



**St John the Divine Church,  
Selsdon  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021  
The Sunday next before lent**

**Welcome to St John's!**

As we now join together virtually, we hope that you are able to join us in the safe comfort of your own home.

The service today will be taken by The Reverend Peter Wyatt. We thank all that are able to help keep services going and hope you enjoy today's service.

**PLEASE TAKE THIS LEAFLET HOME WITH YOU**

**Opening Prayer**

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**Post Communion Prayer**

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**First Reading**

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

*2 Kings 2, 1-12*

## **Gospel**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

### **The Coming of Elijah**

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

*Mark 9, 2-9*

**For your prayers:**

**We pray for God's love to surround:**

Margaret Rapp, Robin Sullivan

**We pray for those who have died recently:**

Gloria Sayer

**We pray for loved ones on the anniversary of their death:**

15th February	Howard Rapps	(1975)
	Hilda Hopgood	(1983)
	Lilian Cooley	(1985)
16th February	Elizabeth Doris Salter	(2010)
17th February	Lily Rogers	(1982)
	Douglas Walford	(2020)
18th February	Amanda Brookes	(1973)
	Ann Harley	(1999)
19th February	Henry Robinson	(1974)
	Jack Bussey	(1978)
20th February	Iris Cornish	(1994)
	Reginald Crawford	(2003)

***If you'd like prayer either for yourself or for another, please email [rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com](mailto:rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com) And if you would like to include the name of a loved one among the list of the departed on the anniversary of their death, please email Amanda on the above email.***

***Please give NOTICES for inclusion in the weekly service sheet to Amanda [bookingsstjohnschurch@gmail.com](mailto:bookingsstjohnschurch@gmail.com) preferably by e-mail, or in writing. It would be helpful to receive this before \* Tuesday \* each week.***

**If you'd like to discuss arranging a baptism (christening), a wedding or a funeral, please call 0208 6572343 or email [rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com](mailto:rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com)**

# **The Parish Office**

Open Mon- Thur 9am-2pm from  
*For any enquiries, please call*

Or email [bookingsstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:bookingsstjohns@gmail.com)

*St John's Website address is:*

[www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk)

*To find our Facebook page simply (Google) search  
St John's Church, Selsdon*

**!!!!The office is now closed will further Notice Amanda is working from home you can contact her on the mobile number 07958 682103!!!!!!!**

## **!! CORONAVIRUS !!**

As we move into National Lockdown and the cases of coronavirus spiral upwards in London and the surrounding counties, we have taken the decision to close the church for normal Sunday Services and Private Prayer.

This decision was not taken lightly but we feel it is the best one to keep everyone safe.

We will continue to stream a live service on Sundays at 10am on the St John the Divine Facebook page which can be watched at a later time on the facebook page or website.

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO PROTECT OUR CONGREGATION**



**Living His Story (by Hannah Steele)**

**This is the Archbishop of  
Canterbury's Lent Book for 2021.**

**Would you be interested in joining a  
Lent group meeting by Zoom to talk  
about this book?**

**This would be less of a Lent Group and more like a book club  
reading a chapter of the book each week and getting together to  
share our thoughts.**

**If you are interested please email  
[helen.lishmund@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:helen.lishmund@blueyonder.co.uk) or call Helen on 8651 2760.**

# Spring plant SALE

We very much hope that by late May we may be able to hold a Plant Sale (outside possibly) on a Sunday morning.

With this in mind, please sow an extra seed or two, or pot up any spare plants from your garden. Maybe make an extra pot or two of marmalade or put an extra cake in the freezer to sell on the day. Thank you.

Logs of a manageable size ash tree ready to burn, help yourself in the church car park if you want to make a small contribution to the boiler replacement fund we would be grateful, you can leave an envelope in the church hall letter box.



Many Thanks

# Father Michael's Diary

12 February 2021

## White Lent



Lent is almost upon us – it starts on Wednesday. But this will be a Lent unlike no other. As coronavirus deaths approach 120,000 in this country we don't need reminding that: "dust you are and unto dust you shall return". So how can we approach this penitential season in a more positive way?

Percy Dearmer the great hymn writer of the first half of the last century, faced up to the challenge of writing a cheerful hymn for Lent. He came up with "White Lent", some verses based on Isaiah 58 to be sung to a jolly French carol tune "Quittez pasteurs" (which accounts for the curious construction of the last two lines of each verse).

Reflecting the French carol the hymn begins:

No quit your care and anxious fear and worry;  
for schemes are vain  
and fretting brings no gain.  
To prayer, to prayer!

The hymn continues connecting Lent with spring ("lent" is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word for "spring", the time of year when days lengthen):

Lent comes in spring,  
and spring is pied with brightness;  
the sweetest flowers,  
keen winds and sun and showers,  
their health do bring  
to make Lent's chastened whiteness;  
for life to men brings light  
and might and might  
and might to those whose hearts are right.

The next verse begins to draw on Isaiah 58:

To bow the head  
in sackcloth and in ashes  
or rend the soul,  
such grief is not Lent's goal;  
but to be led to where God's glory flashes,  
his beauty to come nigh,  
to fly, to fly,  
to fly where truth and light do lie.

The next two verses are a call to work for social justice a cause dear to Dearmer's heart and the hymn concludes;

Your health shall spring,  
the friends you make shall bring  
God's glory bright,  
your way through life adorning  
and love shall be the prize.  
Arise, arise,  
arise and make a paradise.

Dearmer's hymn never made it into any mainstream hymnbook, although he was the first editor of the English Hymnal, and probably is a bit dated now. But it does contain an essential message especially for us in Lent 2021. It is a call, much needed when our activities are curtailed by lockdown, not to do less (to give things up) but to do more. So resolve to do something extra this Lent.

## READINGS AND PRAYERS

14 February - Sunday next before Lent – Mark 9.2-9 the Transfiguration of our Lord - that our lives may be transfigured by love.

15 February – Monday – Genesis 4.1-15 & 25 – the murder of Abel – for all victims of violence, especially knife crime

16 February – Shrove Tuesday - Genesis 6.5-8, 7.1-5,10 – Noah's Ark - for the gift of self-knowledge

17 February – Ash Wednesday (Lent begins) – Isaiah 58 – doing something extra to build a better world

18 February – Thursday – Luke 9.22-25 – for the grace to take up our cross and follow Christ

19 February – Friday -Matthew 9.14-15 – for all who mourn

20 February – Saturday – Luke 5.27-32 - that we may welcome Christ into our lives as he welcomes us into his.



Love and prayers

Michael

## **Singing hymns and spiritual songs...** **A weekly roundup from Ian Brentnall**



Two hymns for the price of one this week, as we observe the last Sunday before Lent and Ash Wednesday.

This Sunday we recall the Transfiguration in our Gospel reading, when Jesus appeared in dazzling white along with Moses and Elijah, and the voice of God is heard to declare that Jesus is His son, whom he loves and that we should listen to him. A hymn we frequently sing to mark this occasion is "'Tis good, Lord, to be here!", written by Joseph Armitage Robinson 1858 – 1933. Armitage Robinson was known as an academic churchman rather than a hymn writer, having penned several books including a work on the Glastonbury Legends of King Arthur and Joseph of Arimathea. He was of poor birth but rose through academic and clerical ranks and was eventually appointed Dean of Westminster and latterly Dean of Wells. The hymn is usually sung to the tune Carlisle.

1. 'Tis good, Lord, to be here!  
Thy glory fills the night;  
Thy face and garments, like the sun,  
Shine with unborrowed light.
2. 'Tis good, Lord, to be here,  
Thy beauty to behold,  
Where Moses and Elijah stand,  
Thy messengers of old.
3. Fulfiller of the past,  
Promise of things to be,  
We hail thy Body glorified,  
And our redemption see.
4. Before we taste of death,  
We see thy kingdom come;  
We fain would hold the vision bright,  
And make this hill our home.

5. 'Tis good, Lord, to be here!  
Yet we may not remain;  
But since thou bidst us leave the mount  
Come with us to the plain.

Wednesday marks the start of Lent, traditionally the season of penitence, preparation for Baptism, self-denial and the journey towards Jerusalem and the events of Passiontide and Holy Week. With so much having been withheld from us during the past year, we are being encouraged to take something up for Lent rather than deny ourselves further. Having said that, personally I could probably do with cutting down on the lockdown 'working from home' biscuit supply! God's guidance throughout our lives is something as Christians we look for eagerly. Although this isn't specifically a Lenten hymn, "Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us" is most appropriate as we begin the discipline of Lent and continue to look to our loving heavenly Father in these troubled and difficult times.

The hymn was written by James Edmeston 1791-1867, an architect and surveyor and prolific hymn writer, having penned some 2,000 hymns during his lifetime. This, his most well-known, is usually sung to the tune Mannheim.

1. Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
for we have no help but thee,  
yet possessing every blessing  
if our God our guide shall be.

2. Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,  
all our weakness thou dost know;  
thou didst tread this earth before us,  
thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
lone and dreary, faint and weary  
through the desert thou didst go.

3. Spirit of our God descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
love with every passion blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy;  
thus provided, pardoned, guided  
nothing can our peace destroy.



# **Diary Dates**

**Sunday 21st February**

**First Sunday of Lent**

**Service live at 10am on our Facebook page**

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