

Dates for your diary

1st Saturday 12noon Holy Communion and shared lunch at Meadowbank, Newtonmore.

2nd Sunday before Lent 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

5th Ash Wednesday 10.30am and 7pm Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes at St. John's.

8th Diocesan Synod in Inverness.

9th Lent 1 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

11th Tuesday 7.30pm – Holy Communion at Hillside Ave., Kingussie.

12th Wednesday – 11.30am Holy Communion, lunch and Discussion Group at St. Columba's.

7pm Holy Communion and Compline at St. John's.

13th Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

16th Lent 2 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

19th Wednesday 11.30am Holy Communion, lunch and Discussion Group at St. Columba's.

7pm Holy Communion and Compline at St. John's.

20th Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.



23rd Lent 3 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

26th Wednesday 11.30am Holy Communion, lunch and Discussion Group at St. Columba's.

7pm Holy Communion and Compline at St. John's.

27th Thursday 1.15pm Holy Communion at Scot House Hotel.

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March 2014

St. John the Baptist Rothiemurchus



A couple of years ago Kathryn, Chloe and I greatly enjoyed supporting a group of clergy from Chester Diocese who were walking St Cuthbert's Way. They did the

walking! I provided the input. Kathryn and Chloe organised the meals. It is quite a challenging walk not least because it involves quite a bit of climbing. I certainly found it spiritually powerful watching their growth as the pilgrimage proceeded.

While such endeavours are marvellous ways of helping us on our Christian journey, you don't have to go on a walk to be a person of Pilgrimage. We're ALL called to be pilgrims of Christ. In all our lives there will be ups and downs. Times when we feel close to God and times when spiritually life is pretty challenging. There are times when we just get on with things and times when we need to stand back and specifically nurture our spiritual growth. The folk on my pilgrimage were not only pilgrims when walking St Cuthbert's Way but day by day in their ordinary lives and ministry.

Lent and Holy Week are **SPECIAL PILGRIMAGE TIMES** for Christians. Lent enables us to stand back and engage more fully with God and indeed helps us to prepare for the very specific **PILGRIMAGE OF HOLY WEEK**. However for them to achieve their purposes both will involve a very special effort from ALL of us.

At St Columba's and St John's we try to exercise our ministries in TWO SPECIFIC WAYS. We have *two churches* to serve Badenoch and Strathspey and worship and other activities take place in them. But we also serve over a dozen communities stretching in length over a fifty mile distance. A key to our ministry, therefore, is to try also to provide some *local presence*, and not confine ourselves simply to our two buildings and their halls.



To that end Lent groups will this year be taking place in Newtonmore and Carrbridge on a **Tuesday**. There will be the usual Lent Eucharist (11.30am)

Lunch (12.15) Discussion Group (approx. 1.00pm) at St Columba's on a **Wednesday**. There's our regular **Wednesday evening** Eucharist and Compline at St John's at 7pm and our **Thursday** 10-30am which is normally followed by a retreat to the visitor centre for coffee/tea and low calorie scones! There are the regular monthly Eucharists at Scot House Hotel Kingussie and at Jenny's home in Newtonmore.

I would hope you'd agree that there is no shortage of opportunities to enable you to use this Lent creatively. I hope that everyone will make Sunday Worship a **FIRST** priority each Sunday and also attendance at least at one of our weekday events. Full participation in what is being offered will, I hope, enable you to make the best of your **LENTEN PILGRIMAGE** this year.

Richard

March 5th Ash Wednesday
10.30am and 7.00pm at St. John's
Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

Lent Courses 2014



1. Carrbridge: Tuesdays A five week course exploring the **Beatitudes** and how they can inform and inspire our Christian living. The first session gives a general introduction to the Beatitudes, followed by four sessions looking at the eight Beatitudes in pairs. The course will be held on Tuesday March 11th, 18th, 25th, April 1st and 8th, from 2pm to 3:30pm at the home of Ron and Alison Hart in Carrbridge. Please contact Alison for directions if needed (01479 841614). All you need bring is yourself and a Bible.

2. Grantown: Wednesdays The course at St Columba's on a Wednesday is '**Being a Healthy Church**'. The themes include: A Healthy Church is energized by faith ... has an outward looking focus ... seeks to find out what God wants ... faces the cost of change and growth ... operates as a community ... makes room for all.

3. Newtonmore: Tuesdays 2.30 – 4pm at Meadowbank, Main Street (Jenny's home). '**The Possible World**' course. Is another world possible? One where strangers are welcomed, creation is valued, stuff is just stuff and justice is the norm? How can we, as Jesus' followers, live out both this challenge and this hope in our communities? See <http://www.cms-uk.org/> for a trailer.



4. Dalwhinnie – Evening Prayer Sunday 6.30pm in Village Hall.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

If you live in Cromdale and want to go to Newtonmore or you live in Dalwhinnie and want to go to Carrbridge this is fine. Please prayerfully consider your involvement.