

Welcome to St Dunstan's and Southville Churches

Feltham Ecumenical Parish:
Anglican and Methodist Churches in
partnership

Sunday 16 May
2021

**Sunday after
Ascension**

Like most of London, I recently went to vote: to make a choice by selecting a candidate from the list standing for election. With a General Election, there are usually a number of candidates to choose from; however, on this occasion, there were 3 separate elections and for the Mayor of London two choices were to be made. Did you, too, find the process somewhat confusing? Here are some of my tongue-in-cheek thoughts

How much simpler it was to elect the twelfth Apostle! In Acts, Peter (the Returning Officer?) explained that Judas Iscariot had to betray Jesus to fulfil the Scripture and it was now time to choose another to be the twelfth Apostle. Of course, the number 12 was important, harking back to the Twelve Tribes of Israel. We are told there were only two nominations, Joseph Barsabbas and Matthias. There was no campaigning, no speeches, no knocking on doors or television party political broadcasts. The only requirement was for someone who had been with the group since John's baptism of Jesus and when Jesus was taken up, and who therefore could witness to the Resurrection.

Voters in modern elections can choose to vote in person, use a postal vote, or appoint a proxy; both men and women are able to stand for election and to vote. At the time of Acts, only men would be eligible to be nominated and to vote by casting lots, which was understood to be the way God indicated the successful person, which was Matthias. We are not aware that there were any recounts and no-one lost their deposit(!); there were no speeches by the victor or the loser. Joseph Barsabbas disappears from history, perhaps remaining as one of the wider group of disciples – there was certainly no mechanism to re-stand whenever there was a vacancy.

Dee Howley

Methodist Circuit Bible Study

This takes place by zoom or phone on Thursdays starting at 10.00am, please join by 09:45. Please contact Jonathan Griffiths for details. Email: jonathan.griffiths@sfmtc.org.uk

Church Notices: Southville Methodist

Services in church in May:

Sunday 23rd May 10:30 am **Morning Worship** led by the Rev. Julie Underwood

However, from Sunday 6th June there will be morning worship in church every week until further notice. Meanwhile, Staines Methodist Church is continuing to **Zoom their service each Sunday** at 10:30am and we would encourage you to join. For an invite contact Matt or Roz via service.staines@sfmtc.org.uk

Southville Church will be **open for private prayer** on the first Saturday of the month from 09:30 - 10:30am; the next occasion will be Saturday 5th June.

Church Notices: St. Dunstan, Church of England

Our **zoom services** will continue on Sundays at 10am. All are welcome; phone or email the parish office for details of how to connect from computer, smartphone, tablet or by phone.

Today's service will be followed by the **Annual Church Meeting** (on the same zoom call). You are encouraged to stay and participate – or join the call at 10.45am if you don't want to attend the service.

Services in church:

Every Sunday until further notice: 9am **Holy Communion**

Wednesdays until further notice: 10am **Holy Communion** – no need to book

Because of the limited capacity due to social distancing seats for **services in church on Sunday need to be booked** by noon the previous day, saying which service, names of those attending and contact number. All the restrictions remain unchanged: seating by household, hand sanitizing, masks to be worn and no congregational singing inside the church.

Bible study will continue on Monday 24th May at 8pm on zoom. Please contact the parish office or Anne Dollery for joining details.

Details of '**Bow down**' prayers this Wednesday at 8.45pm for a 9pm start (to last 15 minutes) have been circulated separately. If you wish to attend please book in advance. There is a limit of 30 people at each of four venues – two on Feltham Green, two near Bridge House Pond.

Advance notice – if the weather is fine we are considering holding a service in the garden for Pentecost on Sunday 23rd May.

We are also considering how we can hold services/activities for our children and families outdoors. All of this is providing the regulations and guidelines permit.

The **revised Electoral Roll** for St Dunstan's is on display on the church notice board and our website – please check that your details are correct.

Christian Aid Week and other good causes

By the time you read this it will be your last chance to **enter our raffle for Christian Aid**. Briefly, you donate to Christian Aid (christianaid.org.uk, or contact Rachel Stuchbury), then let Rachel (rachel.stuchbury@phonecoop.coop, 0208 890 5632) know how many tickets you are 'buying', at no extra cost. Don't delay! Draw to take place on 16th May after the Annual Meeting; winners will be contacted by phone, in turn, to choose a prize. Pictures and details of prizes were circulated with last week's newsletter.

Celia Lawrence would like to thank everybody who has used a **Children's Society box** in the last six years, and we would like to thank Celia for acting as coordinator all that time. Celia is now retiring but would be very happy to show a new person the ropes – could anybody take this on? It involves counting up and banking the cash every six months.

If you want to **give thanks for receiving your vaccination**, or to donate to charities who are helping to ensure that every community is supported, the following suggestions are among ways this can be done:

- The Church of England helped to bring about the vaccinaid.org campaign with Unicef and Crowdfunder, which is seeking to provide over 2.5 billion vaccine doses worldwide.
 - Christian Aid's [Give Thanks campaign](#) is focusing on humanitarian support including food, water and healthcare in areas where the vaccine is not currently available.
 - In addition, the Church of England has worked with yourneighbour.org on the [Give Hope Campaign](#) which works to target misinformation and encourage everyone to take up the offer of a vaccination.
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'Thy Kingdom Come' is a global initiative, in which Christians are called to pray for the 9 days between Ascension (Thursday 13th May) and Pentecost (Sunday 23 May). We are invited to pray for God's Spirit to move within the church, equipping us to share God's love with others and to pay attention to how God is speaking to us today. See last week's newsletter for ideas from the Methodist Church and the Anglican Diocese of London.

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

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

CAP Christians against Poverty: free debt counselling 0800 328 0006. <https://capuk.org/>

Feltham Food Bank: 07448 831 297 felthamfoodbank@gmail.com . A referral is needed.
(If the need for food is urgent, please advise people to visit the Salvation Army Food Bank between 10am-noon on a Wednesday.)

And a joke

Two roofers, Bob and Dan, were working on a barn when a bundle of shingles slid down the roof and, to their dismay, knocked the ladder over. Although dismayed, they decided to carry on working and trust that somebody would pass by soon.

However, as afternoon turned to evening they had seen noone. They gazed on every side of the roof and agreed that there was only one way down: at the west end of the barn was a big manure heap. "It should be a soft landing", said Bob "I'm going to jump". He approached the edge and vanished over it.

Hearing a soft impact, Dan approached the edge and called, "Are you all right? How deep is it?". "I'm OK" came the reply, "but I went in as far as my knees". Reassured, Dan jumped in his turn and sank up to his neck. "Look at that!" he said to Bob, "How come you only went in up to your knees?". "I landed head first."

Southville Methodist	Tachbrook Road, Feltham TW14 8NU
	Change of website address: www.southvillemethodistchurch.org.uk
	Email address: contact-us@southvillemethodistchurch.org.uk
	Minister: Rev. Juliet Ushewokunze (020 8890 2783)
	Email: rev.ushewokunze@sfmtc.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
	(visitors by appointment only)
	Email: admin@stdunstansfeltham.org.uk
	Tel: 020 8890 2011
	Website: www.stdunstansfeltham.org.uk