



**St John the Divine Church, Selsdon
Sunday 7th February 2021
Second Sunday 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 Deborah Forman. 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

The Opening Prayer:

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer:

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

First Reading

The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth - when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

Gospel

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John 1. 1 – 14

For your prayers:

We pray for God's love to surround:

Margaret Rapp, Robin Sullivan

We pray for those who have died recently:

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

7th February	Doris Geddes	(1983)
8th February	Winnie Smith	(1982)
	George Rapp	(1984)
	Valerie Beeden	(2017)
10th February	Alice Sheen	(1985)
11th February	Jane Barrett	(1984)
	Albert Scott	(2001)
12th February	Phyllis Downing	(1981)
	Arthur Ford	(1993)
	Kathleen Starr	(2014)
	Christopher Steed	(2017)
13th February	Reginald Smith	(2005)

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 me on 8651 2760.

The logo features the word "Spring" in a pink, cursive font at the top left. Below it, the word "plant" is written in a large, bold, green font, with a white vine and leaf pattern winding through the letters. Underneath "plant", the word "SALE" is written in a bold, green, sans-serif font.

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.

Father Michael's Diary

5 February 2021

A Rule of Life



In just under a fortnight, it will be Ash Wednesday the start of Lent, the time of year when we try to brush up on our Christianity, both theologically and spiritually. But if we're to make the best use of this we need to plan in advance. I am delighted to see that Helen has already planned a Lent study group, but we also need to think about our individual lives. Getting ready for Lent is a good time to review our Rule of Life, if we have one, if not this is a good time to draw one up.

Having a rule of life enables us to take control of the way we live our lives, to give priority to the things we feel should have priority and to make the best use of the time we have available for the things that matter most to us. In a busy life there is always the temptation to "go with the flow" and important things, like the practice of the Christian faith, get left on the sidelines. Having a rule of life helps to prevent that happening

In drawing up a rule it is important to be realistic. It is all too easy to concentrate on what we would like to do and that means we shall almost certainly fail. No, what we need to do is to work out what we are able to do, that way we shall be much more likely to make a success of it. So, we need to start by reviewing the whole of our lives, because a rule of life should cover everything, not just the churchy bits. So, we need to look at our all our commitments, and to recognise how much time we are required to devote to them. If we are in employment how much of our time overall does this take up? What are our other commitments, there may be other people we have to care for and we must also take time to care for ourselves, and for recreation and refreshment.

Is there any time left? I hope there is. Is it sufficient? If it doesn't seem to be, we may need to review the amount of time we spend doing other things. We may have all sorts of fancy aspirations but in the end, there are only 24 hours in the day and what we are trying to do is to make the best use of them. So, don't despair if it seems that there is little time for prayer and study and the practice of our faith, it is better to decide to do what seems very little, perhaps to spend only a quarter of an hour in prayer each day, and actually do it than to aim at much more and not do anything.

So, there we go – good luck with your rule of life and remember it's meant to be an aid to living your life as God calls you to live it – not a rod for your back!

Readings and Prayers

7 February – Second Sunday before Lent – Colossians 1.15-20 – the visible image of the invisible God – through our lives may make Christ known

8 February – Monday – Mark 6.53-end – the sick are healed by touching Jesus' cloak – the healing ministry of the Church

9 February – Tuesday – Mark 7.1-13 – Jesus denounces hypocrites – that we may be sincere in the practice of our faith

10 February – Wednesday – Mark 7.14-23 – it is what comes out of a person that matters – that we may honour God not only with our lips but in our lives

11 February – Thursday – Mark 7.34-30 – the Syro-Phoenician woman – that we may welcome strangers

12 February – Friday – Mark 7.31-end – the healing of the deaf-mute – that the church may give a voice to the voiceless

13 February – Saturday – Mark 8.1-10 – the feeding of the 4,000 – the work of Christian Aid and other relief agencies

Love and Prayers

Michael

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



Sitting in my little home “office” bathed a rare (and all too brief) appearance of winter sunshine, I am reflecting on the Gospel for this Sunday, being those well-known verses from the opening chapter of the gospel according to St John. This Sunday is the fifth of Epiphany and also the second before Lent and we find ourselves moving purposefully away from thinking of the nativity and the events for which the season of the Epiphany are best known. Our Gospel reading is of course remembered as being the final reading in our traditional service of nine lessons and carols, missed by so many last Christmas. However, in this context is bidding us contemplate creation. To reflect this, one of the hymns we may have sung this week is “For the beauty of the earth” written by the hymnodist and poet Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835 – 1917). Pierpoint was in fact a schoolteacher and devout Tractarian, spending his career teaching at Somersetshire College. “For the beauty of the Earth” is his most famous hymn, which he wrote at the age of 29. The hymn is most frequently sung to the tune Dix which is also most familiarly used as the tune to the carol “As with gladness, men of old”. In such troubled times, the reflection upon God’s gifts to us in creation and our gratefulness for these gifts is one which has an added resonance.

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the Love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:
*Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our Sacrifice of Praise.*

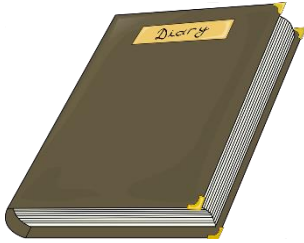
For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:

For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and brain's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight:

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above;
For all gentle thoughts and mild:

For each perfect Gift of Thine
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and Divine,
Flowers of earth, and buds of Heaven:

For Thy church that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
This Pure Sacrifice of Love:



Diary Dates

Sunday 14th February

Sunday next before Lent

Service live at 10am on our Facebook page

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