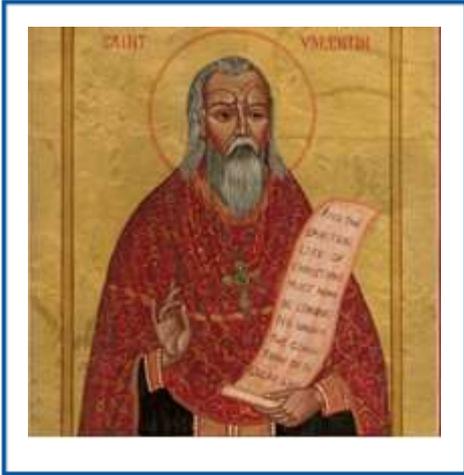


Welcome to St Dunstan's and Southville Churches

Feltham Ecumenical Parish:
Anglican and Methodist Churches in
partnership

Sunday 14
February 2021

**Sunday next
before Lent**



TODAY is Sunday, **14 February 3773**, and last night on TV you will have seen the opening of the new town which has recently been built on the planet Mars. You will also have been impressed to see a pineapple physically transported instantly from London to Edinburgh by Google's new Matter Transporter Tool.

TODAY is also the **Sunday next before Lent A.D.3773** and the day we keep as St. Valentine's Day.

(OK, so I made this up so let me explain a little.)

St Valentine was one of the early saints of the Christian church and was martyred in the year 269AD, meaning he died some 1752 years ago. That's a long time to be remembered and there is no reason to suppose that he will not still be remembered in 1752 years' time, hence A.D.3773 above. It raises the question, of course, as to why St Valentine has been remembered for so long and why he may still be remembered in 1752 years from now. (The clue is that it has nothing to do with red roses or boxes of chocolates etc.)

Valentine was a Roman priest who lived in a time of much persecution for the early church. The society in which he lived was a very permissive one. The emperor Claudius thought that unmarried soldiers fought better, not least because they had fewer family responsibilities should they come to a sudden death. Not surprisingly young men tended to sow their promiscuous wild oats early! Polygamy was also common and it was into this sort of society that Valentine preached his message of love, fidelity and faithfulness which was enshrined in Christian marriage but Valentine paid a heavy price for so doing.

Valentine's ministry and teaching of Christian marriage had to be conducted in secret but he was eventually caught, imprisoned, tortured and beheaded in 269A.D. for his disobedience to Claudius' edict.

So today is one to recall the price paid by Christian martyrs down the ages, and in some places still today, for their allegiance and faithfulness to Christ's teaching and also perhaps to recall that Christian marriage requires not just the keeping of vows but the readiness to suffer all the things that life together might bring for husband and wife.

Leslie Lawrence

Together for Lent Bible study on zoom

A Lent Bible study group by zoom for Southville and St Dunstan's will be held on Tuesday evenings 19.45-21.00. The group will be using material from 'Transformed by the Presence of Jesus' by Liz Babbs. Please email Marilyn Woodley at: marilynwoodley971@btinternet.com if you wish to join the study group.

23 rd February	Walking with Jesus	Luke 24:13-35
2 nd March	Known by Jesus	John 4:1-26
9 th March	Waiting for Jesus	John 11:1-44
16 th March	Named by Jesus	John 20:1-18
23 rd March	Faith and Jesus	Matthew 14:22-36
30 th March	Obedience and Jesus	John 21:1-14

A daytime Lent study group on zoom could also be offered if there were sufficient people to make it viable. Please email admin@stdunstansfeltham.org.uk if you would only be interested in attending a daytime study group.

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 has moved** 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. Preacher on 21st February will be Rachel Stuchbury.

Recording of **weekday morning prayer** for Wednesday is on the St Dunstan's website.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 17th February 7.30pm: **Service for Ash Wednesday** by Zoom. The Code will be the same as for the Sunday zoom services. Please contact admin@stdunstansfeltham.org.uk if you'd like to attend (all are most welcome!) and don't have the St D's Sunday morning zoom link.

Thursday 18th February 7pm: **Organ donation** – a Zoom meeting organised by Hounslow Friends of Faith. All are welcome to discuss this important topic.

Saturday 27th February 10am-4pm: **Wondrous Doings: Praying the Psalms**. A study day arranged by the House of Prayer, Molesey (via Zoom). See <https://www.christian-retreat.org/our-programme/wondrous-doings-praying-the-psalms>

Friday 5th March at 3pm: service for **World Day of Prayer** on Zoom, led by the Revd. Anne Dollery. This year the material has been prepared by women in Vanuatu.

Tuesday 23rd March 7.00-8.30pm: **Faith and mental health**. An online lecture by the Bishop of London. Register (free) at <https://anglican.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5af4adf742512ff619ff611e4&id=a153eaf21&e=7f0486957a> .

People

Our prayers and thoughts are with Jack and Susan Collins following the death of his brother Peter on Thursday and the Rev'd Juliet following the recent death and sickness in her family.

We remember families with school aged children and give thanks for half term this week, and the break it gives from home schooling for pupils, parents and school staff.

Lent opportunities

During Lent, anyone who uses the internet or has a radio is offered an opportunity to get to know Jesus better. Daily materials for prayer and reflection, including appropriate art and music, are offered at <https://www.onlineprayer.net/> while the regular services on BBC Radio 4 will be using the same themes and methods. (These services are the Daily Service at 9.45am Monday to Friday, and Sunday Worship at 8.10am on Sunday.) The inspiration is Ignatian spirituality, which encourages the careful reading of stories in the Gospels to become better acquainted with Jesus and to learn to walk with him every moment of our ordinary daily life.

Shrove Tuesday

If you are having pancakes on Tuesday what fillings/toppings are you having? Share your favourites and we will put them in next week's newsletter.

How is lockdown for you?

Yes, I am happy in Lockdown. I live with my Premier Christian Radio family (MW1413) and today they call 'give thanks Friday.' I wake up with the radio already on and thank The Lord for another day. As I lay in bed I join in the prayers on the radio and add some of my own. At the same time I do some tummy exercises!

My breakfast I take into the lounge. As I open the curtains there is a beautiful mist on the golf course where I walk. I feed the birds and sit down with my visor on as the warm sun is in my eyes. There is now a blue tit on the bird table next to my window. Sparrows are eating on the ground. Why do birds always seem happy I think to myself. I see a neighbour and wave. My family arrive to walk the dogs.

As I hear the news my mind now turns to thinking about other people in the outside world who help to make my life comfortable. A quick prayer for them. Later when I put the TV news on and see the desperate suffering around the world, I think our Lord must look down on us heartbroken at what we are doing to His, would be, beautiful world.

Covid has scared everyone. When I got my text from NHS inviting me to be vaccinated I hadn't felt so excited since as a teenager I waited for a letter from my future husband. Covid, what have you done? I see the very best of human nature in so many people. But sadly the devil and his ways is seen in others.

Not just Fridays but every day I give thanks in my lockdown world. I give thanks for the Zoom Sunday morning service and because of the chat I have got to know people better. I have been able to spend more time in quiet contemplation preparing the on line bible study. My shopping gets delivered and I had a lovely chat with Mat the delivery lad who I gave two of my Christian books to. Facebook has enabled me to keep informed about so many of my Christian friends and charities that I support, and I add my Christian voice to worthy petitions there. More quick texts and phone calls to friends and family. To keep my hands busy I knit premature baby bonnets for the hospital. I treat myself with a flowering plant and each evening I light a scented candle.

Yes, lockdown has helped me see what our Lord wants of us. I feel very blessed. Thank you Lord.

Anne Mills-Roberts

A few phone numbers in case of need:

Samaritans: 116 123 (and it's free)

Domestic Abuse UK: 0808 200 0247

Hopeline Suicide Prevention (aimed at young people or those concerned about a young person): 0800 068 4141

Daily Hope line of bible readings, prayers and hymns (Church of England): 0800 804 8044

Mind information line (on mental health problems and how to seek help): 0300 123 3393
