

Vicar



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Organist

Andrew Wells

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Sundays:

8 a.m. Holy Communion

10 a.m. Family Eucharist & Sunday School

Mondays:

6 p.m. Guided Meditation (Side Chapel)

Tuesday - Friday

8 a.m. Morning Prayer

6 p.m. Evening Prayer

6.30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Also on Wednesday:

Holy Communion 12 noon.

Saturday:

Morning Prayer 8 a.m.

Eucharist 8.30 a.m.

Evening Prayer 6 p.m.

Confessions are heard by appointment

Administrative Assistant

We are anxiously looking for someone who could give about an hour a week to the Parish Office on a simple 'office type' task, the requirements are some numeracy and the ability to attend the office regularly. If you can help please let me know.

Forward Planning

In order to get some dates in your diary can I please just let you know about important events coming up in the near future?

March 14th 'Thinking outside of the Envelope'. **A Christian Aid Week** planning meeting. 2:30pm in the Community Space.

22nd Mothering Sunday, special celebration during the 1000hrs service.

29th Annual Parochial Meeting after the 1000hrs Eucharist.

April 5th Palm Sunday Main Eucharist begins at 0950hrs. Evening Service 1800hrs

10th Good Friday

12th Easter Sunday

23rd St Georges Day Patronal Eucharist, Celebration Eucharist at 1930hrs. Preacher; The Area Dean Dr Mark Hargreaves; guests include the Mayor of the Royal Borough.

25th St Georges tide Festival Concert at 1930hrs.

The St George's Times

Aubrey Walk, London, W8



1st Sunday of Lent

1st March 2009

WELCOME TO ST GEORGE'S

Come, you who have much faith and you who have little, and you who have not been for a long time, you who have been here often, you who have tried to follow and you who feel you have failed.

Come, not because I invite you, but because God does; and, as you are welcomed, go, and welcome others.

We welcome you to our worship this morning.

We hope God's Holy Spirit will touch your heart and that you may be strengthened by Word and Sacrament.

The Gospel this week - Mark 1: 9 – 15

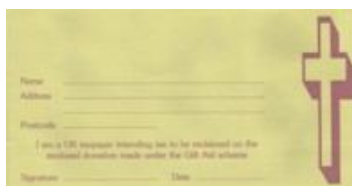


At this time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. The moment he came out of the water, he saw the sky split open and God's Spirit, looking like a dove, come down on him. Along with the Spirit, a voice: "You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life." At once, this same Spirit pushed Jesus out into the wild.

For forty wilderness days and nights he was tested by Satan. Wild animals were his companions, and angels took care of him. After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee preaching the Message of God: "Time's up! God's kingdom is here. Change your life and believe my Message."

Most of us live lives full of clutter – not just the tangible kind. We are God's servants in God's world, and it takes time away from the clutter we have created to get back to God's vision for what He has created. For His part in this, Jesus needed all that Mark shows us in this reading; the empowering of the Holy Spirit, the affirmation of the heavenly voice and the time of testing away from the crowds. In this desert space, the true nature of the conflict is made known – as is the bountiful provision for those who depend upon God alone.

Gift-Aid



Well done St Georges. Last year we achieved an enormous amount by converting our giving into Gift-Aid donations!! I would make one little plea. We could achieve more if everyone using the envelopes put there name address on them and signed them. Without this they are of no value to us. One of the ways of getting around this is to sign a Gift-Aid declaration; this would mean you would only have to enter your name and postcode, sign and date it. Better still how about a standing order via your bank. Forms at the back of the church. But thank you once again!!

St George's Festival Concert

St George's Church, Saturday 25th April 2009: 7:30pm.
More information & leaflets at the back of the church.

Lent: The great preparation



In the uncertain state of our world it may be opportune to reflect upon the great season of Lent that has just begun. Let's not look at it as a time of 'giving up' or even of 'taking up' as I often suggested! We could profitably use this as a time of spiritual, mental and physical 'stock taking'. Where are we in our lives? Where are we going and who are we travelling with? Where does God come into this? One of the things I

hope that the church can do, is to help you in this process!

Sacramental confession is the first thing I would suggest, both at the beginning and end of Lent. This is not only an opportunity for a thorough self-examination but a powerful defence against the temptations that come our way. You do not, of course, have to come to me for this but I can guide you where to go. Look upon confession as part of your plan for the stock-take of your life!

Lent: The great preparation - cont

Daily Prayer is vital. To help in this I am running a series of discussions on the topic '**What are we doing when we pray?**' on **Tuesdays after the evening Eucharist at 7.15pm**. Please plan to come and participate even if this is 'not the sort of thing you usually do' The group will last about an hour and a quarter. Morning Prayer is said every day, except Sunday at 8am. Why not buck the routine and come along?

The Eucharist. Lent is a very good time to add a weekday attendance to your diary. The mid-week services are rather more intimate and quietly reflective. They are every day **Tuesday – Friday at 6.30pm** and last for 30 minutes. Why not try one? There is an additional service of Holy Communion on **Wednesday at 12noon**. This is followed every Wednesday during Lent by a soup + cheese lunch and a gentle **Bible Study** into St Luke.

Spiritual Readings. An ancient custom is to take a spiritual book for regular reading during Lent. This year I am suggesting three books. Two may well surprise, even shock you. It is a book that a year ago I would have despised. It is a book in which God appears as a rather fuller-than-life black woman and the Holy Spirit an oriental woman, with Jesus still a carpenter. The book is American Christian fiction and called, '**The Shack**'. **Copies are available at the back of the church at £5.99 each.** The second is a book by a remarkable American woman called **Sara Miles** and the book is, **Take This Bread**. A remarkable story, that may well shock some, of a woman's faith and her determination to get things done for the marginalised around her! Read it if you dare! Copies £9.99 each. The third book is yet another plug for **Archbishop Rowan's book 'Tokens of Trust'** a truly great book, read properly.

New style of worship. On **Saturdays** in Lent at **5.30pm** we are extending the evening prayer time from St John's Church on a Monday to St George's. This will be a more free flowing time than many of you are used to and will include Taize music, readings and silence, lots of candles and a little incense. Why not give it a try rather than dismiss it as not being for you??