



**St John the Divine Church,
Selsdon
Sunday 18th April 2021
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Welcome

Welcome back to St John's it is so lovely to have the congregation back in the church. We hope that you enjoy today's service. Today the service will be taken by Revd Stephen Wright and Revd Michael Skinner

PLEASE TAKE THIS LEAFLET HOME WITH YOU

Opening Prayer

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Post Communion Prayer

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and forever. **Amen**

Psalm : Psalm 4

First Reading: Sue Tilley

Peter addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead.

To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. And now friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.'

Acts 3.12-19

Gospel

While the eleven and their companions were talking about what they had heard, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you - that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.'

Luke 24.36b-48

For your prayers: Read by Helen Lishmund

We pray for God's love to surround:

Jonathan Aitken, Tano Grima, Margaret Rapp, Robin Sullivan

We pray for those who have died recently:

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

18th April	John Russell Lewin	(2013)
	Sue Brookes	(2014)
	Julie Miller	(2017)
20th April	Philip Dobson	(1996)
21st April	Guy Edie	(1996)
	David Squibb	(2010)
	Kathleen Mooney	(2018)
23rd April	Len Tyrrell	(1978)
	Frank Pascoe	(1992)
	Leonard Brett	(2003)
	Anthony Denney	(2011)
24th April	Gladys Johnson	(1993)
	Doreen Busby	(2015)
	Leslie Samuel Wilson	(2017)

If you'd like prayer either for yourself or for another, please email 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 bookingsstjohns@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
Tel: 0208 6572343 or email rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com**

The Parish Office

Will be open Mon- Thur 9am -2pm

Tel: 0208 6579466

mobile number 07958 682103

email bookingsstjohns@gmail.com

St John's Website address is:

www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk

To find our Facebook page simply search

St John the Divine Selsdon

Sunday Services at 10 am

Could we remind everyone of the following:

Coronavirus is highly infectious. Older people and those with underlying health problems are at increased risk of severe illness and potentially death It is critical that we follow strict rules if we wish the church to remain open

- 1 Everyone must wear a mask properly unless they have a compelling reason not to do so and must sanitise on entry to and departure from church**
- 2 Spacing is critical, please do not huddle together and please keep 2m apart unless you are in a bubble, sit on chairs which have a green square on them**
- 3 Leave church in a measured way, not in a scrum and do not stand at the back of the church talking to others**
- 4 Windows need to be open, as does the back door**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO KEEP THE CHURCH OPEN AND
PROTECTING OUR CONGREGATION**



Father Michael's Diary

18 APRIL 2021

WHAT IS DEATH?

“Death is nothing at all” so said Henry Scot Holland (then Dean of St Paul’s) in a sermon often quoted at funeral services. But can we really affirm that? When someone we love dies or as just now when the whole nation mourns the passing of public figure death, far from being nothing at all seems very real indeed.

Death marks the end of our existence in this world of space and time; it is one future event which we know will happen, no-one lives forever. We are finite creatures and when our time comes, we shall simply cease to exist as a human being. We shall be no more than a pile of organic matter slowly decaying back to the chemical elements from which it came – dust you are and to dust you shall return.

That is the truth about us and about every living thing, but it seems a truth too hard to bear so we attempt to soften the blow by imagining a future for those we love, a future beyond death. The problem is that because we ourselves our finite creatures we find it difficult, if not impossible, to imagine a form of existence beyond the bounds of space and time. So, our visions of an afterlife mostly take form of an idealised version of life here, of the sort of life those left here would like to be living now. But that is just wishful thinking, an attempt to sugar coat the bitter pill that after death, however much we were loved and respected in this life, and however much we achieved. After death, physically speaking, we are nothing at all and death has won.

Or has it? Our Christian faith offers us a third alternative beyond total extinction and a fantasy after life. It offers us resurrection. After his death on the Cross those who loved Jesus found to their amazement that he was still alive, but alive in a new and wonderful way, more alive indeed than they were. Jesus showed us that what lay beyond death was not extinction but resurrection. As one of the Eucharistic prayers says, “he revealed the resurrection by rising to new life”. But Jesus revealed the resurrection in terms of this finite world of space and time. What will resurrection be like in other modes of existence, in eternity where there is neither space or time? Who can tell? St John says that when we see Jesus, we shall see him as he is because we will be like him, we shall share in the resurrection.

Faith in the resurrection and the hope of it should sustain and comfort us in face of the loss of a loved one or of a public figure, and it should be one of the guiding principles of our life here and now. The Resurrected Christ transcends the bounds of time and eternity and is always with us throughout our lives and when we have died; nothing can separate us from his love.

READINGS AND PRAYERS

18 April – Third Sunday of Easter – Luke 24. 36-48 – thanksgiving for the Resurrection

19 April – Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1012 – Hebrews 5.1-4 – for the gift of sympathy

20 April- Tuesday - John 6.30-35 – the bread from heaven – thanksgiving for Holy Communion

21 April – Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, Teacher of the Faith 1109 – Romans 5.8-11
- for all who work for reconciliation

22 April – Thursday – Acts 8. 26-end - the Ethiopian eunuch – for the mission of the Church

23 April – George, Martyr, Patron of England, c.304 – 2 Timothy 2 3-13 – that we may be faithful soldiers of Christ

24 April – Seven Martyrs of the Melanesian Brotherhood, 2003 - Psalm 27 – for all who suffer for the faith today

Love and prayers
Michael

ST JOHN'S CHURCH



MESSY GARDEN

If you collected a Flower Growing Kit at the 10am Service on Easter Sunday please note that the growing plants can be returned to St John's at the

All Age Service on Sunday 13th June 2021 at the 10am service

Planting will be in the Children's Garden immediately after the service
Please come along and plant your flowers!
Refreshments will be provided

If you need any further information or help please contact
Gill Salter on 0208 405 9971



Singing hymns and spiritual songs...

A weekly round up by Ian Brentnall our Choir Master

I've always been fond of our Gospel passage this Sunday, taken from St. Luke and known as "the road to Emmaus". As I recall being taught at school (and I'm sure that Father Michael or Dr Wright will correct me if I'm mistaken!) that this is one of the most beautifully written passages of Greek in all the New Testament writings. I love the image of walking on a journey, the friends' hearts burning within them as this stranger they had met on the road purely by chance revealed the true meaning of familiar scriptures. Particularly so when the identity of the stranger is revealed through the breaking of bread. Those familiar with the poem "Footprints in the Sand" by Carolyn Joyce Carty (worth a quick look if you're not) may have found reassurance from the image of Jesus walking with us as our constant companion through all of life's trials and haven't we all been facing those in abundance in recent months!

My choice of hymn this week is "O for a closer walk with God" written by William Cowper (1731 – 1800). Cowper was very well known in his day as a poet and hymn writer, particularly for his poetic description of scenes from the English countryside. He was regarded by some as a forerunner of romantic poetry, being respected and admired by the likes of Samuel Taylor Coleridge and William Wordsworth. The phrase "God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform" is derived from another of Cowper's works. The tune to which we usually sing this hymn is "Caithness", taken from the *Scottish Psalter 1635*. This publication was a pivotal moment in the history of the tradition of singing hymns in churches. Until the 16th century, hymns and psalms were sung to plainsong modes (like the psalm I sing each Sunday morning between the two lessons). In light of the reformation, in 1564 The Scottish Metrical Psalter was published which set the psalms to melodies with a regular beat and rhythm (meter) which could be sung by the whole congregation and not just priests and trained singers. The Metrical Psalter published in 1635 was the first to harmonise these melodies into four parts, the same as we use in our hymn books today.

O for a closer walk with God,
a calm and heavenly frame,
a light to shine upon the road
that leads me to the Lamb!

So shall my walk be close with God,
calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road,
That leads me to the lamb.

Return, O holy Dove, return,
sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
and drove thee from my breast.

The dearest idol I have known,
whate'er that idol be,
help me to tear it from thy throne,
and worship only thee.

Plant Sale

SUNDAY 23RD MAY

AFTER THE 10 AM SERVICE



We will be offering a range of plants, chutneys, marmalades, cakes and candles please pop along to our outdoor sale all profits go towards St John's.

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

Greetings from Selsdon Baptist Church.



I am writing to let you know that we will be running another Bereavement Support Group starting on **Wednesday 21 April 2021 from 2pm until 3.30pm.**

It will run for 5 weeks until 19 May and will be held at Selsdon Baptist church in the Coffee Lounge.

This will be a small and friendly group and is suitable for anyone who has been bereaved. For more information and/or to book a place, please call Jane on 07561 869620 or Dawn on 07718 189033

Or email: bereavement@selsdonbaptist.org.uk

COVID Government Guidelines will be followed.

Blessings Jane white

Diary Dates

Thursday 22nd April

Thursday Morning Eucharist 10 am

Sunday 25th April

Fourth Sunday of Easter Eucharist Service 10 am

APCM – 11.30am in the Church

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