

Sunday

in the Parish of Honley with Brockholes

19 March 2017 | The Third Sunday of Lent



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Leeds

Welcome If you are a newcomer or visitor, we welcome you and want you to feel at home. Please introduce yourself and join us for refreshments after the 9.30 and 11 a.m. services.

THIS year's Lent course is on the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer*, which is the Church of England's principal book of services and prayers. Understanding, and regularly using, the *Prayer Book* helps us to be better Anglicans, because it roots us in the truths rediscovered by the Reformers in the sixteenth century: that although we have lived in God's world as if God were not there, God gave Jesus to die on our behalf, so that we might be reconciled to God by God's grace alone, through faith alone. The *Prayer Book* also helps us to be better Christians: it constantly points us back to the Bible, and gives us words to use as together we respond to what God is saying through his word.

On Tuesday, the Church remembers Thomas Cranmer. He was the chief architect of the *Book of Common Prayer*. He was put to death on 21st March 1556 for his faithfulness to the Bible's teaching. In Broad Street in Oxford, there is a cross in the road to mark the place where he was burned. (Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer were killed in the same place on 16th October 1555.) What most offended the authorities was Thomas Cranmer's teaching that the bread and wine at communion services remain bread and wine; and that the communion service is not a sacrifice made at an altar, but a meal eaten at a table, in remembrance of Christ's death. Cranmer was right to insist on the Bible's teaching, because when Jesus died, he said, 'It is finished.' (*John 19.30*) Nothing other than the death of Jesus is necessary for us to be in the right with God. In Cranmer's words, Jesus' death was 'a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice...for the sins of the whole world.' It is the heart of the gospel.

This Tuesday, give thanks for Thomas Cranmer's faithfulness to the Bible. Give thanks for his Prayer Book. And if you have one, and haven't used it for a while, Lent is a great opportunity to put that right.

Today's Worship

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (1662) – St Mary's
9.30 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION with Sunday Club – St Mary's
11.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION – St George's
6.30 p.m. Lent Course – Parish Rooms

Readings at 9.30 and 11 a.m.

Ephesians 4.17-end (p. 1175)
Matthew 6.19-23 (p. 971)

Hymns at 9.30 a.m.

696, 134, 242, 144, 715

Hymns at 11.00 a.m.

132, 727, 588, 725

The Collect of Lent 3

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

