



**St John the Divine Church,
Selsdon
Sunday 28th February 2021
The Second 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 Stephen Wright. 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, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

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**

First Reading

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason, it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Romans 4:13-end

Gospel

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Mark 8.31-38

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:

28th February	Rodney Ringham	(1952)
	Betty Sullivan	(1983)
	David Payne	(2014)
	Eileen Taylor	(2017)
1st March	Philip Easton	(1980)
2nd March	Dorothy Hughes	(1983)
	Margery Warman	(2002)
3rd March	Tony Hopgood	(2003)
	Muriel Williams	(2016)
5th March	Violet Trickey	(1983)
	Sylvia Young	(1990)
	Doreen Hollis	(2017)
6th March	Lisa Green	(1981)
	Franklin Trickey	(1944)

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

Church Reopening for Sunday Services at 10 am from Sunday 7th March.

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**

We hope to have a slow return to normal services and will still be streaming the service live on our facebook page at 10 am and there will also be a link on the website for a week

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

The Parish Office

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

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



Living His Story (by Hannah Steele)

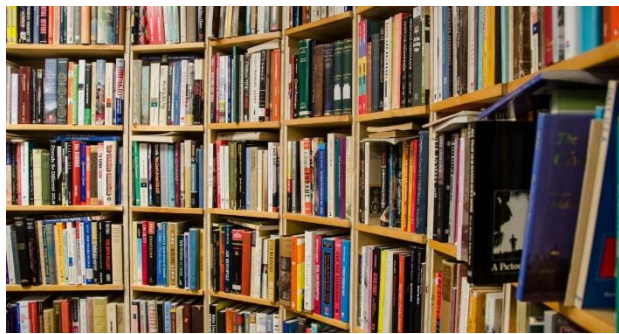
This is the Archbishop of
Canterbury's Lent Book for 2021.

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.



I have been (slowly!) working through the church library which, as you probably know, has been very much enlarged by the legacy of Douglas and Sandra Walford, to weed out books which now need a new home.

I have delivered the first lot to Book Aid, and received the following letter from the Director. I thought the congregation would like to see it, as I will certainly be asking them for spare bibles (see last paragraph).

Dear Gillian

Thank you for your phone call today and I hope that you manage to drop off the boxes of books successfully!

Book Aid has been closed during this recent lockdown hence the lack of a response recently. However we are poised waiting for the go-ahead to reopen, unsure, of course, when that will be!

We are always grateful to receive good books to send abroad on our programme. Last year we sent approx. 400,000 in shipping container loads to our partner bookshops in Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria which help to maintain Christian bookshops in those countries. The ministry is founded on the principles of making books available 'at locally affordable prices' so that the shops can support themselves and last for many years.

The next country we will be packing for is Zimbabwe although they are in such need that they have asked us for half the shipping container to be filled with Bibles. We know that humanly speaking this is just not possible so we have to trust God to provide. Would St John's 'Spread The Word' about this for us? There is some urgency and Bibles in usable condition would be a real blessing.

Once again many thanks Gillian

God bless

Christine Pulsford

Director

Book Aid Charitable Trust

Spring plant SALE

**SUNDAY 23RD MAY 2021 AFTER THE 10 AM
SERVICE**

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

FATHER MICHAEL'S DIARY

26 February 2021

I said last week that I would describe ways of praying aimed at establishing a close

personal relationship with God. Some of these used Holy Scripture not as a basis for study but a vehicle for the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts and minds. So here is the first of them: lectio divina – holy reading; a practice that originated in Benedictine spirituality.

Choose a text of the Scriptures that you wish to pray. Many Christians use in their daily lectio divina one of the readings from the eucharistic liturgy for the day (the basis of the readings below); others prefer to slowly work through a particular book of the Bible. It makes no difference which text is chosen and the amount of text covered is in God's hands, not yours.

Place yourself in a comfortable position and allow yourself to become silent. Focus for a few moments on your breathing and allow yourself to enjoy silence for a few moments.

Turn to the text and read it slowly, gently. Savour each portion of the reading, constantly listening for the "still, small voice" of a word or phrase that somehow says, "I am for you today." Do not expect anything dramatic. In lectio divina, God is teaching us to listen to God, to seek God in silence. God does not reach out and grab us; rather, God gently invites us ever more deeply into God's presence.

Take the word or phrase into yourself. Memorize it and slowly repeat it to yourself, allowing it to interact with your inner world of concerns, memories, and ideas. Do not be afraid of distractions. Memories or thoughts are simply parts of yourself that, when they rise up during lectio divina, are asking to be given to God along with the rest of your inner self. Allow this inner pondering, this rumination, to invite you into dialogue with God.

Speak to God. Whether you use words, ideas, or images--or all three--is not important. Interact with God as you would with one who you know loves and accepts you. And give to God what you have discovered during your experience of meditation. Give to God what you have found within your heart.

Sometimes in lectio divina, you may return several times to the printed text, either to savour the literary context of the word or phrase that God has given or to seek a new word or phrase to ponder. At other times, only a single word or phrase will fill the whole time set aside for lectio divina. It is not necessary to assess anxiously the quality of your lectio divina, as if you were "performing" or seeking some goal. Lectio divina has no goal other than that of being in the presence of God by praying the Scriptures.

READINGS AND PRAYERS

28 February – the Second Sunday of Lent – Mark 8.31-38 – take up your cross

1 March – David, Patron of Wales – Matthew 16.24-27 – the people of Wales

2 March - Tuesday – Matthew 23.1-12 – for the gift of humility

3 March - Wednesday - Matthew 20.17-28 – for the gift of service

4 March – Thursday – Luke 16.19-end – for the materially and spiritually poor

5 March – Friday – Matthew 21.35-43 – the wicked husbandmen – for the fruits of the Gospel

6 March – Saturday – Luke 15.11-end – the forgiving father – that we may know God's forgiveness

Love and prayers

Michael

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



The Gospel reading for this, the second Sunday in Lent, is taken once again from the Gospel according to St Mark. It reminds us that following Jesus through a life of faith is costly, we are challenged to “lose our life” in order to save it and we may be called to take up our own cross of suffering in order to follow him. A hymn that reflects on this theme is “Take up thy cross, the saviour said”. The author of this hymn was Charles William Everest, an American who lived in Connecticut from 1814 to 1877. He was rector of Hamden in Connecticut for much of his working life and published the original text of the hymn in 1833 as part of his work “Visions of Death, and Other Poems”. It first appeared in Hymns Ancient and Modern in 1861 in the form we know today, but this is somewhat altered by an unknown hand from the original. The tune usually set for these words is Breslau, originally a melody from Leipzig, arranged by Mendelssohn as part of his 1836 oratorio, St. Paul.

1. Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,
If thou wouldst My disciple be;
Deny thyself, the world forsake,
And humbly follow after Me.

2. Take up thy cross, let not its weight
Fill thy weak spirit with alarm;
His strength shall bear thy spirit up,
And brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.

3. Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,
Nor let thy foolish pride rebel;
Thy Lord for thee the cross endured,
And saved thy soul from death and hell.

4. Take up thy cross then in His strength,
And calmly every danger brave,
'Twill guide thee to a better home,
And lead to glory o'er the grave.

5. Take up thy cross and follow Christ,
Nor think till death to lay it down;
For only those who bear the cross
May hope to wear the glorious crown.

6. To Thee, great Lord, the One in Three,
All praise forevermore ascend:

O grant us in our home to see
The heavenly life that knows no end.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH SELSDON
INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM FOR OUR

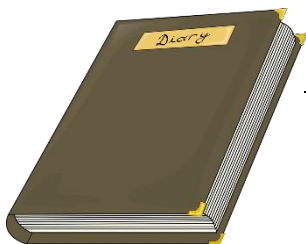


MOTHER'S DAY SERVICE

SUNDAY 14TH MARCH AT 10AM

**This is a pre-bookable service only !!!!
If you would like to attend please call
Amanda on 07958 682103 or email
bookingsstjohns@gmail.com to book your seat.**

**This service is subject to change please see the website
and facebook page for news of cancellation
www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk
Facebook: St John The Divine Selsdon**



Diary Dates

Sunday 7th March 2021

Third Sunday of Lent

**We will be reopening the church for services from
7th March and will still stream the service live on**

our facebook page and you will be able to see a link to the video on our website for the week after.