

Sunday 23rd March 2025

Third Sunday of Lent

10.00 a.m. Church Family Communion with Children's Church

4.00 p.m. Leaving Service and Tea for Carolyn & Peter

Collect for Today

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Service Readings

Isaiah 55:1-9 (*p.696*), 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (*p.168*) and Luke 13:1-9 (*p.72*)

Please pray for

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

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

... the family and friends of Malcom Groves, Sheila Watkins and Hazel Woolcock whose anniversary of death is at this time.

... and give thanks for Anna Hodgson on the first anniversary of her baptism.

... those who live and work in East Meads, Ellis Avenue, Elmbank Avenue and Elmside.

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

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; 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

Well, we are half way through Lent. I wonder how your Lenten journey is progressing? I wonder if you find your reflective time is connecting you with God in a different way? I wonder if you are encountering God in a new way?

Maybe Lent is becoming difficult. Perhaps those commitments you made are not as easy to keep as you thought. I have a confession. I am in that camp. I had intended to read the books that follow the gospels in the New Testament and I have not really progressed very well. I've found I have not had the time I thought with my course work, a study weekend away, my work with the diocese and my new work now with the University chaplaincy. In my defence, I've looked at some passages and indeed, I am writing the sermon for this week and a series over Easter. So, my bible time is probably as I planned but not the right books!

This week's gospel reading is a parable about a fig tree that was not bearing fruit. The owner of the vineyard where the fig tree was growing told the farmer to cut it down, but the farmer decided to tend the tree for another year and see if it would then bear fruit. This parable is about having a second chance. God never gives up on us or is disappointed in us. A bishop at a conference I was at said Jesus is not a sleeping partner in this.

I really hope your Lenten journey is progressing as you had thought and God is walking with you. But if you're a little behind, like me, we can take comfort that God is there encouraging us on the way.

Andy

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

Carolyn & Peter: TODAY we're holding a leaving service for Carolyn and Peter at 4pm, followed by tea. Please do come to wish them well and pray for their new life in Wiltshire. Carolyn and Peter have asked that we don't have a collection for them, but if anyone would like to donate, they have nominated a charity close to their hearts, The Leprosy Mission's Anandaban Hospital in Nepal, which was badly damaged after a landslide last year and has had to relocate. To donate to the hospital, please do so by phone on 01733 370505, requesting that your donation goes to Anandaban Hospital. Alternatively, bring cash on Sunday where we will have a donation basket which we will forward to The Leprosy Mission for the hospital.

Orchard Volunteer Morning: Next Saturday (29th) you'd be very welcome to join the team at 10.30am to do some general work in the orchard and field. It's looking great and your help to keep it that way would be fantastic!

Mothering Sunday: We will be celebrating this special day at both 10am and 4pm. Do come along and bring family members. We will be giving posies of flowers to all women in our congregation.

Lent Books: Better late than never - some Lent books from the church library are now available to borrow on the table at the back of the church.

Easter Lilies: If you'd like to remember a loved one this Easter, perhaps you'd like to donate towards the lilies decorating the church. Please put their name and your donation in an envelope in the church post-box opposite the office door, or give to Trish

Holy Week & Easter:

✠ ***Palm Sunday, 13th April***

10am: All-Age Communion with procession

6.30pm: Choral Meditation on the Passion led by Jeremy and the All Saints' Choir. A special time of words and music.

✠ ***Maundy Thursday, 17th April***

9.30am: Holy Communion

8pm: Holy Communion with foot washing

9-10pm: The Vigil – a time of quiet reflection in the Reading Room

✠ ***Good Friday, 18th April***

10.30am: 'Walking with Jesus to the Cross' on the field followed by hot cross buns. The children will be re-enacting the story of the last days of Jesus' life.

12-1pm: 'The Watch' An hour of quiet reflection in church.

✠ ***Easter Day, 20th April***

5.15am: Sunrise Communion Service. An outdoor service around an open fire at the front of church. Stay for breakfast afterwards at the Vicarage.

10am: All-Age Family Communion followed by an 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 24 th	Womens' Bible Study
Weds 26 th	Lent Course - week 3, Vicarage, 7.30pm
Thurs 27 th	Holy Communion, Reading Room, 9.30am Choir Rehearsal, Church, 8.00pm
Fri 28 th	Baby & Toddler Group, Church, 10.00am Funeral of Les Wilson, Guildford Crematorium, 1.30pm Friday Group, Reading Room, 3.00pm
Sat 29 th	Orchard Volunteer Morning, 10.30am
Sun 30 th	<i>Mothering Sunday (and the clocks change!)</i> Church Family Communion with Children's Church, 10.00am Tea-time Church, 4.00pm

Daily Readings for the coming week

Mon 24 th	Ps. 5, Jeremiah 11:1-17, John 7:37-52
Tues 25 th	Ps. 111, 1 Samuel 2:1-10, Romans 5:12-end
Weds 26 th	Ps. 38, Jeremiah 13:1-11, John 8:12-30
Thurs 27 th	Ps. 56, Jeremiah 14, John 8:31-47
Fri 28 th	Ps. 22, Jeremiah 15:10-end, John 8:48-end
Sat 29 th	Ps. 31, Jeremiah 16:10-17:4, John 9:1-17

Service Readings for Sunday 30th March: 4th Sunday of Lent

Exodus 2:1-10, 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 and Luke 2:33-35

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