

## FROM OUR RECTOR

These days, we are inundated with circulars via social media, emails and even bits of paper (*do you remember those?!*) For the past couple of months, there has been an article doing the rounds which is particularly good and was on a poster outside of Coventry Cathedral. For me, these words capture what it means for a church to be truly hospitable where all are welcome respective of their status in life.

‘We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, confused, filthy rich, comfortable or dirt poor. We extend a special welcome to wailing babies and excited toddlers. We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You’re welcome here if you’re ‘just browsing’, just woken up or just got out of prison. We don’t care if you’re more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven’t been in church since Christmas 10 years ago. We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60, but not yet grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit Mums, football Dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you’re having problems, are down in the dumps or don’t like ‘organised religion’ (We’re not that keen either!) We offer a welcome to those who are inked, pieced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throats as kids or got lost in the city centre and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters...and you!’

*So the message, the invitation is straight forward, in the words of a fabulous hymn ‘All are welcome in this place’*

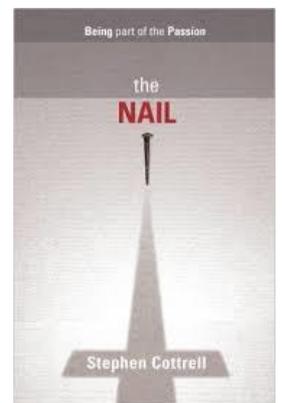
**God Bless you, Rev’d Chloe**

## LENT

Lent Course - *I know, I know, you haven’t recovered from Christmas yet!!!*

This year we will be running 2 Lent Courses within the Benefice, they are identical and Rev’ds Martin & Chloe will be sharing the leadership of both. We will be following Stephen Cottrell’s book ‘The Nail’ The book is a compelling and extremely powerful account of the cross which draws us deep into the minds of the key figures within those final hours of Christ’s life.

There will be 5 sessions for each location beginning on **Tuesday 23rd February at 7pm** in the Church Centre Lounge, Nether Stowey and **Wednesday 24th February 2pm** in Goathurst Church. The last sessions will be in Holy Week.



*Everyone is welcome, churchgoers or not. A copy of the book will be helpful but not essential. It would also be useful to have a rough idea of numbers for each course. Thank you.*

## Benefice Calendar

We now have a Benefice Calendar which keeps track of key meetings, social events and services. My diary is not on there, but regular events that Martin & I do such as schools work are . In time, there will be a Benefice website with a clear link to this diary, but for the time being, if you type the following link into your search bar, it will get you there. This is early days and a new thing for the Benefice, we are hoping that in time it will be an invaluable asset to our communication.

<http://teamup.com/ks12b883ed68d9e33a/>