



**St John the Divine Church, Selsdon
Sunday 7th March 2021
The Third Sunday Of Lent**

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 whether you are in the church or in the comfort of your own home. We thank all those who have helped keep the services running over the past few months and look forward to spring in the church. The service today will be taken by The Reverend Hilary Fife.

PLEASE TAKE THIS LEAFLET HOME WITH YOU

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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 for ever. **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Psalm Today : Psalm 19

First Reading

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Gospel

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' They then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

John 2.13-22

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:

7th March Jerome Rogers (2016)

9th March Dennis Carey (2012)

Una Milroy (2015)

Tony Humphreys (2016)

Peggy Ann Evans (2016)

10th March John Bates (1957)

Cyril Arrowsmith (1990)

Keith Chatfield (2018)

Donald Marshall (2019)

11th March Diana James (1983)

Charles Smith (2012)

12th March Joan Eileen Marshall (2015)

Joyce Swinburne (2016)

Brian Thorpe (2020)

13th March Alfred Gurton (1962)

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

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

Will be open Mon- Thur 9am -2pm

Tel: 0208 6

mobile number 07958 682103

email bookingsstjohns@gmail.com

St John's Website address is:

www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk

To find our Facebook page simply (Google) search

St John the Divine Selsdon

**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

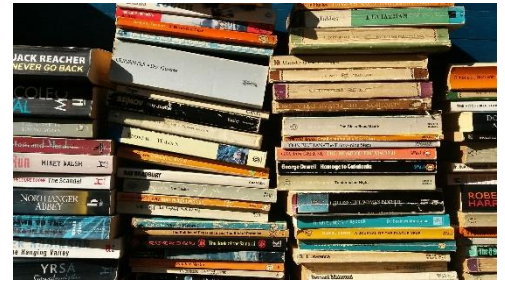
Facebook: St John The Divine Selsdon

BOOKS BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS

A message from Gill Sharpe

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!

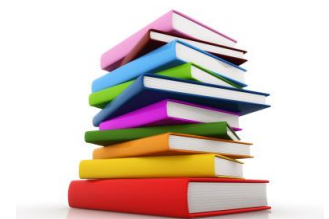
We are always grateful to receive good books to send abroad on our programme. Last year we sent approx. 400,000 in shipping container loads to our partner bookshops in Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria which help to maintain Christian bookshops in those countries. The ministry is founded on the principles of 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

**We don't know when our own book sales will come back to St John's in these uncertain times so we ask you to keep your books until we announce there is a sale so we don't have any books lying around the church and hall as we need all the space we can get at the moment.
Thank you for your co-operation in advance**





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

Saturday 6th March 2021



IMAGINATIVE CONTEMPLATION

Continuing our look at methods of mental prayer this week we come to imaginative contemplation. This forms the basis of St Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises. In their original form these are made in the form of an individually guided retreat lasting thirty days and leading to a life changing decision. But beyond that they can form part of an ongoing intimate relationship with God. What it involves is using your imagination to enter into a Gospel incident and using that as a basis for a dialogue with the Lord Jesus. The basic method goes like this.

1. Make yourself comfortable in your usual prayer place and select a Gospel passage to form the basis of your meditation.
2. Preparatory Prayer – Take a moment to call to mind the attitude of reverence with which you will approach this privileged time with God – ask God to direct your imagination, your thoughts, feelings and actions all to his praise and glory.
3. Read the Gospel passage through twice and put the Bible away.
4. Visualise the setting of the Gospel passage on which you are going to meditate: the location and the people involved.
5. Ask God for the benefit you hope to acquire through the contemplation.
6. Bring the Gospel incident to life in your imagination: envisage the people, what are they doing, what are they saying.
7. Continue to bring the incident to life as vividly as you can using all the senses, not only sight and hearing but taste, smell and touch as well.
8. Enter into the incident yourself by talking to our Lord and the other people involved and listening to their replies
9. Finally speak to Jesus or as one friend speaks to another, or an employee to an employer: asking for some grace, or apologising for some misdeed, or telling your story and asking advice; ending with a suitable familiar prayer, perhaps the Lord's prayer.

People are sometimes nervous of allowing the unfettered use of their imagination in this sort of exercise. But remember your imagination is a gift from God and before you started you asked God to direct it. What emerges in your mediation should be accepted as a gift from God. If you are really worried by what emerges then you should seek the advice of a spiritual director.

READINGS AND PRAYERS

7 March - Third Sunday of Lent – the cleansing of the Temple – that we may be zealous in our faith

8 March - Monday – Luke 4.24-30 – Naaman the Syrian – that we may be cleansed of all our sins

9 March – Tuesday – Matthew 18.21 to the end – that we may forgive others

10 March – Wednesday – John 4.5 – 42 – the Samaritan woman – that we may know even as we are known

11 March - Thursday – Luke 11.14-23 – whoever is not with me is against me – that we may be faithful to Christ

12 March – Friday – Mark 12.28-34 – the two great commandments – that we may love God and our neighbour

13 March – Saturday – Luke 18,9-14 – the tax collector and the Pharisee – for the gift of repentance

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



On this, the third Sunday of Lent and the first Sunday in March, we see at last the first tentative steps toward returning to some form of normality as we throw open the doors of our church once again for public worship. Personally, throughout the past year when we have been unable to gather for worship as we would have wanted, I have come to appreciate more deeply the church as a body of people united in worshipping God rather than just a (sometime bitterly cold) building! Indeed, our Gospel reading warns against places we regard as holy, as well as that which takes place within them, becoming the object of worship and even idolatry themselves. The hymn “We love the place, O God” was written by William Bullock (1798-1874) and Sir Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877). During his time as a missionary at Trinity Bay, Newfoundland, Bullock built a church there for which he wrote a hymn beginning ‘We love the place, O Lord’. This hymn was published in Bullock’s *Songs of the Church* (Halifax, Nova Scotia, printed for the author, 1854), in six verses. It was substantially rewritten by Baker for the First Edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. We usually sign this to the tune “Quam dilecta” written by Henry Jenner. The *New English Hymnal* confidently attributes the title of Bishop to Jenner. Although he was appointed as Bishop of Dunedin, Christchurch, New Zealand in 1866 he was never accepted locally and was asked to give up his claim to the See, which he did reluctantly in 1871.

We love the place, O God,

We love the place, O God,
wherein thine honour dwells;
the joy of thine abode
all earthly joy excels.

We love the house of prayer,
wherein thy servants meet;
and thou, O Lord, art there
thy chosen flock to greet.

We love the sacred font;
for there the Holy Dove
to pour is ever wont
his blessing from above.

We love thine altar, Lord;
O, what on earth so dear?
For there, in faith adored,
we find thy presence near.

We love the word of life,
the word that tells of peace,
of comfort in the strife,
and joys that never cease.

We love to sing below
for mercies freely given;
but O, we long to know
the triumph-song of heaven.

Lord Jesus, give us grace
on earth to love thee more,
in heaven to see thy face,
and with thy saints adore.



Diary Dates

Sunday 14th March 2021

Mothering Sunday

Service in Church at 10 will also 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.

! Please note this is a bookable service you need to either call Amanda on tel 07958 682103 or email bookingsstjohns@gmail.com

Coming up.....

Sunday 14th March 10am

Mothering Sunday Pre-bookable

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday Service

Good Friday – Pre Recorded

Easter Sunday Service

Plant Sale

Sunday 23rd May

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