

Welcome to St Dunstan's and Southville Churches

Feltham Ecumenical Parish:
Anglican and Methodist Churches in
partnership

Sunday
20 March
2022

Lent III

Five weeks ago, I wrote briefly in this newsletter about St. Giles Hotel filling up with asylum seekers. Now, like everyone, I am daily hearing of other people fleeing, leaving behind everything they value except life itself. The fact that Ukraine is in Europe makes the news more shocking – though of course as a human tragedy it should not. We are all being forcibly reminded of how brutal life can be, of the depths of human evil and of undeserved suffering. Perhaps it's a salutary reminder; the commercial world which we inhabit has an interest in shaping our aspirations with images of a privileged and fulfilling life (if we buy a new sofa / car / insurance policy). But when anguished reality intrudes, the dream-life loses all conviction – for a time, at least.

Does our faith also lose conviction? In the face of the ruthless destruction of Ukrainian cities and slaughter of their inhabitants by a massive modern army, can we pray with any confidence for God's salvation and the Kingdom to be revealed? If that means expecting an immediate transformation in the geopolitics of the situation, then the answer will be 'no'. But the story of Jesus shows us that the place of agony and powerlessness is the place where God is to be found; and we can do no other than turn to God in supplication for those who are in that place. If we have any namable expectation of our prayers, it is that we ourselves will be changed, along with those around us,

The seesaw movement between hope and dread, between faith in God's goodness and unnerving experience, is never better expressed than in the Psalms; they are uninhibited in their cries of distress, and yet their sense of God as present, as knowing the psalmist's life and holding all life in being, rarely falters. From them comes much of our knowledge of who God is, and to me they offer a way to pray for Ukraine today. I keep returning to Psalm 27 which begins so positively with 'The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?' and promptly goes on to list attacks by adversaries, a host encamped against us, even war waged against us. The echoes of Ukraine today are painful. As fear is added to fear, the psalm's expressions of confidence sound incongruous ('The Lord ... will conceal me under the cover of his tent, he will set me high upon a rock') and yet they echo with a steady heartbeat that says, God is good, God is good.

Rachel Stuchbury

Methodist Circuit

Bible Study by Zoom™ or phone on Thursdays starting at 10.00am, please join by 09:45.
Contact Graham Wells for details on 01784 258785 or g.wells988@gmail.com.

Church notices: Southville Methodist

Sunday services at 10.30am:

20th March: **Morning Worship** led by Mr. Jonathan Perkins

27th March: **Mothering Sunday service** led by Miss Rudado Ushewokunze

Southville Church is **open for private prayer** on the first Saturday of the month, 09:30-10:30am.

Southville and St. Dunstan together

Lent Bible Study on Zoom™ –Tuesdays at 8pm. Please contact Marilyn Woodley marilynwoodley971@btinternet.com if you would like to join.

Church Notices: St. Dunstan, Church of England

Sunday services:

9.30am: **Morning Prayer** on Zoom™

9.45am: **Holy Communion** in church

next Sunday: 8am **Holy Communion**

9.45am **All age service for Mothering Sunday**



Wednesdays:

10.00am: **Holy Communion** in Church

Regular events

Every Monday 10.00am to 12 noon (except Bank Holidays): the **Monday drop-in** in the Church Centre. Come along and share refreshments, try your hand at crafts, or just have a chat. All welcome, bring your friends!

The fortnightly **Bible study on Zoom™** will begin again after Easter.

Second Thursday of the month, 2.00-4.00pm: **WOT group** (Women on Thursdays) meet in the Church Centre. Please note: next meeting will be on 7th April, i.e. a week earlier than usual, as 14th April will be Maundy Thursday.

Relaunched today: Young people's fellowship group, meeting in the Church Centre at 10.00am. For children aged 11 upwards; speak to Melanie O'Neill or the Vicar.

Messy Church this Thursday, 24th March 3.30pm, St. Dunstan's Church, for children in Reception to Year 6 with their parent/carer.

Following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions in England, please continue to look after and protect each other when attending our services and events. Please do not attend with Covid-19 or symptoms.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 22nd March 7.00pm: '**Everyday rituals and the beauty of holiness: Evelyn Underhill for the 21st century**' – a talk by Ayla Lepine of The National Gallery, in a series at St. Paul's Knightsbridge called 'New Voices in Theology'. Attendance in person or online, free of charge: register at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/new-voices-in-theology-lecture-ayla-lepine-tickets-207194543457>



Wednesday 23rd March, **National Day of Reflection**: St Dunstan's church will be open for individual prayer from after the 10am service until 12 noon.

Thursday 24th March 3.30pm: **Messy Church** at St. Dunstan's.

Saturday 2nd April 7.30pm: **Spring Concert** by Feltham Choral Society at St. Dunstan, to include Britten's 'Rejoice in the Lamb' and Alan Wilson's 'Mass of Regeneration'

Tuesday 5th April 7.45pm: **Feltham Local History Group** meeting at Christ Church. All are welcome.

Good Friday 15th April – Walk of Witness – 11am start at Feltham Green – Churches Together in Bedfont, Feltham & Hanworth. All welcome.

Other notices

The collection at St. Dunstan's for Angel Tree (Prison Fellowship) ends today. It is helping fund the sending of Mothering Sunday cards and £5 vouchers to mothers of FYOI inmates.

St. Dunstan's: Lent Books are available at the back of the Church.

We are seeking a new person to **produce this news and prayer sheet**, to release Rachel Stuchbury to help with fundraising for St. Dunstan's improved access. The task is to draft it at home on Microsoft Word; it is then emailed to the Office for checking and distribution on Thursdays. If you can help please speak to Duncan Forsyth or Anne Dollery.

Diocese of London's Lent Appeal 2022 theme is mental health and wellbeing for adults and young people, along with domestic abuse; the aim is to equip churches (with resources and training) to be 'safe spaces' for people in their parish and of course for church members too.

One of the charities being funded is called 'Restored' <https://www.restored-uk.org/>, working to create churches which can recognise and respond to domestic abuse, support abuse victims and help survivors to find dignity and hope.

All Saints and St Georges Hanworth are planning to hold some sessions of sports for young people at Hanworth Park, in July when the schools break up. If you would be interested in helping or being involved please speak to or contact the parish office.

The Church Electoral Roll will be revised by the Parochial Church Council, beginning on Saturday the 2nd day of April 2022, and ending on Friday the 22nd day of April 2022.

After the revision, a copy of the Roll will be published by the Parochial Church Council in the Church for at least 14 days and a copy of the Roll will be available for inspection on a reasonable request being made to the Council.

Canaan Bookshop Staines: Network Rail will be replacing the old railway bridge by the shop leading up to Easter. Canaan will continue to be open and offer their **FREE** local delivery service for anyone who wants it. <https://www.canaanchristianministries.co.uk/>

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Prayer sheet for Sunday 20th March 2022

for the Ecumenical Parish of Feltham: St Dunstan's Anglican and Southville Methodist churches

Collect from the Anglican tradition:

Eternal God,
give us insight to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings for 20 th March:	Readings for 27 th March (Lent IV) - St. Dunstan's 8am service
Isaiah 55: 1-9 I Corinthians 10: 1-13 Luke 13: 1-9	Joshua 5: 9-12 II Corinthians 5: 16-21 Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32
	Readings for 27 th March (Mothering Sunday services)
	Exodus 2: 1-10 <i>or</i> I Samuel 1: 20-28 II Corinthians 1: 3-7 <i>or</i> Colossians 3: 12-17 Luke 2: 33-35 <i>or</i> John 19: 25-27

Invitation to remember in our prayers this week:

In the news:

Lord of all people and all nations,

We lift before you the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia.

Protect those who only desire and deserve to live in security and safety,

Comfort those who fear for their lives and the lives of their loved ones,

Change the hearts of those set on violence and aggression,

Fill earthly leaders with great wisdom to find paths to peace.

Please Lord come and have your way in your world;

May your will be done here, on earth as it is in heaven. *A prayer from Christian Aid*

From Churches Together: We pray for all those who worship at St. Lawrence, Feltham, for their ministers and all their pastoral team, that they may be empowered by the Holy Spirit as they work to bring Christ to people in Feltham.

In the parish:

We pray for people who live or work in the High Street, New Chapel Square, Victoria Road, The Green, Cavendish Parade, Manor Lane or Rose Gardens

Those who are ill or in particular need:

Maurice Park (Helen Forsyth's father), Amanda Elliott (daughter to Anne Mills-Roberts), Josie Coates, Diana Gamble, Graham, Fiona Holloway, Barbara Meakin (The Cloisters Nursing Home), Barbara Tonkins, Rosemary White (Beryl Gamble's sister), Susanna Woollam

Those who have died recently and those who mourn them:

Florence Osborne, Grace Powers, Constance King

Those whom we remember this week:

Margaret and Gordon Forsyth, Herbert and Ada Gamble, Joan Rolfe