

LENT SERMON SERIES

Counting the Cost: Heroes of the Faith

Looking for inspiration for the future? There's a real danger that we become so obsessed with our immediate circumstances, and our own experiences, that we forget that the issues and problems we struggle with have been faced before, in different forms maybe, by Christians down the ages. We can learn from, and be inspired by, the example of people who have gone before us, coming from all walks of life, who have put their faith into practice in their lives, whatever the cost.

This Lent we will have a sermon series at the 8:00 and 9:30am services looking at a variety of saints, not all of whom have had 'St' written in front of their name.



Polycarp



Perpetua and Felicity

We include martyrs from the first 3 centuries of church history, whose sacrifice inspired others to keep the faith under persecution. Today, persecution of Christians in many parts of the world is as serious as it was in the early days, and I hope we will be more aware of this and grow in solidarity with them.

We also look at two women whose faith led them to make a difference to the lives of many, one in China and the other in addressing social injustice in Victorian England.



Josephine Butler



Gladys Aylward



Thomas Cranmer

And finally, we'll look at the life of a man who ran the gauntlet of political tides to make worship accessible to the masses and to promote the doctrines of the Reformation – Thomas Cranmer.

Date	Heroes of the Faith
21 February	Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna (martyred 155 AD)
28 February	Josephine Butler, social reformer (died 1906)
7 March	Perpetua and Felicity (martyred c.203)
14 March	Gladys Aylward, missionary in China (died 1970)
21 March	Thomas Cranmer, bishop, liturgical reformer (martyred 1556)