



**St John the Divine Church,  
Selsdon  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
SIXTH 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 Michael Skinner and Revd Stephen Wright.

**PLEASE TAKE THIS LEAFLET HOME WITH YOU**

**Opening Prayer**

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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**

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

**Psalm** : Psalm 98

**First Reading:**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message. The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too. For they heard them speaking in other tongues and praising God.

Then Peter asked, “Can anyone object to their being baptized, now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?” So he gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterward Cornelius asked him to stay with them for several days.

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel reading**

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.’

*John 15.9-17*

**For your prayers: Read by**

**We pray for God's love to surround:**

Jonathan Aitken, Tano Grima, Margaret Rapp, Robin Sullivan

**We pray for those who have died recently:**

Wendy Horner

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

9th May	Kay Davies	(1983)
	Fred Rowley	(2012)
	Lavinia Hicks	(2017)
10th May	Maisie Ryde	(1994)
	Gary Selby	(2006)
11th May	Nance Blake	(1979)
	Thomas Seaborn	(1998)
	Jeanne Joy	(2009)
	Daphne Churly	(2015)
13th May	Tony Rapps	(2015)
14th May	Bob Thornton	(2007)
15th May	Graham Childs	(1983)
	Isobel Chambers	(2009)

***If you'd like prayer either for yourself or for another, please email [rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com)**

# **The Parish Office**

**Will be open Mon- Thur 9am -2pm**

**Tel: 0208 6579466**

**mobile number 07958 682103**

**email [bookingsstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:bookingsstjohns@gmail.com)**

**St John's Website address is:**

**[www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk](http://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**

### PROBLEMS WITH PRAYER

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week are Rogation Days – days set aside for praying for a good harvest and by extension for God's blessing on the labours of humankind.

“Rogation” means “asking” and illustrates a very frequent misunderstanding about prayer - that prayer is asking God for things. When we are small and helpless it's comforting to think that we have a big super-daddy in the sky who can do for us whatever we want but that is an illusion we have to grow out of if we are to grow up spiritually.

If we look at the Lord's prayer, we can see that there is a lot more to praying than asking God for things. Of course the Lord's Prayer does include asking for things, but the petition for daily bread is asking for the basic necessity for survival - that's a long way from asking God to buy a Mercedes Benz as one popular song goes. We also pray for forgiveness of our sins but that is related to the way we forgive others. We pray for the coming of God's kingdom and that God's will may be done.

That is perhaps the most important petition of all because the whole purpose of prayer is to align our wills with the will of God. In prayer we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit that God's will may be done in us and through us. God's will may be for life and health and peace for everyone but in our less than perfect world that is just not possible. The creation of the universe involved on God's part an act of self-limitation. The laws of creation bind God as much as they bind us, God cannot set them aside any more than we can. We are all mortal; we are all going to die no matter how hard we may pray for that not to happen. What we can ask for a perfect and peaceful end and the same for those we love. Prayer for others, intercession, is to open a channel by which God's grace and love can flow to the person prayed for.

The problems we have with prayer often arise because we fail to take on board what prayer is about. God wants to be known, wants to reveal Godself to us and wants us to open ourselves to God's life giving, transforming love.

### **READINGS AND PRAYERS**

9 May- SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – John 15.9-17- I chose you and appointed you – that we bear a fruitful harvest to the Lord

10 May – Rogation Day - Matthew 6.1-15 – give us this day our daily bread – for the work of Christian Aid and other relief agencies

11 May – Rogation Day – Mark 11.22-24 – whatever you ask for in faith you will receive – for God's blessing on the labours of humankind

12 May Rogation Day – Luke 11.5-13 – the heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him – for faithfulness in prayer

13 May THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD – Luke 24. 44-53 – he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven – that Christ's kingdom may come

14 May – Matthias, Apostle – Acts 1.15-26 – Matthias is chosen to replace Judas Iscariot – for Fr Younis our new Rector

15 May – Saturday – Acts 18.22-end – the ministry of Apollos – for all Christian ministers

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.

**MACMILLAN**  
CANCER SUPPORT

Monica has raised £595 for Macmillan Cancer Care by walking 65 miles with her grandson KB. This was way over her target in miles and donations. Thank you to everyone who donated Monica is really grateful.

## 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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

Our Gospel reading this morning has been the inspiration for many hymns and anthems, John Ireland's "Greater Love" and Samuel Sebastian Wesley's "Blessed be the God and Father" "to name but two choral pieces our choir is very familiar with. Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788) wrote over 6,500 hymns during his lifetime, an astonishing average of one hymn every four and a half days! He was of course a leader of the Methodist movement, being the younger brother of the founder John Wesley. Charles was also father of the musician Sebastian Wesley and grandfather of Samuel Sebastian Wesley, mentioned earlier. Charles accompanied John on many preaching tours of this country as well as America. Although they were close, Charles never agreed with the decision to allow Methodism to split with the Anglican Church, into which they had both been ordained.

The tune to which this hymn is most commonly set is Blaenwern, a Welsh hymn tune composed by William Penfro Rowlands (1860–1937), during the Welsh revival of 1904–1905. It was first published in 1915. The tune is named after Blaenwern Farm near Tufton, Pembrokeshire, where Rowlands sent his poorly son to stay with friends of the family to convalesce, as it was thought the fresh air would assist his recovery. He named the tune in honour of them.

Love Divine, all love excelling,  
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down;  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion;  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver,  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
May Thy presence e'er be with us,  
Never more Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thou wouldst  
approve,  
Pray, and praise Thee without  
ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.



Finish, then, Thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory  
Till with Thee we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love and praise.

**Grand Raffle**

# **Christian Aid Week**

10th - 16th  
May 2021

**We will be holding a raffle to be drawn on Sunday  
16th May after the 10 am service  
You can get your tickets from  
this Sunday (9th May) after the 10 am service  
and also in the parish office  
Mon- Thur 9 am -2 pm**

All proceeds will go to Christian Aid





**SUNDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> 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](mailto: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 23<sup>rd</sup> May 10.00 am - Pentecost Service**

**11.00 am - Plant Sale at St John's**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June 10.00 am- Planting in the children's garden**

## **Diary Dates**

### **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

Thursday Morning Ascension Eucharist 10 am

### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

Seventh 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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