

Welcome to St Dunstan's and Southville Churches

Feltham Ecumenical Parish:
Anglican and Methodist Churches in
partnership

Sunday 21 March
2021

Passion Sunday

Today is Census Day in the UK: this is a method of collecting population data to assist with civic provision planning locally and nationally and to look at trends and changes. UK records go back to 1790, with the first national census being in 1801, subsequently completed every 10 years, except for 1941. There is a 100 year restriction on access to the Census: the most recent year available is 1911, though 1921 will soon be due for release. Data prior to 1840 is less informative as only the head of the household was recorded and other family members were grouped in age bands.

Census comes from Latin *censere* ("to estimate"), usually carried out every 5 years in Rome, to determine taxes and to identify all adult males fit for military service. We know about the Census in Judaea of Publius Sulpicius Quirinius, Roman governor of Syria, from Luke's Gospel and the story of the Nativity.

The Romans were not the first! Bible references to census: Exodus for the upkeep of the Tabernacle; Numbers – counting the population after the Exodus and while camped in the plains of Moab; and both David (2 Samuel) and Solomon (2 Chronicles) ordered a census. Egypt from the mid-12th century BC and ancient Greek city states carried out censuses; India had one around 330 BC under Ashoka; China has one of the earliest preserved censuses of AD 2 and AD 144; the Caliphates had regular censuses in the Middle Ages; William the Conqueror's Domesday Book of 1086; in 1183, the Kingdom of Jerusalem held one for raising men and money against Saladin; in 1328 France for taxes; the 15th century Incan empire, recorded on quipus (strings and knots); and in 1577 Philip II of Spain ordered a census for New Spain and the Indies.

Don't forget to complete yours!

Dee Howley

Together for Lent Bible study on zoom

A Lent Bible study group for Southville and St Dunstan's is held on Tuesday evenings 19.45-21.00.

The group is 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 March	Faith and Jesus	Matthew 14:22-36
30 th March	Obedience and Jesus	John 21:1-14

Church Notices: Southville Methodist

SERVICES

There will be no services in church on Sunday 21st and 28th March,
however we will be holding **Easter Sunday Worship** at 10:30

this will be a **Service of Holy Communion** Led by Rev Juliet Ushewokunze.

We will be following the same Covid-19 safe practices as before including Face Coverings, Hand Sanitising and registering to attend as spaces are limited.

To register email: register@southvillemethodistchurch.org.uk or
SMS or WhatsApp: 07521 776 637

We will then not hold services in Church for the rest of April – Check the weekly notices for further updates.

We will continue to circulate service material each week by email and printed, for those without access to the internet (electronic is easier and more cost efficient). If you have not been receiving these and would like to please contact: Jonathan or Roger on 020-8890 1978, email: jonathan.media.southville@sfmc.org.uk. or call Marilyn Woodley on 07958 737094.

Meanwhile Staines Methodist Church are continuing to Zoom their service each Sunday at 10:30 and we would encourage you to join.

For an invite contact Matt or Roz service.staines@sfmc.org.uk

Southville Methodist Church will be open for PRIVATE PRAYER

**SATURDAYS 09:00 - 11:00
FROM SATURDAY 20TH MARCH**

Watch the notices and Social Media for any changes.

We will be following the same Covid-19 safe practices as before for services but we are not taking reservations, but space is limited

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@sfmc.org.uk

Church Notices: St. Dunstan

There are no services in St Dunstan's today or during this week.

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

There will also be **zoom services for Holy Week on Maundy Thursday at 8pm and Good Friday at 10am .**

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

We will be reopening the church for services of Holy Communion on:

Palm Sunday at 9am 28th March;

Maundy Thursday at 7pm on 1st April

Easter Day at 9am on Sunday 4th April.

(if possible) **Sunday 11 April** at 9am

Plus opening the church for **individual prayer and reflection on Good Friday** from 1pm to 3pm.

Because of the limited capacity due to social distancing **seats need to be booked by noon the previous day**; please email the parish office at admin@stdunstansfeltham.org.uk or ring 0208 890 2011 giving which service, names of those attending and contact number. Seats do not need to be booked for Good Friday individual prayer. All the restrictions remain unchanged: seating by household, hand sanitizing, masks to be worn and no congregational singing.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 23rd March: **National Day of Reflection** On Tuesday it will be one year since the first UK lockdown began. Since then, millions of people have been bereaved, due to Covid-19 or from other causes; and many people have had to grieve without the comfort of friends and family around them. Marie Curie, a charity which supports people around a terminal diagnosis, has organised a National Day of Reflection to acknowledge grief and loss over the last year. The Church of England is one of a number of organisations supporting it. On that day we are invited to take a minute's silence at 12 noon, to shine a light at 8pm to show our support for the millions of people who are bereaved, and to take a moment to connect with one of them. The prayer card for the Day of Reflection is attached, together with a service of prayer for individual or household use. Some other suggestions from the Church of England for observing this day are:

- send a card or phone someone who has been bereaved,
- plant a seed, bulb or plant in memory

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>

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

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

Other notices

Silent prayer in a group: the House of Prayer in Molesey is offering a free, silent prayer space on Zoom every evening from 8.30pm to 9pm, from 15th to 31st March. Contact admin@christian-retreat.org for joining details.

My Lockdown Treasure – a 2020 poem by Hilary White

There's no better place to be
When our world is shattered by lockdown,
When family and friends can only be seen
On a computer screen
When a touch, a hug or holding hands is forbidden
By government decree.
When theatres, cinemas, gyms and churches stand dark and deserted
Waiting for people to return.
In truth, our world has been turned upside down,
Marking a return to a life slowed down,
Made simple by necessity,
When our senses are flooded by sights and sounds experienced anew.
This is when I find solace in these strange times
On my allotment.
The rose creeping over my shed greets me.
Fragrant blooms of dusky pink mingle, dancing in the breeze

To remind me summer has arrived.
I stare at the great expanse of sky above me
Where clouds float by, swirls of grey and white touching the sun.
I am entranced.
I love to smell the soil after rain,
To feel it slip through my fingers, gritty and moist,
Warmed by the sun, waiting to receive and nurture fragile roots.
I see the beans striving to climb their poles,
Displaying scarlet flowers in abundance,
Promising a bumper harvest.
Bees swarm on comfrey before me, buzz, buzz, buzzing,
Here to collect nectar, then fly off
To fulfil their function of fertilisation.
The canes of raspberries, stripped bare in winter,
Grow inch by inch, day by day, as their leaves unfurl.
Then blossom appears, soon to be transformed
Into succulent ruby fruits.
The taste of the first tomato is exquisite,
Picked from a sturdy bush grown from a tiny seed,
Fed by the sun, its thirst quenched by gentle rain.
The helianthus turns its face to the sun,
Following its path as it slips away on the horizon,
Ready to rise again next day and warm God's earth.
Yes, an allotment provides treasure and comfort in lockdown.
There is no better place to be.

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 (visitors by appointment only) Email: admin@stdunstansfeltham.org.uk Tel: 020 8890 2011 Website: www.stdunstansfeltham.org.uk