

Sunday 16th March 2025

Second Sunday of Lent

- 8.00 a.m. BCP Holy Communion
- 10.00 a.m. Morning Worship with Children's Church
- 11.15 a.m. APCM
- 4.00 p.m. Tea Time Church

Collect for Today

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Service Readings

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 (*p.12*); Philippians 3:17-4:1 (*p.196*) and Luke 13:31-end (*p.73*)

Please pray for

... Carole Bookham, Anne Bradbeer, Llew Parry (Alison's Dad), and Roger Young.

... the family and friends of Leslie Wilson who's funeral takes place on 28th March at Guildford Crematorium, 1.30pm.

... those who live and work in Cathedral Close, Curling Vale and Downing Avenue.

... the Koens family in Papua New Guinea supporting the work of Bible translation through vehicle maintenance, teaching, missionary care.

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Financial Giving

We take a collection during our services. If you don't give regularly by standing order or the envelope scheme, please put your donation in the bag, tap the card reader on your way out, or use the QR code on the back of this news-sheet. Thank you.

Dear Friends

It's nice to be chosen, isn't it?

Ask anyone who's ever been chosen last for a school sports team (yup, I remember that feeling well). Or, more positively, if we're chosen to be a friend, or a partner, or even specially chosen to complete a survey by some online retailer.

'God's chosen people' is quite a thing. In the early Old Testament, God makes a covenant with Abraham. How wonderful to be his chosen people. And yet...

Being chosen doesn't mean we always get things right. No sooner is Abraham's line chosen, than the Bible's pages fill with stories of human error, blunders, drifting from God, and belief in the wrong leader. The news today implies that we seem destined to keep repeating our mistakes.

We can't fix it ourselves. So, Jesus comes, for all. But even his chosen dozen - his closest disciples - end up doubting, denying, bickering and betraying.

In one of today's readings, Paul warns that some people "live as enemies of the cross of Christ" - whose god is their appetite, who revel in shamefulness, whose minds are set on earthly things.

When we're tempted to worship such material 'gods' as wealth and power, perhaps the question is less about who are God's chosen people, and more about who is the people's chosen god?

I'm hopeful that we're on the right path - it's led us here today! But we know how easy it is to veer off a path. So, let's keep our eyes on God this week.

Blessings.

Paul Young

Mission Focus for March: The Koens Family

Please pray for Clare and Andrew Koens and family, based in Ukarumpa in Papua New Guinea. One of the things they find hard is the frequent movement of people, as families come and go, some going on home leave for a year or so, some returning to their home countries permanently. Therefore, friendships can be transient which is unsettling, especially for the children, and Clare and Andrew have to be flexible in their work roles, in helping out to fill gaps when others leave. Please read more about them in the magazine, and come and support them at the Lent Lunch on March 9th.

Notices

APCM: TODAY at 11.15am in church. We'll have coffee in church after the 10am service and then start the annual meeting at 11.15am. Please stay if you can to celebrate 2024 and to elect new PCC members and churchwardens.

Tea-time Church: This Sunday's Julie Shaw will help us explore the Ignatian Examen from a Lenten perspective, looking at the five points of Gratitude, Grace, Review, Repent and Resolve. Each point will be accompanied by a short hymn. Do join us!

Annual Report & Accounts: The Annual Report & Accounts for 2024 are now available online (allsaintschurchgfd.org.uk/about-us/annual-report/). If you would like a printed copy, let Trish know and she will prepare one for you.

Eco Church Gold Award Assessment: On Tuesday, Beverly, Alison, Sue and Trish will be in a two-and-a-half-hour meeting with Eco Church assessors to see if All Saints meets the requirements for a gold award. We've passed the first hurdle with our paper submission and now need to pass the interview! We would value your prayers.

Carbon Fasting for Lent: The Women's Bible Study group are carbon fasting for Lent. Maybe you'd like to give this a go?

climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/

Baby & Toddler Group: Is anyone able to help on a Friday morning (term time only) from 9am-10am to get the toys out ready. Or, to come and help with refreshments between 10.15am and 11am. These jobs can be on a rota basis.

Carolyn & Peter: Next Sunday we'll be holding a leaving service for Carolyn and Peter, followed by tea, at 4pm. Please do come to wish them well and pray for their new life in Wiltshire.

Holy Week & Easter: dates for your diary

Palm Sunday, 13th April

10am: All-Age Communion
6.30pm: Choral Meditation on the Passion

Maundy Thursday, 17th April

9.30am: Family Communion
8pm: Holy Communion with Foot Washing
9-10pm: The Vigil

Good Friday, 18th April

10.30am: 'Walking with Jesus to the Cross' on the field followed by hot cross buns.
12-1pm: 'The Watch'

Easter Day, 20th April

5.15am: Sunrise Service followed by breakfast at the Vicarage
10am: All-Age Family Communion followed by Easter Egg hunt

Diary for the Coming Week

Morning prayer Mon, Tues and Weds 9.15am in the Reading Room and Zoom. Thurs Holy Communion at 9.30am in the Reading Room.

- Mon 17th Hear Here Clinic, Reading Room, 2.00pm
Tues 18th Gold Eco Church Assessment, 10.15am
Altogether Worship Planning, Vicarage, 7.30pm
Green Belt talk, Vicarage, 7.30pm
Weds 19th Dray Court Service, 2.30pm
Lent Course - week 2, Vicarage, 7.30pm
Thurs 20th Holy Communion, Reading Room, 9.30am
Men's Group 'Exploring the Way', 7.30pm (contact Martyn Whiteman for details - martyn.whiteman@gmail.com)
Choir Rehearsal, Church, 8.00pm
Fri 21st Baby & Toddler Group, Church, 10.00am
Sat 22nd Earth Hour 8.30pm-9.30pm
Sun 23rd Church Family Communion with Children's Church, 10.00am
Farewell Service for Carolyn and Peter, followed by tea, Church, 4.00pm

Daily Readings for the coming week

- Mon 17th Ps. 32, Jeremiah 7:21-end, John 6:41-51
Tues 18th Ps. 50, Jeremiah 8:1-15, John 6:52-59
Weds 19th Ps. 25, Isaiah 11:1-10, Matthew 13:54-end
Thurs 20th Ps. 34, Jeremiah 9:12-24, John 7:1-13
Fri 21st Ps. 41, Jeremiah 10:1-16, John 7:14-24
Sat 22nd Ps. 25, Jeremiah 10:17-24, John 7:25-36

Service Readings for Sunday 23rd March: 3rd Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 and Luke 13:1-9

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