



THE NEWSLETTER



ALL SAINTS CHURCH Upper Norwood

** February 2021 **



The Vicar's Monthly Letter

Dear friends,

The Covid -19 pandemic is a global health crisis but also an economic one, and has other dimensions that will take time to work through. As we come to the end of the Christmas season with the of the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, we look towards Lent and the preparation that means for our celebration of Holy Week and Easter. It is our custom during Lent to think and discuss together the meaning of the foundations of our faith that these events point to.

This year in our current circumstances we are unable to meet together physically as we normally do, so will meet on Zoom to look at a recently published book that reflects on our present situation. It is *Candles in the Dark* by Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury

'As we contemplate the coming months, not knowing when we can breathe again, it's worth thinking about how already the foundations have been laid for whatever new opportunities God has for us on the far side of this crisis.'

Rowan Williams offers these words of wisdom and many more in *Candles in the Dark*. This powerful and timely book brings together the 26 weekly Christian meditations originally posted online from March to September 2020, during lockdown in the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, for the congregation of his local parish church. *Candles in the Dark* is a book of comfort for anyone looking for the light in these dark times. Written with warmth and compassion, these meditations offer us hope and encouragement as we continue to endure the most devastating and disturbing world crisis for over a generation. They will leave you spiritually uplifted and with a strengthened faith to guide you through whatever may come.

During Lent we also have Stations of the Cross on Sunday evenings - we will also do this on Zoom, and you are warmly invited to keep this meditation of the meaning of the Cross during the Lenten season at 6 p.m. on Sunday evenings.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 17th February with a Mass and the imposition of Ashes at 8 p.m. I hope you will be able to join us for this service.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Leonard

CLERGY

Vicar

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All Saints, Upper Norwood

SERVICES

All Sundays

10.00 am Parish Mass
6.00 pm Holy Communion
(Book of Common Prayer)

Tuesdays

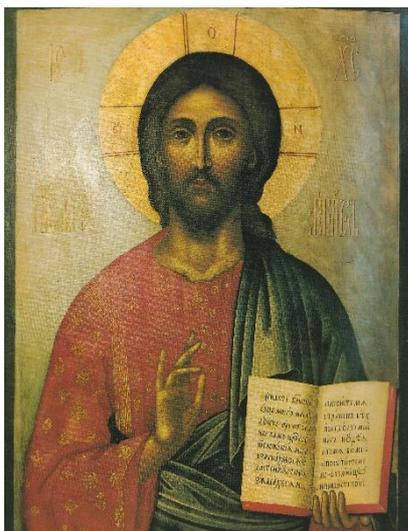
7.30 pm Said Eucharist

1st Saturday of month

10.00 am Said Eucharist

Saints of the Month: February

- 1st St Brigid. The 'Mary of the Gaels', honoured in Ireland second only to St Patrick, died about 523.
- 2nd Candlemass: the Presentation of the Lord/Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary – **we shall celebrate Candlemass at All Saints on Sunday 31st January.**
- 11th Caedmon; monk of Whitby abbey and poet, died. 680.
Also the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.
- 14th St Valentine. Little is known of this early martyr, whose association with love seems to be either because birds were supposed to pair on this day, or perhaps of the Roman pagan feast of Lupercalia.



Lent 2021

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, **17th February**; there will, as customary and in spite of the difficulties of the times, be a Mass in Church, with the Imposition of Ashes, at 8.00pm.

During Lent, a Lent Group will be held via Zoom at 8 pm on Wednesdays up to and including Holy Week, that is on **24th February, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st March**, Everyone is welcome to attend.

We shall be studying a book entitled *Candles in the Dark* by the former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams.

Sunday Evenings during Lent.

Stations of the Cross, on Zoom at 6.00pm.

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.



The Children's Society

For many years All Saints' have supported the work of the Children's Society through home collections (box holders) and for many years a Christingle Service and coffee mornings. Unfortunately, recent circumstances have changed the ways people can contribute to the work of the Society.

I have been the Parish Box holder Secretary for over 20 years and the time has come for me to retire from this role. It is not very hard work and involves encouraging people to have a collecting box at home and once a year I arrange to empty these boxes and send the money to the Children's Society.

Often in normal times it was possible to hold a small coffee morning or gathering where the boxes were emptied and people could get together.

All Saints' had also booked a preacher to come from the Society in April last year, but due to Covid this was cancelled and we hope that the invitation can be renewed once worship is back to "normal". It is always good to hear first hand about the work of an organisation.

I am therefore asking if anyone might be interested or willing to take on this role, which I can explain in more detail and then the name of any volunteer will be put to the Parochial Church Council for final approval. Please don't hesitate to contact me or the Church Wardens if you are interested in helping.

Below is the website link to the Society if you wish to look at it further and I have copied across their aims and included them below.

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/>

"About us:

We are a national charity working to transform the hopes and happiness of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect. We support them through their most serious life challenges and we campaign tirelessly for the big social changes that will improve the lives of those who need hope most. We've been doing this for 140 years and we won't stop until we've built a society where hope is alive in every child

We walk towards the young people that society crosses the road to avoid.

Hope

We see something in these children, that something is:

Hope for a happier home life, hope of getting a job, of getting away from the people who exploit and hurt them.

Hope of overcoming the obstacles modern life puts in front of them and hope that tomorrow can be better than today.

It's right there in the centre of every young person in Britain. Even those who have it toughest of all, those who are exploited, neglected, unsafe.

We see it and we fight for it."

Thank you

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