

Reflection for Sunday next before Lent, 2nd March 2025

Many years ago, when I was a student at university, one of my wider group of friends was a kind medical student who was also somewhat shy and reserved. Half-way through her second year she invited many of us to her 21st birthday party, to be held at her parents' house in North London. When we went there, we found it was a large detached mansion with several acres of garden, just across the road from Hampstead Heath. Even in the mid-Eighties it would have been worth millions. None of us had known that her family were so wealthy. So was that who she truly was, rather than a kind and shy medical student? Well, she certainly was a wealthy person, but she was also truly kind and humble, and clearly that latter aspect was what was important to her in her friendships.

In today's Gospel reading Peter, James and John are given a glimpse of Jesus's heavenly glory in what we call the Transfiguration. They are also shown how great historical Jewish figures, Moses and the prophet Elijah, defer to him as Son of God. How would such an experience affect how you lived from that moment on?

Luke's account, and also those of Matthew and Mark (John doesn't mention the Transfiguration at all), brings those three disciples, and all the others, down to earth immediately with their failure to heal a boy with convulsions. Those three gospels also go on (beyond the end of today's passage) to record Jesus speaking to his uncomprehending followers about his coming death and resurrection. Why do you think the gospel writers thought it important to follow a sighting of Jesus's glory with these two incidents?

And as we move into the season of Lent, how can we learn from the contrast of these experiences?

Ian Totterdell, churchwarden



NEXT SUNDAY 09.03.2025 First Sunday of Lent
10.30am in the Hall

READINGS: OT Deuteronomy 26: 1-11



NT Romans 10: 8b-13

GOSPEL Luke 4: 1-13

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St Thomas, Exeter

2nd March 2025

Sunday next before Lent

10.30am in the Hall

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

242 Immortal, invisible, God only wise

335 Meekness and majesty

321 Love divine, all loves excelling

Tuesday 4th March

7.30pm House Group Lent course. Pancakes
at Helen's house.

Wednesday 5th March

10am Ash Wednesday Mass with Ashing

7pm Evening prayer via Zoom. See notices.

Thursday 6th March

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12noon Knit & Natter. 19 Maple Rd
Details from Jenny. 01392 498725

Friday 7th March

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

11.30am Stations of the Cross

Saturday 8th March

9am Men's Breakfast in the Sawyers



Collect

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Exodus 34: 29-end

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

2 Corinthians 3: 12-4: 2

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. Therefore, since it is by

God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God

Luke 9: 28-43a

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen. On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, 'Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.' Jesus answered, 'You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.' While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

Post Communion

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table re-

flect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

House Group Lent Studies We have space for anyone interested in joining us for a Bible study course "Easter—Hope for tomorrow" on every Tuesday during Lent. Please see Ian, Helen or Mic for further details.

Ash Wednesday 5th March at 7pm. Prayers for Ash Wednesday with self-ashing. This will be via Zoom. The codes are given below.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83303782063?pwd=1LCEnnhbNaUsa1pvzXqrrWk1HuFWRc.1>

Meeting ID: 833 0378 2063 Passcode: 616135

Or dial by your location using the same codes as above.

0203 481 5240 0131 460 1196 0203 481 5237

World Day of Prayer Friday, 7th March. St Stephen's Church at 11am. Refreshments will be served at 10.30am. The theme this year is "I made you wonderful" based on Psalm 139:14. Learn about the Cook Islands their culture and history.

We are going to start revising the **Year's Mind list** as it has become rather lengthy. We recognise that it is a sensitive matter and all those currently on this list from the year 2000 will be retained automatically. If you would like an older name kept on this list please contact Ian or Fr David.

Electoral roll revision Every 6 years we are required to complete a full revision of the church electoral roll and this is due to take place at least 2 months before our APCM on 25 May. This is also a great time for any new members to be added. New and existing members will need to complete and return an application form to Carolyn Bryant, Ian Totterdell or a member of the clergy by 10 May at the latest. The new roll will be displayed on the noticeboard for 14 days prior to the APCM. Carolyn and Ian have copies of the application form available and if you need help or have any questions please speak to Carolyn after the service or on 07780 707183.