

www.holycrossmelville.org

NEWSLETTER

February 2015



Transfiguration of Christ.
Church of Our Lady, Bruges
Gerard David (circa 1450)

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

Luke 9:28-31

Church Wardens

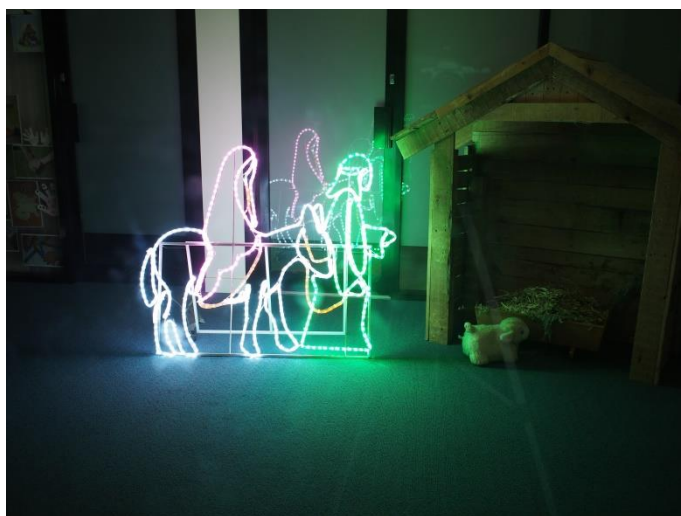


Jill Bowman: m: 0400 519 943



Annette Hare: m: 0414 713 792

Christmas Lights



Christmas 2014 and the new lights at the church. Thanks to all who assisted and especially to Warren who had a “starring role”.

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Welcome To Holy Cross

We would love to welcome you to Holy Cross Church. We hope that you find the worship uplifting and that your relationship with Jesus Christ is enriched through it.

Sunday Club is held on the first Sunday of the month at 9:00 am and crèche facilities are available at the rear of the church. A change table is in the disabled toilet. Nursing mothers can use the front meeting room, access through the hall (door has sign on it).

February sees the start of a new school year and also the start of the Mainly Music and Kids Plus programs.

For those hard of hearing an AUDIO LOOP operates throughout the church area. Please use your "T" setting to make use of this.

Gluten free wafers are available. If you require these please speak to the service leader.

We invite you to stay for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat in the hall after the service.

ANGLICAN CHURCH
of the HOLY CROSS
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Mainly music is a place to meet friends, make new friends, share time with children, sing, dance, laugh, cry, welcome new babies, watch them grow, say goodbye to the little ones going off to school, have a cuppa and a homemade morning tea.

Come on, join us. A great time we can guarantee - we know you will love it!

Mainly Music's first day for 2015 will be Wednesday 4th February starting at 10:30 am.

KidsPlus

KidsPlus is an energetic program for children aged pre-primary to year 3, involving craft, music and games. It is run by friendly, enthusiastic volunteers and it provides a great place for children to enhance their learning and social skills.

The first day for 2015 will be Thursday 5th February starting at 4:00 pm in the Church Hall at 56 McLean Street, Melville.

Sunday Club

A fun welcome to the start of the year was with our lesson involving the 12 Days of Christmas and their relevance to the Bible.

This month we are following Jesus' example of love, and learning how strong a force that can be, both within ourselves and also within our community.

Any children with dress-ups of power (eg. Power Rangers, Super Heroes, even karate), feel free to come along and share the experience this first Sunday of the month.

If possible, could parishioners bring a plate for morning tea afterwards so we can welcome any new families.

Order of St Luke Healing Ministries

The next meeting of the Order of St Luke The Physician Healing Ministries will be taking place on Thursday 5th February 2015 at the 7:30 pm in the Church of the Holy Cross, 56 McLean Street, Melville

Topic: St Bridget of Kildare and healing.
Further information at:
www.osl.org.au or
T: 0438 935 164

Farewell

"We would like to say a big thankyou to our church family that have made us so welcomed and loved with our growing family over the last 3+ years. The church blessing we had with the meal and gifts to remember Perth was lovely. Then the final week with Michael's chocolate cake topped it off. We will truly miss you all and hope to see you all again one day."

Mandy, James,
George, Thomas, James Jnr
& Bump #4



A meeting was held in January with all members of the congregation who wished to have a say about the future of Jumbles invited to attend.

The meeting was held with 9 parishioners attending. The discussion around Jumble was wide ranging. It was decided that Jumble will be changing format this year. Instead of having our regular monthly Jumble Sales there will be three (3) exciting new events to replace them, these being:-

1. Saturday 21st March 2015
Kid's Market
2. Saturday 5th September 2015
Harvest Festival Market
3. Saturday 21st November 2015
Christmas Children's Market

Further updates will be provided closer to the date of each event.

Jumble's have been a regular event at our church since it's foundation. It has been a difficult decision to change.

I would like to thank all the people who over the years have done a immense amount of work putting on the Jumbles, a few words here hardly seems fitting acknowledgement. Thank you to you all.

Peter B

Lenten Studies

We will be offering Lenten Studies on the five Wednesdays of Lent. Come and join an evening with a b.y.o. shared meal followed by a study “Living Water” from World Vision. Studies commence on February 25th at 6:00 pm.

Over the 5 weeks we’ll explore what it means to see Jesus as “living water,” looking at six stories from the Gospel of John. We’ll see how God invites us to be part of His thirst-quenching endeavour, sharing the gift of water with those in need, both literally and figuratively. If you will be attending, please fill in the form provided on the table by the church door.

Ash Wednesday Service

Our Ash Wednesday service for this year will be on 18th February at 9:30 am. The Revd. Lyn Eastoe will be officiating. All are welcome.

Please bring old palm crosses to the church before Sunday the 15th February in preparation. A bowl to place your crosses in will be left on the book cases.

Mothers Union

The first meeting for the Melville branch of Mothers Union will be on Monday 9th February 2015 at 1:00 pm at the Holy Cross.

Tennis Groups

There are several social groups who play tennis regularly on the court and they are looking for more players. If you would like to join them, please contact:

Tuesday mornings from 8:30 to 10:30
June Jones 93393708 or 0407 991 827

Tuesday afternoon – 1:30 to 3: 00
Norm Kidd 9330 4506

Norm Kidd on 9330 4506, for any information to do with the tennis court hire.

Shrove Tuesday is moving to Thursday.

Everyone is invited to join the KidsPlus children and their families for pancakes and games on Thursday the 19th February from 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm. Families from Mainly Music will also be invited. You are encouraged to invite your family and friends as well.

Volunteers are needed for cooking pancakes, making or purchasing mixture. If you can’t cook them you can purchase readymade pancakes. We will also need lemons, sugar and syrup. Please write your name on the form provided (on the table by the church door) if you are coming and/or providing anything.

January Parish Council Report

Fundraising

Council supported the decision to have three specific events during the year to replace the current monthly jumbles. This will mean less physical work for those involved. The three events will be :

- **Easter Kids Market** – 21st March
Table space will be sold to community members wishing to sell children's goods. The Church will have a small table of books etc and a children's ministry table.
- **Harvest/Spring Market** – 5th September. This will be a produce based market with some specific jumble.
- **Christmas Kids Market** – 21st November. Similar to the Easter Kids Market

Other fundraising

- Open Mic night to be held in April
date TBC

Visit by Bishop Kaye and Rev Lionel Snell.

This visit will take place on Friday 6th Feb to meet with Wardens Jill Bowman and Annette Hare to discuss future plans for the parish. The council discussed a way forward call "Fresh Expressions". It was acknowledged it was very important to maintain the traditional service for those who attend however there is a need to provide a fresh expression for those who find the traditional service irrelevant. It is a way of describing the planting of new congregations or churches which are

different in ethos and style from the church which planted them; because they are designed to reach a different group of people than those already attending the original church. There is no single model to copy but a wide variety of approaches for a wide variety of contexts and constituencies. The emphasis is on planting something which is appropriate to its context, rather than cloning something which works elsewhere.

Parish Council supported continuing with the Sunday Supply of Ministers as there is insufficient funds to support even a part time locum. Payments of \$2,000 will be made to the Diocese when funds are available to clear the arrears.

Ash Wednesday services and Lenten studies approved. Wardens reported the reticulation was in need of repair and asked everyone to assist in the watering of the garden until the system is repaired. It is hoped it will be repaired within the next 3 weeks.

Bishop Kay Goldsworthy Farewell Service

A farewell service for Bishop Kay Goldsworthy has been arranged following her appointment as Bishop of Gippsland.

Date: Sunday 15 February 2015
Time: 5:00pm
Venue: St George's Cathedral

Peaceful Cathedrals

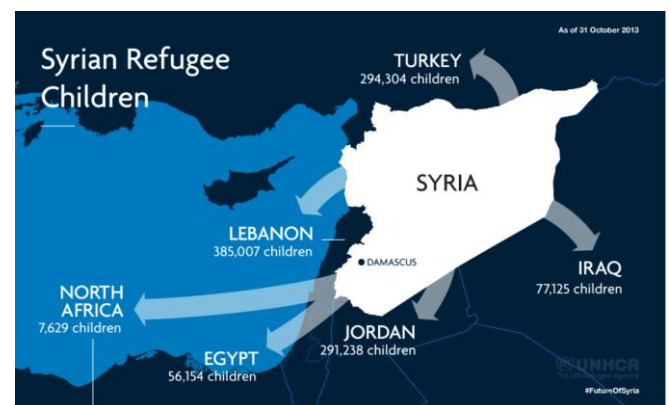


St Georges Cathedral, Perth Western Australia

Cathedrals offer place of peace and prayer in busy lives. The number of people attending midweek services at cathedrals has doubled in the past 10 years, according to recent figures from the Church of England's Research and Statistics department. One of the factors attributed is the need for a place of peace in increasingly busy lives. Midweek attendance at cathedrals was 7,500 in 2003, rising to 15,000 in 2013 (compared to 12,400 in 2012). As the Dean of Lichfield, Adrian Dorber, explains, "At the weekend you've got commitments with children doing sport, shopping, household maintenance – life's run at the double

these days ... Taking out half an hour or an hour every week is much more negotiable." Anecdote to Evidence research published last year showed that the highest motivating factors for Cathedral attendance were peace and contemplation, worship and music and friendly atmosphere. The Dean of York Minster, Vivienne Faull, commented: "If I take a Eucharist at 12.30 in the middle of the week in the nave of York Minster, there'll be a lot of people who just slide in from the side. It's not so much about anonymity, there's the feeling there's a journey you can travel which doesn't require huge steps – it just requires one little step." Stephen Lake, Dean of Gloucester Cathedral, said: "Patterns of church attendance are different now. Cathedrals are uniquely placed to be providing greater opportunities for worship and that includes during the week."

Biggest Refugee Crisis In Modern Times



The present turmoil in the Middle East has produced the worst refugee crisis since the end of the Second World War – but in spite of the huge numbers

involved, we are in danger of forgetting all about them.

That's the view of Jeremy Moodey, CEO of Embrace the Middle East, a Christian charity tackling poverty and injustice in the Middle East. Writing in his blog, Moody explains: "The Reuters news agency suggests that the number of displaced Syrians and Iraqis is now equivalent to the population of London. In fact, it is much worse. Greater London has a population of just over eight million. A closer analogy would be the combined populations of England's three biggest urban areas – London, Birmingham and Manchester."

Embrace is asking for funds to support local Christians throughout the Middle East to provide food, healthcare and education to refugees of all faiths and backgrounds trying to rebuild shattered homes and lives.

Moodey believes that, despite the desperate situation for the 20 million refugees struggling to survive in the Middle East today, there are signs of hope. "The region's small Christian communities are responding to the needs of refugees with a generosity of spirit and an abundance of compassion which is humbling, especially when one considers all the other pressures on Middle East Christians," he said. "The Anglican Diocese's Refuge Egypt project in Cairo, the Middle East Council of Churches' work among refugees in Gaza and the West Bank and the assistance offered by Lebanese Baptists and Catholics to Syrian refugees – these are

just some of the incredible projects deserving of our help."

St Valentine's Day (I)

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century - one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on the saints' day -14 February - the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love - Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

The First Valentine Card?

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison awaiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14 February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'

So the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

St Valentine's Day (II),

Saint Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.

Ash Wednesday Mourning our sins

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday?

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12 – 18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 – 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, *"as having nothing and yet possessing everything."* (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: *"Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..."* (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday is:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Ash Wednesday: a good time to admit you are sorry. Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not

deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.' (Isaiah 55.7)

'Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.' (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it, and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.



"It's not camo paint. It's Ash Wednesday and the chaplain had a heavy hand."

True Fasting



This month sees the beginning of Lent, the 40 days of preparation running up to Easter. Although fasting is one of the neglected disciplines associated with this period, it occupies an important place in the Christian life.

Jesus began his earthly ministry with fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and he also taught his disciples to fast (i.e. not if but when), *'when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.'* (Matthew 6:17/18). We don't fast to manipulate God into doing what we want or to impress others. It is not a command, but a choice we have to make to develop our relationship with God.

What is fasting?

Fasting is voluntarily abstaining from food etc. to focus on God and give time for prayer. Prayer and fasting usually

go hand in hand, as together they glorify God. *'So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer.'* (Ezra 6:23).

What are the benefits of fasting?

Fasting gives us space to humbly focus on God for his strength, provision, and wisdom and results in a more intimate relationship with Christ. As Isaiah points out, it's not self-centred, but part of our care for the poor: *'Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to lose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?'* (Isaiah 58:6). Fasting enables the Holy Spirit to reveal our true spiritual condition, leading to brokenness, repentance, and a transformed life, with a heart more attentive to God.

How do we fast?

Most commonly fasting involves missing one or two meals as part of a day for seeking God. Of course, some can't abstain from food for medical reasons. Fasting might also include refraining from TV, alcohol, sex (cf 1 Corinthians 7:1-5) or whatever may be getting in the way of us being fully focused on God.

'Jesus takes it for granted that his disciples will observe the pious custom of fasting. Strict exercise of self-control is an essential feature of the Christian's life. Such customs have only one purpose - to make the disciples more ready and cheerful to accomplish those things which God would have done.' (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

What is prayer? When is it 'successful'? Bev Shepherd considers what we are really doing when we pray...

Competent Prayer?

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come."' Luke 11:1-2

More often than we would care to admit, our desired objective in prayer is to 'get what we ask for'. If this doesn't happen, we might think that prayer hasn't worked, that its results are, at best, arbitrary, or that we are just not a competent pray-er and so best leave it to those who are! Yet, as P.T. Forsyth points out in *The Soul of Prayer*, 'if we got all we asked for we should soon come to treat Him as a convenience, or the request as a magic. The reason of much bewilderment about prayer is that we are less occupied about faith in God than about faith in prayer'.

The only way to learn how to pray is to pray. And God, through his Spirit, teaches us to pray. Through relationship with God, we come into alignment with his will, which leads to believing declaration, petition or action.

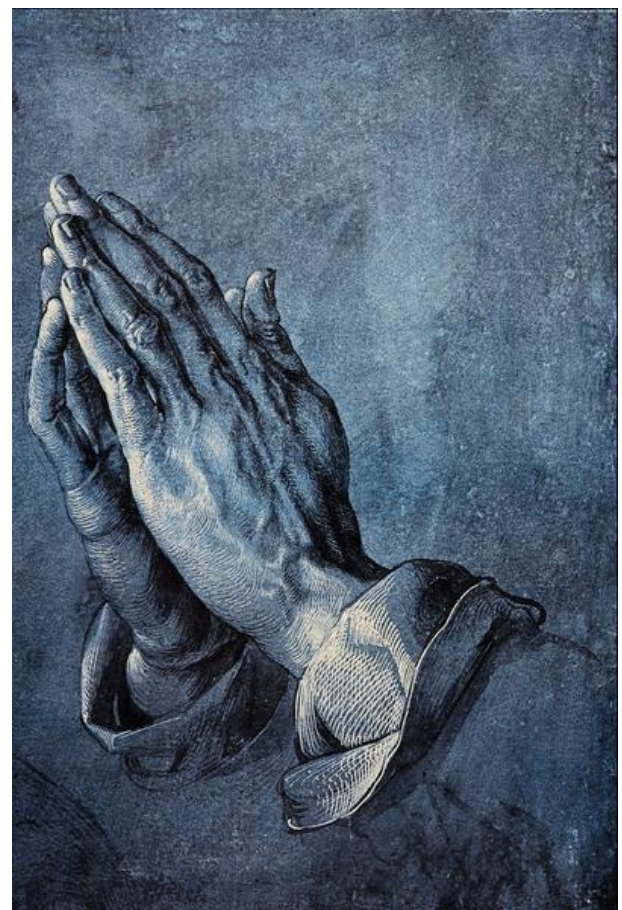
First and foremost, prayer is the primary way we relate to and communicate with God. Without communication we can only know about someone. Prayerlessness

amounts to a rejection of the loving relationship the Father offers.

Then, as we spend time in God's presence, our heart and mind become aligned with his. We begin to see God, ourselves, and the people and situations we're concerned about from God's perspective. Our hearts 'tune in' to his as we pray, causing us to feel his compassion, sense his pleasure, or mourn with him for our workplaces.

Having aligned ourselves with God's perspective we pray, '*Your kingdom come, your will be done*' (Matthew 6:10) with increased understanding and conviction. We may also be given direction as to how to act or speak.

Bev Shepherd works with The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity



Albrecht Dürer Praying Hands 1508

Commuting to Work

Next time you are standing in a crowded train carriage or bus on your way to work, or even cycling or walking there in the rain, consider this: you are better off than those who are driving. Hard to believe? A recent study has found that people who make a regular commute that involves some sort of physical activity are in better mental shape, sleep better, and are happier than those who drive to work.

As one researcher at the University of East Anglia explained: "You might think that things like disruption to services or crowds of commuters might have been a cause of considerable stress. But as buses or trains also give people time to relax, read, socialise, and there is usually an associated walk to the bus stop or railway station, it appears to cheer people up." Another associated study has found that people who give up the car and use bus or train to get to work, lose weight.

Don't Just Sit There!

Are you a desk potato? It seems that eight out of ten office workers may well be headed that way, as they only ever leave their desks during the day in order to go to the lavatory.

A recent study by Weight Watchers, also found that four in ten office workers prefer to email their colleagues a few desks away rather than get up and go over to talk to them.

One health expert warned: "It's worrying to see so many...doing so little... if you are in a sedentary job, it's important to make every effort to move around as much as possible... walk over to your colleagues to talk, take the stairs instead of the lift, get out for a quick walk at lunchtime..."

Food Intolerance

Do you believe that you are intolerant to certain foods? It seems that more than one in five of us could be avoiding certain foods because we have become convinced that we are allergic or intolerant towards them. A survey for the Food and Drink Innovation Network found that dairy and gluten are the most common types of food which we give up.

This has enormous implications: up to a third of all households could by now have had to adapt to having a member of their family either unable or unwilling to eat certain food. This in turn has spawned a phenomenal growth in the industry which supplies us with foods free from gluten, lactose, nuts, or other ingredients.



Stingy?

Are you benevolent or stingy? It seems that people who are benevolent towards others suffer less anxiety than those who are stingy.

In a study at Queensland University in Australia, it was found that in financial bargaining, participants who make the lowest (and therefore stingiest) offers recorded more stress than those who offered more money. One researcher explained: “The results indicated that we have negative feelings when we treat someone unfairly.”

Household Chores

Do you struggle to complete your household chores? Be careful – it may be an indication of just how physically unfit you are becoming. Recent research has found that although nearly half of us rate the way we look as more important than our health, nevertheless we do accept that on average we are probably only about 45 per cent fit.

The study, by Holland and Barratt, found that “Low fitness levels are clearly having an impact on people’s everyday lives...” as during the study one in two respondents admitted that even doing household chores now wore them out.

Good Fruit



When you finish this story, you will want to eat some fruit. It seems that eating just one or two pieces of fruit a day can cut the risk of a heart attack or stroke by up to 40 per cent.

A recent study by Oxford University has found that people who eat fruit daily have a far lower rate of heart disease, and a lower rate of the two main types of stroke. And the more often people ate fruit, the more the risk fell. Another recent study, at Washington State University, has found that an apple a day can also help keep obesity away, as it makes people feel fuller for longer.

Read To Your Grandchildren



Here is the perfect way in which grandparents can help out: read with your grandchildren. This not only helps the children, but also relieves the pressure on hard-working parents.

A recent study has found that some exhausted parents struggle to find even ten minutes a day to read to their children, while juggling work and home commitments. And yet our children need to learn.... the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has found that Britain lags behind Japan, the Netherlands and Australia in terms of literacy.

With Valentine's Day in mind

Marriage requires falling in love many times – always with the same person. - Anon

Marriage is like twirling a baton, turning handsprings, or eating with chopsticks; it looks so easy till you try it. - Helen Rowland

Bullying

If you worry that your child may be being bullied at school, it will more likely be online, rather than in the playground. A recent study has found that nearly 12 per cent of young people said that they had been 'cyberbullied' as opposed to nine per cent who said they had been bullied face to face. The findings mark a shift since the previous study, held in 2010. That found that 16 percent of children reported bullying face to face, and eight percent online.

Researchers at EU Kids Online research programme at LSE university, believe that the rise of smartphones could be to blame. Children are now online constantly, "and it is really hard to escape. That is the new phenomenon. Kids are on their Facebook 24/7."

Is Your Nest Still Full?

A quarter of British people over the age of 50 still have adult children living at home – almost half of them without making any contribution to household bills. In fact, many parents are spending just over £3,700 a year to feed and house their over-18 offspring, who have been stranded at the parental home by crippling house prices and university debts.

Other parents are helping out by lending money to children who have moved out.

The problem with young people who cannot afford to fly the nest is now so

widespread that financial experts are warning that members of the baby boomer generation could be jeopardising their retirement prospects with their generosity to their grown-up children.

But as a spokesperson for MetLife UK, who commissioned the research, says, “helping out family is a powerful motivation for parents...”

Do You Trust Your Neighbour?

In the good old days, we’d inform our neighbours when we were going away, and leave them a spare set of keys, asking them to water the plants and take in the post.

Not so much nowadays, it seems. Now more than three in four of us say that we would not trust their neighbours with a set of keys. Almost a quarter of us do not even tell the neighbours when we are going away, and more than 90 per cent of us would not allow neighbours into our home to open and close curtains or to water the plants. Evander, a locks and glazing specialist, carried out the research.



With Valentine’s Day in mind....

Marriage requires falling in love many times – always with the same person. - Anon

Marriage is like twirling a baton, turning handsprings, or eating with chopsticks; it looks so easy till you try it. - Helen Rowland

What woman, however old, has not the bridal favours and raiment stowed away, and packed in lavender, in the inmost cupboards of her heart? - William M Thackeray

Life has taught us that love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking outward together in the same direction. - Antoine De Saint-Exupery

Oh, if it be to choose and call thee mine, Love, thou art every day my Valentine! - Thomas Hood

A woman is a man’s solace, but if it wasn’t for her, he probably wouldn’t need any solace. - P Burns

Two heads are better than one. - Homer (Iliad)

The heart has its reason, which reason knows not, as we feel in a thousand instances. -Blaise Pascal

Dates For Your Diary



Tue 3 February

09:00 am Bible Study
(at the Church)

Wed 4 February

10:30 am Mainly music

Thur 5 February

04:00 pm Kids Plus
07:00 pm Order of St Luke

Mon 9 February

01:00 pm Mothers Union

Wed 11 February

10:30 am Mainly music

Thu 12 February

04:00 pm Kids Plus

Sun 15 February

05:00 pm Bishop Kay Farewell Service
at St Georges Cathedral

Tue 17 February

09:00 am Bible Study
(at the Church)

Wed 18 February

10:30 am Mainly music

Thu 19 February

04:00 pm Kids Plus
05:30 pm Pancakes

Wed 25 February

10:30 am Mainly music
06:00 pm Lenten Studies

Thu 26 February

04:00 pm Kids Plus

February sees the beginning of Lent. It is the time of year when the Church encourages people to take spiritual stock of themselves, and to seek a deeper commitment to God.

With Lent in mind...

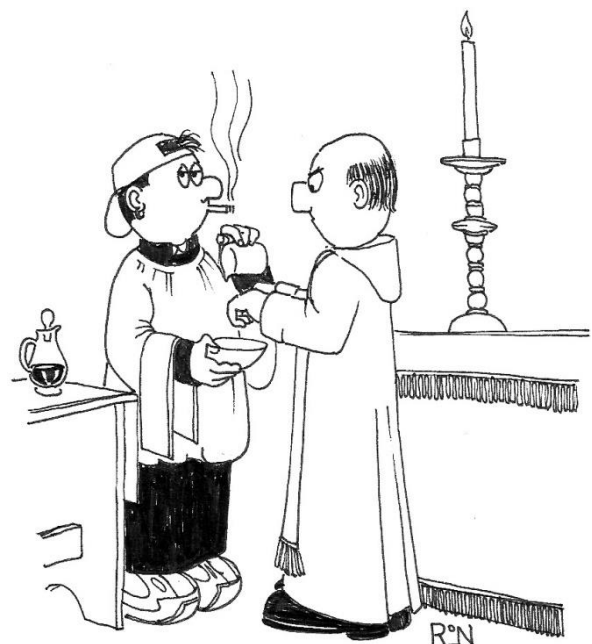
Every action of our lives touches on some chord that will vibrate in eternity.
- E H Chapin

It is dangerously possible for activity to be no more than a dizzy whirl around a central emptiness. - Anon

God would not rub so hard, were it not to fetch out the dirt and spots that be in his people. - Thomas Brooks

God denies a Christian nothing but with a design to give him something better.
- Richard Cecil

It is not great talents that God blesses, so much as great likeness to Jesus. - Robert Murray M'Cheyne



Things had become pretty slack during the interregnum

St. James The Least Of All

On the peculiarities of ordination candidates

My dear Nephew Darren

I was quite happy to see the young person from your church whom you are encouraging to get ordained – even though we did not entirely see eye to eye.

When I answered the door to someone dressed in T-shirt, jeans and trainers, I naturally assumed he was the gardener; it was only after I had given him the wheelbarrow and shown him where the spades were, that I found out who he really was. His assurance that this is how Jesus would dress, were he to visit in person again, jarred somewhat. I think that a three-piece suit and stout pair of brogues would be far more likely. We agreed to differ.

I moved on to ask him about the Sunday Services he attended and was interested to hear that he was a church musician. Wanting to know if he sang tenor or bass, or even played the organ, he told me that he was the drummer in the worship band and provided backing vocals. I felt obliged to comment that I was not sure how that would fit in with Mattins, but he told me that he had never heard of that Service and only attended Mega Rock Praise. Since I suspected it would not have been written by Cranmer, we moved on.

I had hoped we may have been on safer ground when I asked him whether he preferred early perpendicular or Victorian gothic, but as he had apparently only ever worshipped in your converted cinema, he was unable to offer any opinion. His reaction to my offer to show him round our late Norman church, prompted him to tell me that he believed all churches should be closed and people should gather in each other's homes, like the early Christians.

In a last despairing attempt to find common ground I asked him if he had ever preached. He was slightly apologetic to admit that he had done so very rarely, as he found it took such a long time to write an hour-long sermon. When I mentioned that I did not think I had ever exceeded eight minutes in my entire life, he gave me such a look of withering astonishment that with heroic Christian charity, I did not beat him over the head with the Bible he was carrying.

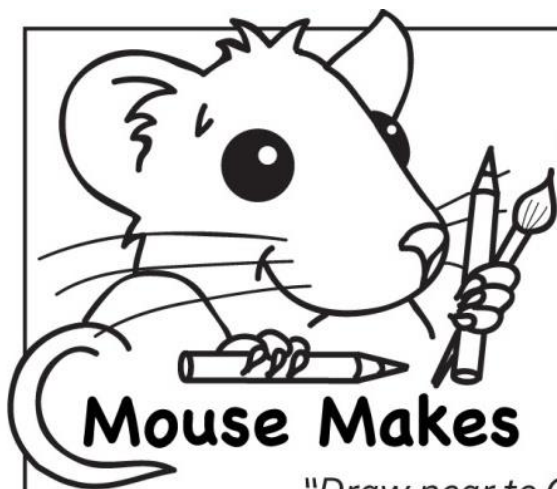
Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Rosters from Sunday 1st February 2015 to Sunday 29th March 2015

Date	Media	Money	Reading	Prayers	Communion	Altar	Flowers	Morning Tea
1 st Feb	Peter B	Betty SG & Pat	Jill	Jill	Jill	Sheri	Betty R	Joy & Frank
8 th Feb	Mike A	Betty SG & Pat	Annette	Betty R	Annette	Sheri	Adele	Betty R & Annette
15 th Feb	Peter B	Betty SG & Pat	Betty SG	Jill	Adele	Sheri	Joy	Adele & Michael
22 nd Feb	Mike A	Betty SG & Pat	Beryl	Beryl	Beryl	Sheri	Betty R	Hazel & Annette
01 st Mar	Peter B	Betty SG & Pat	Jill	Jill	Jill	Ida	Adele	Joy & Frank
8 th Mar	Mike A	Betty SG & Pat	Pat T	Betty R	Annette	Ida	Joy	Margaret & Ida
15 th Mar	Peter B	Betty SG & Pat	Michael	Beryl	Adele	Ida	Betty R	Betty R & Annette
22 nd Mar	Mike A	Betty SG & Pat	Beryl	Beryl	Beryl	Ida	Adele	Adele & Michael
29 th Mar	Peter B	Betty SG & Pat	Norma T	Jill	Jill	Ida	Joy	Hazel & Annette

Note

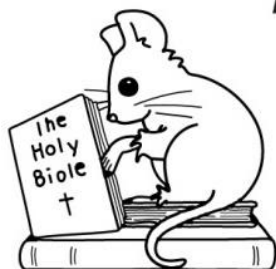
If you are unable to fulfil your roster duty on your rostered day, please try to find someone to swap with.
If you cannot find anyone, please call Annette or Jill.



The 40 days before Easter are called **LENT**. Lent is a time for Christians to pray, read the bible and turn to God.



During Lent read Matthew's Gospel

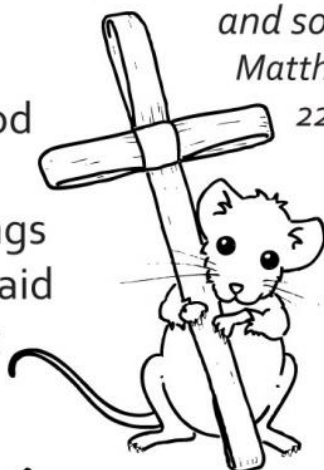


The first day of Lent is **ASH WEDNESDAY**

It is a day of **repentance**, a day for saying **sorry** to God for any wrong things you have said or thought or done.

"Draw near to God"
James 4:8

"Love God with all your heart, mind and soul"
Matthew 22:37



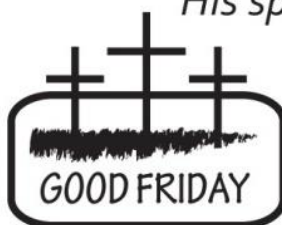
LENT CALENDAR
Colour in a square each day to Easter



ALLELUIA!

During Lent **pray** for someone, **encourage** someone and **tell** someone about Jesus

The Lord is here,
His spirit is with us



I don't have to stay the same!

The wonderful good news of the Christian story is that I don't have to stay the same! Jesus helps me to be different! I don't have to be tied down to the rubbish of the past - either because of things I have done, or things that others have done to me.



...Jesus came ... "to bring good news to the poor." ..

Through the power of Jesus I AM free! He forgives and forgets all my sin if I really bring it all to him. I am still the same 'me' but I am a new person - spiritually free and spiritually alive!

That's what Jesus was getting at in Luke 4: 18-19. This is his life-changing message.

Maybe there are things he can set you free from too...

Read about it!

And go for it!!



..."to free the oppressed ...the blind... the prisoners..."



..."and now God is going to set people free in a whole new way!" (Luke 4: 18-19)

Christmas 2014

Our Children's Crib Service was well attended, with standing room only.

Lots of Shepherds, Sheep, Angels and of course a couple of Wise Men.



Service Times

Sun 1 February (Green)

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

09:00 am Service and
Children's Sunday Club
Deuteronomy 18: 15-20,
1Corinthians 8: 1-13
Mark 1: 21-28

Wed 4 February (Green)

09:30 am Prayers
Ps 78: 16-38,
Genesis 19: 12 – 29,
Luke 2 8-21

Sun 8 February (Green)

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

09:00 am Service
Isaiah 40:21-31,
1Corinthians 9: 16-23,
Mark 1: 29-39

Wed 11 February (Green)

09:30 am Prayers
Pss 95:96,
Genesis 24: 50-67,
Luke 4: 31-44

Sun 15 February (Green)

Transfiguration

09:00 am Service
2 Kings 2: 1-12,
2Corinthians 4: 3-12,
Mark 9: 2-9

Service Times

Wed 18 February (Violet)

Ash Wednesday

09:30 am Service
Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17,
Ps: 51:1-7
2Corinthians 5: 20b-6:10,
Mathew 6: 1-6 (7-15) 16-21

Sun 22 February (Violet)

First Sunday in Lent

9:00 am Service
Genesis 9: 8-17,
1Peter 3: 18-22,
Mark 1: 9-15

Wed 25 February (Violet)

09:30 am Prayers
Ps 135,
Genesis 41: 1-36,
Luke 11: 45-12: 7

Sun 1 March (Violet)

Second Sunday in Lent

09:00 am Service and
Children's Sunday Club
Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16,
Romans 4: 13-25
Mark 8: 31-38

Wed 4 March (Violet)

09:30 am Prayers
Ps 11; 12,
Genesis 44: 1-17,
Luke 13: 10-21