayer and Meditation Group at this season, which you might wish to use in your private prayer.

Ash Wednesday:

*"By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread  
until you return to the ground, for out of it you  
were taken: you are dust, and to dust you shall  
return."* Genesis 3, v19

Lent:

*"Take up your cross and follow Me."* Mark 8, v34

*"Lay up for yourself treasure in heaven. For  
where your treasure is, there will your heart be  
also."* Matthew 6, vv19-21

*"Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel,  
for you are my servant; I formed you; you will  
not be forgotten by Me. I have swept away  
your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins  
like mist; return to Me, for I have redeemed  
you."* Isaiah 44, vv21-22

Annunciation:

*"Be it unto me according to Thy will."* Luke 1, v38

## Calendar

### February

- 2 Presentation of Christ in the Temple  
3 Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> before Lent  
10 Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> before Lent  
17 Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> before Lent  
24 Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> before Lent  
27 George Herbert, priest & poet

### March

- 1 David, bishop & patron of Wales  
2 Chad, bishop, missionary  
3 Sunday next before Lent  
6 Ash Wednesday  
10 Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> of Lent  
17 Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> of Lent  
Patrick, bishop, patron of Ireland  
19 Joseph of Nazareth  
21 Thomas Cranmer, archbishop  
24 Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> of Lent  
25 Annunciation  
31 Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> of Lent  
Mothering Sunday

### April

- 7 Passion Sunday  
14 Palm Sunday  
18 Maundy Thursday  
19 Good Friday  
20 Holy Saturday  
21 Easter Day  
28 Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> of Easter  
29 George, patron of England  
30 Mark, evangelist

## Opportunities to Pray

*The Cycle of Prayer is based on the church calendar starting with Advent. It is a resource to enable different members of the church body to join together in prayer.*

*If you would like to know more about the opportunities for prayer at St Peter's please contact*

*Reverend Viv Bridges on 01865 558705*

*[vivbridges@btinternet.com](mailto:vivbridges@btinternet.com)*

*In addition to prayer during the Sunday Services there is also a **Service of Morning Prayer** on Mondays and Thursdays at 9.00am*

***Silent Prayer and Meditation** is in church on Tuesday mornings at 11.45 am.*

*The **Prayer Group** meets at 2.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month at 3 Rowland Close to pray and compile a prayer list which we use daily (church requests, local matters of concern and people who are unwell)*

***Early Birds** meet 7-7.30 am every Friday morning in the church to pray for the work of the church, the clergy and church team and forthcoming services*

*The church is open 2-4pm on Sundays for quiet prayer or just a place to sit.*

***Lent Quiet Day** Saturday 9 March, Chervell Centre, "A Journey in the Wilderness", led by Dr Romola Parish. Contact Viv Bridges for details.*



ST PETER'S  
FIRST TURN WOLVERCOTE

Cycle of Prayer  
Lent 2019

