



**St John the Divine Church,
Selsdon
Sunday 2nd May 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Welcome

Welcome back to St John's, we hope that you enjoy today's service.

Today the service will be taken by The Revd Ada Onyekwelu assistant priest at St Peter's and St Augustine's South Croydon.

PLEASE TAKE THIS LEAFLET HOME WITH YOU

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and forever. **Amen**

Psalm : Psalm

First Reading: Read by Susan Poulter

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.’

The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Acts 8.26-40

Gospel reading

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.’

John 15.1-8

For your prayers: Read by
We pray for God's love to surround:
Jonathan Aitken, Tano Grima, Margaret Rapp
We pray for those who have died recently:

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

3rd May	Harold Nichols	(2003)
	Nina Carter	(1983)
4th May	Arthur Birt	(1956)
	Diana Morris	(1998)
5th May	Victor Payne	(1996)
7th May	Wesley Rowe	(2018)
8th May	Pauline Verrall	(1981)
	George Thorogood	(1987)
	Roy Harris	(2010)
	Remi Deru	(2019)

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

30 APRIL 2021

EVERYBODY HAS ONE

What I'm talking about is a vocation and yes, it's true that everybody does have a vocation but sadly most people never discover it.

Let's get one thing clear vocation is not just about a calling to be ordained or to join a religious order, your vocation is what God wants you to do with your life. And that is just something that is only important when your young, it applies at every stage in our lives.

Of course, vocation has added importance and relevance to young people as they are the ones in a position to make the most wide-ranging decisions about their future lives. But as our lives go on other opportunities may also arise; particularly today when the concept of a lifelong career in one particular field no longer holds the sway it did. Changes to legislation on occupational pensions means you no longer have to flog on for 40 years in the same job to get a good pension at the end of it and that should be liberating. We live in a world of second chances.

Too often because vocation is thought about solely in religious terms it is easily swept to one side and that in a way is fair enough because only a minority of people are called to be clergy or members of religious orders, but too often people close their minds to the whole idea of vocation. All too soon we may find ourselves tied down with responsibilities for family dependents and for mortgages which makes change difficult.

Careers advice usually centres on the material aspects of a job: how secure is it, how well is it remunerated, what sort of social standing goes with it, and so on. But in terms of vocation other factors may be more important: the value to society, the opportunities for service, the chance to make the world a better place are all factors to be weighed. And they can be weighed at any time, not just when we are young.

So everyone has a vocation and there is a challenge here for us all, do you know what God wants you to do with your life? And what are you going to do about it?

READINGS AND PRAYERS

Sunday 2 May – Fifth Sunday of Easter – John 15.1-8 – the true vine – that we may be faithful members of the Church

Monday 3 May – Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, 373 – Ecclesiasticus 4.20-28 – fight for truth – that we may always seek for truth

Tuesday 4 May – English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era – John 12.20-26 – whoever serves me my Father will honour – those who suffer for the Faith today

Wednesday 5 May – Acts 15. 1-21 – the Council of Jerusalem – that we may welcome new comers

Thursday 6 May - John 15.9-11 – abide in my love – for today's elections

Friday 7 May – John 15 12.17 – love one another – that we may love one another

Saturday 8 May – Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer c.1417 – I Corinthians 15.8-end – love abides – for Fr Younis our new Rector

Love and prayers

Michael

**WE WELCOME OUR NEW RECTOR
YOUNIS FRANCIS TO
ST JOHN'S IN THE SUMMER UNTIL THEN
HERE IS A LITTLE INFO ON YOUNIS**

Revd Canon Younis Francis was born in Pakistan in 1966. He pursued theological studies first at Christ the King Seminary, Karachi, the University of Malta and the Pontific Salesian University, Rome, Italy.

Younis was ordained as priest in 1995. He worked as Assistant Parish Priest and Director of Formation in Pakistan. After 4 years of ministry as a Catholic Priest, he went to Malta in search of a different career before moving to the UK in 2001.

Younis joined the Anglican Church in 2005. After two years of Theological training at South-East Institute of Theological Education and the University of Kent, he served his curacy at St Mary's, Addington. Before his appointment at St Philip's in 2016, he worked as a Team Vicar in the Cheam Team Ministry from 2011 to 2016.

Father Younis was made an Honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral in 2017.

Father Younis is married to Nancy and they have a son Zeron. In his spare time, Younis is interested in Cricket, Football, reading and listening to music.

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

Database Update

I would like to get an up-to date contact list ready for when Younis our new Rector starts. If you have had any changes to your address, telephone number or email in the last two years please can you let me know so I can update my records. It may be, I already have the change but just to double check

You can either email me on bookingsstjohns@gmail.com or Telephone 0208 6579466 and leave a message if I am not available.

Many Thanks in advance
Amanda



Singing hymns and spiritual songs...

A weekly round up by Ian Brentnall our Choir Master

My choice of hymn this week is one which resonates very well with our Gospel reading. However, I have to confess that I chose it more out of curiosity than for this reason as I knew nothing of the author, although the hymn has been known by me since I was a choir boy. "Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour" was written by one George Hugh Bourne (1840 – 1925) who was born not far from where I grew up, in St. Paul's Cray near Orpington. He was educated at Eton and Oxford and following ordination served as Curate at Stratford-on-Thames, Headmaster of a school in Chardstock and Warden of St. Edmunds College, Salisbury. He then moved to South Africa where he served as Chaplain to the Bishop of Bloemfontein. Latterly, Bourne was appointed Sub-dean of Salisbury Cathedral and ultimately Treasurer and Prebendary. He wrote several hymns, our hymn this morning being published as part of a collection when he was 34 years old. The tune familiarly associated with the hymn is St. Helen, written by Sir George Clement Martin (1844 – 1916). Martin was an organist and composer most notably serving as sub-organist at St. Paul's Cathedral under Sir John Stainer, from whom he had received organ lessons as a boy. He then succeeded Stainer as Organist and Master of the Choristers at St. Paul's from 1888 to 1916.

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor
first-begotten from the dead,
Thou alone, our strong defender,
liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Jesu, true and living bread.

Life – imparting heavenly manna,
stricken rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna,
worship thee, the lamb who died
Alleluia, alleluia,
risen, ascended, glorified!

Here our humblest homage pay we,
here in loving reverence bow;
here for faith's discernment pray we,
lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluia, alleluia,
thou art here, we ask not how.

Though the lowliest form doth veil thee
as of old in Bethlehem,
here as there thine angels hail thee,
branch and flower of Jesse's stem.
Alleluia, alleluia,
we in worship join with them.

Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished
once for all when thou wast slain,
in its fullness undiminished
shall for evermore remain,
Alleluia, alleluia,
cleansing souls from every stain.



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

Coming Up

Dates for you to pop in your diary

THURSDAY 13 MAY - ASCENSION DAY

10.00 a.m. Eucharist at St John's

7.30 p.m. DEANERY EUCHARIST at St Edward New Addington (preacher: The Ven Dr Rosemarie Mallet, Archdeacon of Croydon)

Sunday 23rd May 10.00 am - Pentecost Service

11.00 am - Plant Sale at St John's

Sunday 13th June 10.00 am- Planting in the children's garden

Diary Dates

Thursday 6th May

Thursday Morning Eucharist 10 am

Sunday 9th May

Fifth Sunday of Easter Eucharist Service 10 am

Don't Forget !!

**The church is open for private prayer
Mondays- Thursdays 10am - 1pm**

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