



**St John the Divine Church,
Selsdon
Sunday 21st February 2021
The First Sunday Of 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 Andy Dovey 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 God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

First Reading

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Genesis 9.8-17

Gospel

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Mark 1.9-15

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:

21st February	Daisy Baker	(1983)
	Barry Jupp	(2008)
	Ann Downs	(2015)
22nd February	Betty Thomas	(2004)
23rd February	Morgan Hatfield	(1967)
	Frieda Rapp	(1991)
	Trevor Hotston	(2015)
24th February	Shirley Squibb	(2002)
25th February	Gordon Harley	(1981)
	Charles Low	(1960)
26th February	Phillip Baker	(1979)
	Den Treasure	(2007)
	John Belsham	(2010)
	Mary Dwyer	(2016)
27th February	Harry Everson	(1940)

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 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

The Parish Office

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

Or email bookingsstjohns@gmail.com

St John's Website address is:

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 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



19 February 2021

A couple of weeks ago I wrote about establishing a Rule of Life if you have been thinking about this you may have been considering where prayer fits in with this, so are some pointers to get you thinking.

Why? The basic purpose of prayer is to establish a personal relationship with God. This is one of the essentials of the spiritual life. There is no substitute for it. The relationship we need to cultivate needs to be unique, a close personal one. It needs to develop and grow as we develop and grow spiritually. It needs to be right for you and your personality, as they say “pray as you can, not as you can’t”. Although formal prayer and liturgical worship should be parts of our prayer life, they are less important than the cultivation of that unique relationship with God which should undergird our whole spiritual life.

When? Prayer must be regular, so we need to pick a time of day when we can be reasonably sure we shall be able to devote the necessary time (between a quarter and a half of an hour) without distraction or interruption. The best time of day depends on what sort of person you are. If you are a morning or an evening person then one of those may be the most suitable time for you. Last thing at night is not to be recommended as we are almost always too tired then. We also need to take account of the routines and habits of those with whom we share our lives.

Where? We need somewhere quiet, comfortable and free from interruption. Jesus went to desert places to pray – where do we find the desert places in our lives? Some people have a whole house or flat at their disposal, others may only have a bedroom or possibly a spare room. Ideally the space should not be used for any other activity so that going there puts you immediately in a prayerful state of mind. The place should be comfortable, including warm enough, as being physically comfortable is an important preliminary to opening our souls to God.

How? There are a number of elements to prayer and formal prayer, “saying our prayers”, is just one of them. Remember that the main purpose of prayer is to cultivate a close personal relationship with God and there are a number of ways of doing that: lectio divina, imaginative contemplation, meditative prayer among them and I shall be describing some of them in the following weeks.

Readings and Prayers

21 February – First Sunday of Lent – Mark 1.9-15 – the temptation of Christ – lead us not into temptation

22 February – Monday – Matthew 25.31-end – the sheep and the goats – for the gift of compassion

23 February – Tuesday – Matthew 6.7-15 – the Lord's Prayer – Lord, teach us to pray

24 February – Wednesday – Luke 11.29-32 – the gift of repentance

25 February – Thursday – Matthew 7.7-12 – for perseverance in prayer

26 February – Friday – Matthew 5. 20-26 – for the gift of reconciliation

27 February – Saturday – Matthew 5.43-end - be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect – that we may grow in grace.

Love and prayers

Michael

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



Father Michael reminded us a couple of weeks ago that the word Lent refers to the Spring season, having its origins in a shortened form of the old English word “Lencten”. Such is the extraordinary diversity and extremes of the British weather that we have gone from unseasonably cold to unseasonably mild within the space of two weeks, spring bulbs are erupting into life and our thoughts may be turning from the dark days of winter towards sunnier and happier times ahead.

This Sunday our Gospel reading from that of St. Mark reminds us of our Lord’s baptism and his temptation in the wilderness. Although more usually sung at Whitsun, the hymn “Come down, O Love divine” is also appropriate to our theme this Sunday. It was originally a poem by the Italian mystic Bianco da Siena (also known as Bianco di Santi) who lived c. 1350 – 1399 (or possibly 1434). Being part of a company of itinerant Jesuits he eventually settled in Venice. His poem “Discendi amor santo” was translated at the beginning of the 20th century by Richard Frederick Littledale into the form we are familiar with today. The popularity of the hymn was enhanced when Ralph Vaughan Williams set the words of the hymn to his tune “Down Ampney” in 1906, taking its name from the village in Gloucestershire in which Vaughan Williams was born in 1872.

1 Come down, O Love divine!
Seek thou this soul of mine
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

2 O let it freely burn
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

3 Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o’er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

4 And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far surpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till he become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.



Diary Dates

Sunday 28th February

Second Sunday of Lent

**Service live at 10am on our Facebook page and for
a week after on our website**

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