

Welcome to St Dunstan's and Southville Churches

Feltham Ecumenical Parish:
Anglican and Methodist Churches in
partnership

Sunday 10
January 2021

The Baptism of Christ

With a New Year, I have been thinking about new beginnings, reflecting on this week's readings from Genesis – the Creation, right back to the very beginning here, literally and figuratively! – Acts – Paul baptizing disciples at Ephesus – and the Gospel of Mark – recounting part of the story of John the Baptist and then the baptism of Jesus.

As Christians, we have all been baptised – or christened – perhaps as a child, perhaps as an adult; in both cases, moving into a new life or beginning. Although it is only January, there are signs of new life in the garden; in mine, daffodils and bluebells have sent forth their leaves, there are green shoots on the roses and other shrubs, the birds have started the Dawn Chorus and it is already beginning to get light (slightly) earlier and dark (slightly) later. Yes, we still have weeks of winter to come and as Thomas Fuller, English theologian, wrote in 1650 “The darkest hour is just before the dawn”, that is there is light ahead, for which we thank the Lord, particularly in 2021 when we consider the magnificent achievements of scientists in succeeding in the creation of a vaccine in a relatively short time and which is now being rolled out across the nation.

At this time of year, as a new beginning, many people make a New Year's resolution: one of the good things to come out of last year was the slower pace of life with people being kinder to each other, being able to take time to really listen to the answer to the question “How are you?” I am resolved to continue to listen carefully to the answer when asking this question. I wonder, did you make a New Year's resolution and are you managing to keep it?

Dee Howley

Church Notices:

Fellowship and prayer - Southville and St. Dunstan Ecumenical Partnership

All members of our congregations are invited to a **zoom get-together between 4pm and 5pm on Sunday 17th January** (next Sunday) for fellowship (do bring your mug of tea or coffee and a biscuit!) and prayer. It will be an opportunity to chat, share our hopes and dreams for the future and pray together, since we cannot meet as usual, and our Ecumenical Parish AGM has been postponed. Anyone is welcome to join for as long or as short a time as they can. To attend please email admin@stdunstansfeltham.org.uk for the zoom link. Or ring the parish office and leave a request for the link: 020 890 2011.

Church Notices: Southville Methodist

There will be no services in church until further notice. We would encourage you to join other services online. If you would like to join services or receive printed / electronic service material (electronic is easier and more cost efficient) please contact: Jonathan Griffiths tel: 020-8890 1978, email: jonathan.media.southville@sfmtc.org.uk. Or call Marilyn Woodley on 07958 737094.

Meanwhile the Staines **Zoom Service** continues each Sunday at 10.30am. Contact service.staines@sfmtc.org.uk for a link.

Circuit Bible Study by zoom on Thursdays starting at 9.30am studying Matthew. Please contact Jonathan Griffiths for details to join – you can join by phone. Email contact: jonathan.griffiths@sfmtc.org.uk

Church Notices: St. Dunstan

There will be no services in church until further notice.

The **Sunday Zoom service is moving** to 10.00am each Sunday. All are welcome; phone or email the parish office for details of how to connect from computer, smartphone or tablet.

Bible Study by zoom: next meets at 8pm on Monday 18th January. Please contact Anne Dollery for details of how to take part (remotely).

We are very sorry to hear that **Len Baker**, brother to David, died suddenly on Wednesday. Please pray for David, his family and everyone who is grieving at this time.

Bible Study by email (or paper by post) will be studying Romans. Anyone who would like to join the mailing please contact Anne Mills-Roberts at: amillsroberts@yahoo.com or phone on: 01784 613357.

An invitation to join in prayer (together - while separated) with no phones or computers involved, on Wednesdays at 6am (for the early risers amongst us) and/or 6pm, during the current lockdown. It is proposed that we give thanks and prayer for all key workers, remembering those less high profile but vital; also thanks and prayer for the vaccine programme here and abroad and all involved around the world. This suggestion has come out of our Monday bible study group's study of St Paul's letter to the Philippians, where he writes 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God.'

Giving thanks for the roll out of the vaccination programme by the NHS

A warning from the police:

Fraudulent offers of Covid-19 vaccination are circulating via email, text and phone call. The Metropolitan Police advise that invitations for vaccination are always from the NHS and the vaccination is free. We should carefully check the origin of any message or call mentioning vaccination and avoid making any immediate response if we are unsure it is from an NHS source. Please do read the full details of the Met Police advice at the end of these Notices.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 12th January 7pm-7.45pm: **Life in abundance: finding Jesus in the storm.** How can we take care of our mental and spiritual health, and live life faithfully and to the full, in the face of uncertainty, loss and change? John Swinton, in conversation with Paula Gooder, Chancellor of St. Paul's Cathedral. Book to attend at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/finding-jesus-in-the-storm-tickets-127980488085?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch&keep_tld=1; also available on catch-up, see www.stpaulsresources.co.uk.

Sunday 17th January 3pm: **The Need for Religion in Modern Times.** An audio-only Zoom event for interfaith encounter, with speakers from several religions, organised by the ladies of the Ahmadiyya mosque in Sunbury Way. (NB: their events are usually accompanied by wonderful food! Not, alas, in this case.) Contact outreach.lajahn@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Also on Sunday 17th January, but 4pm this time: **Ecumenical fellowship** between St. Dunstan and Southville. See above.

Tuesday 9th February 7pm-7.45pm: **Rooted in love.** Bishop Sarah and Paula Gooder in conversation about the love of Christ, what it means to be part of the body of Christ, and how we can draw closer to Christ this Lent. Details as above.

And we'd better have a joke or two - as we can't share much else just now:

A man is being interviewed. "Where do you live?" asks the interviewer. "I live in London", answers the man. "And have you lived there all your life?" "Oh no", says the man, "not yet."

A little girl became restless as the sermon went on ... and on. Finally she leaned towards her mother and whispered, "Mummy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

A thief who was charged with stealing a calendar got twelve months.

After her marriage, she had a new name and a dress.

(Groan?)

Circulated by Met. Police COVID-19 vaccination scam alert

As with most current events, they are often taken advantage of by fraudsters, and the Covid19 vaccine appears no different.

There appears to be a couple of different Covid19 vaccine scams going round at the moment, so please circulate the following to your residents, associations and contacts.

Some people are receiving fraudulent calls and text messages offering the COVID-19 vaccination. In some cases, people are asked to press a number on their keypad or to send a text message to confirm they wish to receive the vaccine. Doing so is likely to result in a charge being applied to their phone bill. In other cases, callers are offering the vaccine for a fee or asking for bank details.

Like other scams, the same rules apply;

- **Don't click** on links or attachments in unexpected texts, emails or instant messages.
- **Challenge** every request for your personal details.
- It doesn't matter what they say or what they know about you, **don't respond to unexpected phone calls**, hang up, take five then verify their claims via a trusted method. (such as the usual website or official phone number)

The vaccine is only available from the NHS and the NHS will contact you when it is your turn. At present, appointments are only being offered to members of the public over 80 years old.

The NHS will:

- NEVER ask you to press a button on your keypad or send a text asking you to confirm you want the vaccine.
- NEVER ask for payment for the vaccine or for your bank details.

If you believe you have been the victim of fraud or identity theft, you should [report this directly to Action Fraud](#) either online; <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> or via phone

0300 123 2040

Where the victim is vulnerable, report it to the MPS online or by calling 101. Link to an example of the scam text message on behalf of which.co.uk

<https://conversation.which.co.uk/scams/scam-nhs-covid-vaccine-text-message/>



Early shoots of new life.....

Southville Methodist	Tachbrook Road, Feltham TW14 8NU
Minister:	Rev. Juliet Ushewokunze (020 8890 2783)
Email:	rev.ushewokunze@sfmc.org.uk
Email address:	southville@sfmc.org.uk
St. Dunstan (C of E)	St. Dunstan's Road, Feltham TW13 4JY
Minister	Rev. Anne Dollery (020 8890 8347)
Email:	AnneDollery@yahoo.co.uk
C of E Parish office	39 St.Dunstan's Road, Feltham TW13 4JY
	Closed to visitors until further notice.
Email:	admin@stdunstansfeltham.org.uk
Tel:	020 8890 2011
Website:	www.stdunstansfeltham.org.uk