

**Ash Wednesday, 5th March 2014**

St Mary's Kidlington 8pm

Revd Felicity Scroggie with *Thoughts on Sin and Penitence for Ash Wednesday*

Jesus picked out the poor in spirit for particular blessing. Blessed are you who know your own spiritual poverty. That discovery is a blessed moment for in it we meet our need for God in all its starkness.

Those who could not bring themselves to cast the first stone – is this what they discovered when faced with the sinful woman and the silent Christ?

All sin is fundamentally us saying to God that we will go our way and not his. It's good to take an honest look at ourselves and ask, 'Is God first in our lives?' Some of us will be able to admit quite easily that he is not. Some of us who go to church and practise Christianity will probably find difficulty admitting that God may not be first. There is no need to get full of guilt – we may need to admit simply that it is true – it is sad, but it is true.

What God wants us to do is to admit it and ask Him to heal us. We cannot ask for healing if we do not think we need it.

If we do not hide from unpleasant truths then there is a chance that God will begin to do in us what we are unable to do for ourselves.

And so this evening we ask the Holy Spirit to show us our sins as the words of Christ echo through the generations, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do"

Revd Felicity Scroggie