

### Saints of the Month: March.

- 1<sup>st</sup> St David. Patron Saint of Wales; died around 600. Founder of 10 monasteries, his relics are preserved in St David's Cathedral, Pembrokeshire. His emblems, the leek and daffodil, are still worn on his feast day.
- 17<sup>th</sup> St Patrick. Patron of Ireland.
- 19<sup>th</sup> St Joseph. Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, patron of fathers and carpenters.
- 20<sup>th</sup> St Cuthbert. Bishop of Lindisfarne.
- 25<sup>th</sup> The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On this day we traditionally celebrate the appearance of the angel to Mary announcing that she would bear the Lord.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**3rd March and following Tuesdays in Lent:** Lent Groups at 8 pm – see the Lent 2019 article below for details.

**8<sup>th</sup> March (Sunday):** Table-top sale of home-made produce – cakes, jam etc.

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*Our regular 'Sunday School':*

**Small Saints:** Every Sunday (depending on staffing) in term time for children up to 10 yrs.



# THE NEWSLETTER

## ALL SAINTS CHURCH Upper Norwood



March 2020

### The Vicar's Monthly Letter

Dear Friends

The season of Lent has always been seen as a time of preparation. The candidates for baptism would use this time to prepare for initiation into the Church during the Easter liturgy. Lent developed over time into a time for spiritual renewal and deepening our understanding of the great mysteries of faith.

The practices of prayer, alms giving and fasting lay bare our motivations and our desires. To give up a meal, not for the sake of getting slimmer and feeling good about ourselves, but to show that we know we do not live on bread alone, is to say that we trust God who provides for our needs, and that we identify with those who have little. To give up a meal, and then to give its equivalent to the food bank is to benefit someone else as well as ourselves. To readdress our giving, to this church and to other organisations, is to show that we know our goods and possessions are not our own. Storing up treasure on earth gets us nowhere eternally.

And, says Jesus, when you pray, go into your room and shut the door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. In the seventeenth century Blaise Pascal, the philosopher, said: "All of humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit quietly in a room alone". Many find the experience of silence to be deeply challenging. Regardless of age, occupation, education or income, the vast majority of people are seriously distressed at being on their own with no distractions for fifteen minutes.

We do not know what to do with silence. It lays us bare. It is not a modern, smartphone addicted, dopamine problem either. Pascal wrote three hundred years ago about humanity's need to be 'distracted'. Perhaps the hardest thing Jesus says is not about giving up food or giving away our money, but that we might be on our own to pray. Public prayer gets a response. Private prayer is just us and God. So how about a Lent challenge. Fifteen minutes of quiet, with no distraction, may be impossible for the majority of the population. But three minutes might be possible. If you take a Gospel and read a chapter and then have some quiet afterwards. Or take a psalm and read it very slowly. Or join our Lent study group reading a chapter each week of our Lent book "I Thirst", by the new Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell.

To give, to fast, to pray, is to expose our motivations and our needs. Jesus assumed we would do this, and was challenging the way people moulded them to fit their needs (for affirmation and popularity rather than growth in faith. It may be uncomfortable. But Jesus also assumes that God is involved in this too. Alms giving lays up treasure in heaven. Fasting will feed us spiritually. Prayer deepens our relationship with God. We do not do them for reward. We do them because that is how we relate to God. We do them to show ourselves where our treasure, and our hearts are. May this Lent show us our need for forgiveness, and may you find opportunity to give, pray and learn.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Leonard Marsh

### All Saints' Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

#### Important Notice

If a parent is considering asking about a Foundation place for their child at All Saints' school they need to let Fr Leonard know well in advance.

Eligibility has to be agreed with Fr Leonard before completing an application form at the school, and is dependent on church attendance.

### Lent 2020

On **Sunday evenings** in Lent (1<sup>st</sup> March to 5<sup>th</sup> April) at 6.30 p.m.: Stations of the Cross. A Meditation on the meaning of the Cross. Everyone is welcome and the service lasts for 30 minutes.

#### Lent group – "I Thirst. The Cross: The Great Triumph of Love" by Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York elect

As usual, these will take place on Tuesdays in Lent 8 p.m.

On Five Tuesdays beginning on **3<sup>rd</sup> March** we will be exploring the above book.

As usual a said mass (7.30 p.m.) will precede the Lent group which will begin at 8 p.m. Please consider taking this opportunity to deepen our faith, hope and love, in the Lenten season.



## CLERGY

### Vicar

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## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Articles etc. for inclusion are most welcome and can be given (in writing) or sent to the editor (details above). Email is preferred but any other medium perfectly acceptable.

## Music Workshops at All Saints - a Reminder

March 14th March and 13th June 2020

These Music workshops by the Music Workshop Company have taken place several times at All Saints - these new workshops differ from previous ones as below. The age range is 6 - 11 years of age, and each session runs from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. If you would like more information please see Fr. Leonard.

The workshops this year will cover song writing and composition. This will be an opportunity for the children to write their own words and music using stories and images to inspire them. The children will also create graphic scores - creating their own musical notation to visually represent their musical ideas. Both days will be fully interactive and will lead to a performance at the end of the day so that parents can hear the work the children have created.

Previous workshops have proved a great success enjoyed by all participants. Please speak to Fr Leonard if you would like to register your children.

## AWARDS

We are pleased to announce that Arabella Coleridge's son Roger and Mandy and Martyn's son Ian have been awarded the MBE. Congratulations to both and their families.

## Rita Johnson

The interment of Rita's ashes in the church yard took place after the 10.00 am Saturday mass on 7<sup>th</sup> March.

Please refer to the December/January edition of this newsletter for Alison Austin's biography and obituary of Rita.

## SERVICES

### All Sundays

8.00 am Said Eucharist  
10.00 am Sung Eucharist

6.30 pm Night Prayer

### Tuesdays

7.30 pm Said Eucharist

### 1st Saturday of month

10.00 am Said Eucharist

## Prayer for the Month: A Meditation for Lent

God is love; and who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.  
We love him because he first loved us  
And this commandment we have from him, that he who loves God loves his brother also.  
Love is patient and kind.  
Love is not jealous or boastful.  
Love is not arrogant or rude.  
Love does not insist on its own way.  
Love is not irritable or resentful.  
Love does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.  
Love bears all things.  
Love hopes and endures all things.  
Love is of God. Everyone who loves is begotten of God and knows God, for God is love.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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### The Church's Website –

[www.allsaintsuppernorwood.co.uk](http://www.allsaintsuppernorwood.co.uk)

**The Church's Facebook page:**  
**All Saints, Upper Norwood**

## St Patrick

Saint Patrick was a fifth-century Romano-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Known as the "Apostle of Ireland", he is the primary patron saint of Ireland, the other patron saints being Brigit of Kildare and Columba. He is venerated in the Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion, the Lutheran Churches, the Old Catholic Church, and in the Eastern Orthodox Church as equal-to-the-apostles and "Enlightener of Ireland".

The dates of Patrick's life cannot be fixed with certainty, but there is broad agreement that he was active as a missionary in Ireland during the fifth century. Nevertheless, a recent biography of Patrick states that a late fourth-century date for the saint is not impossible. Early medieval tradition credits him with being the first bishop of Armagh and Primate of Ireland, and regards him as the founder of Christianity in Ireland, converting a society practising a form of Celtic polytheism. He has been generally so regarded ever since, despite evidence of some earlier Christian presence in Ireland.

According to the autobiographical *Confessio* of Patrick, when he was about 16, he was captured by Irish pirates from his home in Britain (where he was the son of a noble family) and taken as a slave to Ireland, looking after animals; he lived there for six years before escaping and returning to his family. After becoming a cleric, he returned to northern and western Ireland. In later life, he served as a bishop, but little is known about the places where he worked. By the seventh century, he had already come to be revered as the patron saint of Ireland.

Saint Patrick's Day is observed on 17 March, the supposed date of his death. It is celebrated inside and outside Ireland as a religious and cultural holiday.