

Welcome to St Dunstan's and Southville Churches

Feltham Ecumenical Parish:
Anglican and Methodist Churches in
partnership

Sunday 21
February 2021

**First Sunday in
Lent**

Februum is the Latin word for purification in the spring festival of washing and purification. It is an interesting month, beginning to be lighter earlier and later, with spring maybe just round the corner, although recent snowy, icy weather indicates that winter is not quite finished.

In the modern world, there are several significant dates in February:

February 2nd, Candlemas, the end of Epiphany, when all the candles to be used in the church during the coming year were blessed.

It is also Groundhog Day: Germans selected the hedgehog as a means of predicting weather, changing to the plentiful groundhog on settling in America. It was first celebrated in 1887 in Pennsylvania; according to tradition, if groundhog (woodchuck) Punxsutawney Phil comes out of his hole on this day and sees his shadow, he gets scared and runs back into his burrow, predicting six more weeks of winter weather; no shadow means an early spring. Unfortunately, he did see his shadow this year – whether it holds true for us in England remains to be seen.

It is Black History Month in America, which we commemorate in October each year.

St. Valentine's Day was last Sunday.

Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day/Pancake Tuesday: traditionally pancakes are eaten, with various fillings (lemon and honey?) and various races take place, as in Olney, Buckinghamshire, dating back to 1445.

The following day is Ash Wednesday and the official beginning of Lent.

First celebrated in 1998, Random Acts of Kindness Week is February 14-20, 2021. The idea is calling us to lives of caring and compassion. Some examples: picking up litter, letting someone go first in a queue, passing on memorable kindness quotes, helping someone, smiling at strangers – perhaps a random act of kindness is something we could all do with at the moment!

Dee Howley

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

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.

Sunday Zoom service at 10.00am each Sunday. All are welcome; phone or email the parish office for details of how to connect from computer, smartphone or tablet. Address today given by Rachel Stuchbury.

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

Dates for your diary

St Dunstan's **PCC Meeting on zoom** Monday 1st March 7.45 for 8pm

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. Email Rachel Stuchbury on rachel.stuchbury@phonecoop.coop for a link.

Saturday 6th March 10.00-12.30pm: **Turn aside for a while**. A Lenten quiet morning arranged by the House of Prayer, Molesey (via Zoom). See <https://www.christian-retreat.org/our-programme> Cost is £10.

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=a153eaaf21&e=7f0486957a> .

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.

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

Housekeeping

We received a comment last week that the newsletter could not be viewed properly on a Mac tablet. If anyone else has trouble, please tell the Parish Office, or let Rachel or Ian Stuchbury know (also whether you get it by email or from the website); if it's a general problem a different format could be used.

No joke

– because it's Lent. But here is a picture of snowdrops in the recent snow. There are lots more snowdrops in the churchyard at St. Dunstan's.

