

ST JOHN the Evangelist Lent e-news – Late February-March-early April 2020
Being, Believing, Belonging



Dear Friends

An invitation: Ash Wednesday Liturgy at St John's with the Charter Choir
Preacher: the Rev. Chris Campbell. Imposition of Ashes
26th February at 7.30pm

The season of Lent begins this Ash Wednesday, 26th February, with a special liturgy, including an act of penitence and the imposition of ashes. St John's Youth Group celebrated a pancake evening, in advance of Shrove Tuesday, and ended by burning last year's Palm Crosses, in order to create ash... This reminds of the symbolism of being signed with the Cross, a sign of God's ultimate sacrifice, as well as reminding us of our 'earthiness', and the spiritual discipline we commit to during Lent. Please come and join us for one of our two Ash Wednesday services, either at 10.00am or 7.30pm, at St John's. The later will be accompanied by the Choir of Homerton College.

All are also warmly invited to attend our **Community Lunch**, on Ash Wednesday, at 12.30pm, for **Food and Friendship**. Last month's Lunch was a great success. Do come along if you're available.

As we begin Lent this week, I am pleased to announce various Lent activities which will be happening during this Holy Season of the Christian year, alongside our regular Sunday worship:-

- **Lent Groups**, on Tuesday mornings at 10.30am in the St John's Centre, from 25th February, and - subject to demand - Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm, from 3rd March, at Vicarage. We will be following Paula Gooder's Lent Book, 'A Way through the Wilderness' – experiencing God's Help in Times of Crisis. You don't have to be experiencing a crisis to attend the course! It draws on many helpful Biblical insights associated with wilderness, which is a time of unexpected growth and deepening our relationship with God. Sign-up sheets in Church.
- **Sacred Space for Lent** this Sunday 1st March, themed material, prayers and reflection, 6pm.
- **Compline** at St John's, following Choir practise, on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm, from 27th February onwards; ancient monastic service of Night Prayer, time for silence and meditation.
- **Special Lent Quiet Day**, facilitated by James, on Saturday 28th March at St John's, from 10am-4pm. Sign-up sheet in Church, and further details to follow.
- **Youth Confirmation Course** will be held during Lent, on Sundays at 3.30-5pm at St John's, further details from Chris. Confirmation will take place at Cathedral at Pentecost, 31st May.

Please make a note of our **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**, on **Sunday 15th March at 11.30am**, after our Morning Worship. All are warmly invited to attend, as we hear reports about the past year (2019-2020) at St John's, reflect on future hopes and challenges, as well as elect Churchwardens, PCC and invite any new Sides-persons. We are, in particular, looking to encourage new people to consider joining our PCC – which has a vital oversight & strategic function – as well as a new Churchwarden to join that team. Please speak to James or Chris or Peter Tavner, if you have any questions. I am most grateful for those who have stood as PCC members over the past period.

We are pleased to report on the launch of our **2020 Parish Theme, of Being, Believing, Belonging**, at our Candlemas service on 2nd February at 10.00am.

You will also discover **our exciting new Children's Space**, in the South Aisle at St John's, which was launched last Sunday, 23rd February, and has already been very warmly received and welcomed, by young and old alike. A big thank you to the Children's Church team who created this, and to the PCC for part-funding our new equipment and resources! There are some photos on our website.

Please pray for our new Partnership community project, **Kids Matter, a parenting course**, which began this week at St James' Wulfstan Way, and runs for the next six weeks. It will be happening in Cherry Hinton over the summer and at the St John's Centre in the autumn. We are networking with local schools and other Centres, to attract people who would benefit from this excellent opportunity.

Otherwise you are all warmly invited to a **Concert of the Homerton Singers**, our new local Community Choir, at St John's, on **Sunday 8th March at 3pm**. See below for details of the Concert:

"The choir, of Homerton College students and staff as well as members of the public, including St John's parishioners, will perform a variety of music which will include Ennio Morricone's Gabriel's Oboe with soloist Paula Suchantke and a work called Beethoven's Vocalise, based on the first movement of Beethoven's famous Moonlight Sonata for choir and piano which features Angelus Blank, the choir's accompanist. The choir will also be singing two favourite opera chorus, Verdi's Chorus of Hebrew Slaves and Puccini's Humming Chorus (Madam Butterfly), spirituals, folk songs."

Otherwise, during the week of Monday 9th March, St John's will be hosting **Church Schools Week**, with schools from all over Cambridgeshire, coming for a range of educational activities and workshops, on the theme of 'Caring for Creation'.

On Friday 6th March at 7pm at the Mill Road Baptist Church, the **Women's World Day of Prayer** service will take place, with worship drawn from Christians in Zimbabwe. All welcome.

Finally, on Friday 20th March at 7pm **Fundraising Talk at St John's by Nicole Pawellek - Music of the spheres – The link between music and astronomy**. Is our Solar System musical? Find out how much music is hidden in Space and learn about musical astronomy! Catch a glimpse on the wonderful creation of our world. All Welcome, followed by refreshments; fundraising in aid of St John's.

Please be assured of our prayers for you & your family, and for a Holy and life-giving Lent, that you may draw closer to God's heart of love.

With prayers & good wishes

James, Chris

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