

NEWSLETTER

5th Sunday of Lent Passion Sunday Truth Seeking Journey



SO MUCH TO SAY THIS WEEK!



The most exciting news is that we are back in church for Palm Sunday, March 28th.

We will therefore be in church for the services leading up to Easter, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day. For more details see page 4

On March 29th there will be an Easter Egg hunt at the Village School led by Kate and the Rector. There will be a similar one in the churchyard around St Mary's.

Covid-19: UK national day of reflection to be held on 23 March

St Mary's will be open for prayer. There are postcards with images of the year we've had to reflect on what this year has brought us. The Rector will be in church at 9am, 12noon and 6pm for prayer if anyone would like to join her.



Bishop's Lent Call. Over the last few weeks there have been articles in the newsletter about the Bishop's Lent Call. In the past St Mary's has supported this appeal with enthusiasm. Sadly for the first time ever the Bishop failed to raise the money he had hoped for last year because of the pandemic. He is hoping for a lot of support this year. He says, in his letter, *'For many in our communities and Link Dioceses, not having enough to eat is sadly and appallingly now a regular occurrence. I urge you all to pray for those in these situations and to consider prayerfully what you can give to help to support them.'*

You can donate by credit transfer to the church bank account at Westminster Bank

Bank details: sort code 60-16-09 account number 71583467 reference LENT CALL. See page 5



Easter Lilies, a message from Averil Trott.

'We would like to put some lilies in Church for Maundy Thursday. If anyone would like to contribute to these in memory of a loved one, please would you let Averil know how much you would like to give by email and then pay her later. Thank you.' averiltrott@btinternet.com

As Lockdown hopefully draws to a close we still continue to pray for :

the sick, those who have died and all their relatives and friends
the over stretched NHS, all essential workers
all those struggling as a result of the pandemic
each other and try to keep positive!!

Sunday services are all on you tube.

[Benefice of Bletchingley and Nutfield - YouTube](#) (under videos).

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKjwHIZkSxgv0qekIw2Chw>

After service coffee Zoom.

Do join us for Coffee, via zoom, after the service tomorrow

the link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89791002817> Password (if needed) StMary

Meeting ID: 897 9100 2817

Alpha Course continues on Thursday Evenings

This is an on line course. If you are interested please contact Phe for details.

Any children are welcome to join us on Zoom- email Katedoody2012@gmail.com for more details or join our Facebook group: St Mary's Sunday Club. See what they have been doing and photos page 7

Lent Course continues on Monday Evenings at 8pm

Stations of the Cross on You tube [\(27\) The Stations Of The Cross at St Mary's Bletchingley - YouTube](#)

Photos from Pamela (page 8)

If you are unwell, have any problems, would like help

Please do contact the Rector

Email; pamphilon@gmail.com or tel:01 883 743252

The Benefice Office is manned on Tuesday and Wednesday

parishofmarypeterpaul@outlook.com

March 21st, Fifth Sunday of Lent

Services continue to be premiered on You Tube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKjwHIZkSxgvOqekIw2Chw> (under videos)

The Collect: Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ezekiel 37. 1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. "I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely. Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

Matthew 4.4-11

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: '"He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the LORD your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the LORD your God, and serve him only.'"

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Prayers

Lord Jesus, you were called the friend of sinners, be my friend, for I acknowledge that I have sinned. Forgive the wrong that I have done and the right that I have failed to do; my secret and my more open sins; my sins of ignorance and my deliberate sins; sins to please myself and sins to please others; the sins which I remember, and the sins which I have forgotten; forgive all these, for it was for me also that you died. My Lord and Saviour. Amen. John Wesley

O God who art the light of the minds that know thee, The life of the souls that love thee, and the strength of the hearts that serve thee; Help us to know thee that we may truly love thee; so to love thee that we may fully serve thee, whom to serve is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gelasian Sacramentary

Lord help me to recognise that.. The measure of a man is not determined by his show of outward strength, Or the volume of his voice, or the thunder of his action. It is to be seen, rather, in terms of the strength of his commitments, The genuineness of his friendships, the sincerity of his purpose, The quiet courage of his convictions, His capacity to suffer, and his willingness to continue 'growing up'. Grady Poulard

O Christ give us patience and faith, and hope as we kneel at the foot of thy cross, that however ill the world may go, the father so loved us that he spared not thee. Charles Kingsley

Daily Readings for the week March 22nd to March 26th

Monday, March 22,	Psalm 119:9-16;	Isaiah 43:8-13;	2 Corinthians 3:4-11
Tuesday, March 23,	Psalm 119:9-16;	Isaiah 44:1-8;	Acts 2:14-24
Wednesday, March 24,	Psalm 119:9-16;	Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23;	John 12:34-50
Thursday, March 25,	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29;	Deuteronomy 16:1-8;	Philippians 2:1-11
Friday, March 26,	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29;	Jeremiah 33:1-9;	Philippians 2:12-18
Saturday, March 27,	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29;	Jeremiah 33:10-16;	Mark 10:32-34, 46-52

From the Rector

News about Services

On Tuesday 23rd March, the church will be open for prayer. There are post-cards with images of the year we've had to reflect on what this year has brought us.

I will be in church at 9am , 12noon and 6pm for prayer if anyone would like to join me.

Palm Sunday we will have a service, albeit slightly differently. No procession but we will try and reenact the Palm Sunday with palms and collecting palm crosses.

Maundy Thursday, we will have a reflective communion service at 8pm, where we will strip the altar and then have a vigil in a simple Garden of Repose.

Good Friday, there will be a 10am outdoor service for young people. 2pm a Stations of the Cross and 8pm a Tenebrae Service

Easter Morning, 6am Vigil Service, 9.30am Communion Service

Myself and Kate Doody will be doing an Easter Egg Trail at Bletchingley School on 29th March, the same trail will be in the graveyard around St. Marys as well.

During Holy Week there will be activity sheets Sensory Easter for families to do.

So lots going on!

Bishop's Lent Call The Diocese of Jerusalem



 *The Bishop of Southwark's*
LENT CALL 2021

"... have compassion..."
Mark 8.2

Supporting projects
in the Diocese of
Southwark, the Holy
Land and in our Link
Dioceses in Zimbabwe

 Hearts
on Fire
The Diocese of Southwark

Lent Call 2021
The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Fund Registered Charity No 1075122
southwark.anglican.org/lentcall

*Walking
Welcoming
Growing*

On 20 January 2021, the Bishop of Southwark, The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, and the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, The Most Revd Suheil S Dawani, will sign a covenant between the two Dioceses. We have had close links with the Diocese of Jerusalem for many years and the Bishop and the Dean have led three Diocesan Pilgrimages to the Holy Land. In 2018, The Revd Canon Richard Sewell, formerly Team Rector of Barnes Team Ministry in the Diocese of Southwark, became the Dean of St George's College, Jerusalem. He remains an Honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral which has further strengthened our link. The Jerusalem Bishopric was first established in 1841; in 1976, a Province known as the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East was constituted which extends across five countries (Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan). The current Bishop of the Diocese is Archbishop of the Region. The Diocese, which contains 27 parishes with 8,000 members, focuses on four main areas of work: health, education, youth and the empowerment of women. As part of its work, the Diocese runs more than 33 institutions which focus on the poor and needy and provide high-quality services to all people without prejudice or discrimination on the grounds of religion, social class, gender, education or political affiliation. The institutions include 20 schools and vocational training centres, seven health centres and rehabilitation centres, two hospitals, and four guest houses for pilgrims. The Diocese also runs a Women's Empowerment Programme and a Youth Leadership Programme. The Most Revd Suheil Dawani became the 14th Bishop in Jerusalem in April 2007. His vision for the future of his Diocese is to engage in the ministry of peace and reconciliation

by strengthening the Christian presence in the Holy Land. His focus is on working together with overseas partners and collegially in ecumenical inter-faith affairs, as well as encouraging the faithful to join efforts for reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. In referring to the importance of Jerusalem, Bishop Suheil emphasises that he sees it as his duty, and that of all Christians, to make Jerusalem a model for peace between the three Abrahamic faiths. He says, "It is our task to give hope to the hopeless. In our daily lives may we be guided by the star of God's love"

The situation of the people in the Holy Land has been precarious for many years. Unemployment amongst the Christian population and the Palestinians has been high for some while and those who are employed often spend hours reaching their places of work. The Coronavirus pandemic has made life much harder. In the Holy Land, the situation has been exacerbated because much of the economic activity and employment for people there is related to pilgrimages, and the tourism industry has been decimated by the pandemic. For instance, at Christmas we know that many pilgrims would usually be in Bethlehem and other parts of the Holy Land, and the shops and street vendors would be able to make a living. In 2020, however, pilgrims and tourists were unable to come and those who rely upon them found themselves without an income and no longer able to feed and clothe their children or meet the needs of their families. In early March 2020, Bishop Christopher and The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, the Dean of Southwark, led the first Ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Bishop Paul Hendricks and Fr Philip Andrews from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark. Nearly 70 people accompanied them around the holy sites and shared the experiences of seeing where Jesus lived and had his ministry. It was a wonderful time and we were so sad to have to leave a little early because of the pandemic. Whilst we were there, however, we also saw the hardship which many were experiencing and now the situation is much worse. The Diocese has experienced a sharp downfall in income because of the lack of pilgrimages and because outpatient clinics had to close in all medical centres and hospitals. As well as this, the Diocese has been unable to collect school fees during this time. In the past, the Diocese has helped those unable to provide for their families through its schools, hospitals and other institutions, but with the fall in income brought about by the pandemic it can no longer do this. So, with our help and some resources of its own, the Diocese of Jerusalem hopes to be able to offer \$100 (about £74) to up to 50 vulnerable families so they can feed themselves for about a month. This would enable them to buy basic food such as rice, sugar, beans, tomatoes, lentils, sardines, tuna and cooking oil. The main aim of this project will be to ensure food security among the families of the parishes of the Diocese; families with no income, families which are large, and families which contain members suffering from chronic illness will be prioritised.

Sunday club have been busy over the last couple of weeks. Following on from thinking about prayer during Lent we spent some time learning the Lords Prayer. Then, last weekend, we moved Sunday Club to Saturday morning and made Mother's Day cards and posies. We put the posies near the Church on Sunday for people to collect as they walked passed. The box was empty by early afternoon so hopefully everyone managed to get one! It's our last online Sunday Club this week, as we're hoping to be back to real life Sunday Club after Easter. We'll be learning about Lazarus and how Jesus raised him from the dead.





Photos from Pamela Cock

The Bletchingley sign and daffodils

A bumble bee feasting on our Edgeworthia

Witch Hazel in the Cock garden

