

CANDLEMAS CELEBRATION AT ST PAUL'S

Parish Magazine



March 2022

St Paul's Church, Church Hill, London N21 IJA

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Dear Friends

The only regular service at St Paul's which has seen marked decline over the past couple of years has been the Wednesday morning Holy Communion. Many of the 'regulars' at this service have, sadly, died, or are too infirm to attend frequently.

During Lent we are going to trial having this service at a slightly later time -12.30pm - and to use the same rite as we use at the 9.15am and 10.30am Sunday Eucharists, in the hope of better attendance. I thought I'd use my magazine letter this month to encourage you to come!

Midweek celebrations of the Eucharist are a jolly good thing. While Christians are obliged to attend divine worship on Sundays, a midweek Communion is a reminder that the Church's rhythm of praise and prayer continues throughout the week. It provides a quieter, more reflective space in which to celebrate the sacred mysteries. While the music and ceremonial of our Sunday celebrations give glory to God, the simplicity of a said celebration allows us to focus on the Word of God and the sacramental presence of Jesus in different ways.

And, from a purely selfish perspective, these quieter celebrations are essential to my life as a priest. I love the Eucharist on Sunday. But the quieter celebration in the week is one in which I am unencumbered by the necessary distractions of presiding over a larger celebration. ('Why is the sound system making a buzzing noise?' 'Who's meant to be leading the prayers?' 'Which verse of this hymn does the recession need to begin?' And a thousand other things which go through my head...) At a simple said Eucharist, lasting just twenty to twenty five minutes, I connect with God differently. Yet these quieter celebrations still rely on there being people in attendance, and, if I'm honest, one of my sadnesses is that, in a parish with over 400 adults on the electoral roll, and often more than 250 people in church on a Sunday morning, our average attendance on a Wednesday stands between two and three. And that includes me.

So why not make the Wednesday Eucharist part of your discipline this Lent? I promise you won't regret it.

With my love and prayers Fr Daniel 4

Services in March 2022

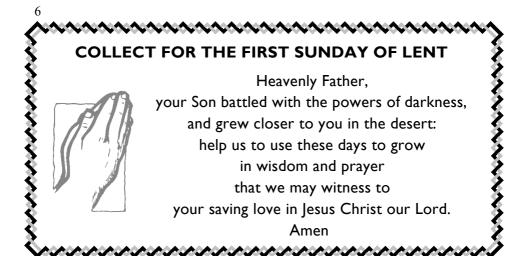
Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are said publically Monday-Thursday at 9am and 5pm



The church is open for private prayer Monday-Thursday from 9am to 5.15pm

Day	Date	Observance	Time	Services	Prayer Intention
Т	1	St David			The people of Wales
w	2	ASH WEDNESDAY	9am	St Paul's School Service	The keeping of a good Lent
			12.30pm	Said Eucharist	
			8pm	Sung Eucharist	
Т	3				Those preparing for the
					sacraments of initiation
F	4				Peace and reconciliation
S	5				Victims of crime
S	6	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF	8am	Said Eucharist	Our parish and its people
-	-	LENT	9.15am	Joyful Noise Eucharist	
			10.30am	Sung Eucharist	
м	7	Ss Perpetua and Felicity			The persecuted church
т	8				Members of Parliament
w.	9		12.30pm	Said Eucharist	The environment
T	10		7.30pm	Paula Gooder Finding	Enfield Deanery
· .	10		7.50pm	Nourishment in the	Enpeld Deanery
				Wilderness: Reflections on Lent in dark times	
-				on Lent in Oark times	The second second
F	11				Those preparing for ordination
S	12		_		The unemployed
s	13	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF	8am	Said Eucharist	Our parish and its people
		LENT	9.15am	Joyful Noise	
			10.30am	Sung Eucharist	
			12noon	Holy Baptism	
			6pm	Choral Evensong	
М	14				Our PCC
Т	15				Prisoners of conscience
w	16		12.30pm	Said Eucharist	Churches Together
			7.15pm	Churches Together	
				Lent talk (URC)	
Т	17	St Patrick	7.15pm	Meditation	The people of Ireland
F	18				Those suffering with Covid-19
S	19	St oseph			Foster parents
S	20	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF	8am	Said Eucharist	Our parish and its people
		LENT	9.15am	oyful Noise Eucharist	
			10.30am	Sung Eucharist	
м	21				Racial equality
T	22				The environment
w.	23		12.30pm	Said Eucharist	Food banks
Ť	24		12.30pm	School Eucharist	St Paul's School
·	27			Meditation	St Foul's School
F	25	THE ANNUNCIATION OF	7.15pm 9am	Said Eucharist	les in the larger stire
۲.	2		74111	Said Eucharist	Joy in the Incarnation
<u> </u>	24	OUR LORD TO THE BVM			
S	26	FOURTURING A SELECT			Victims of human trafficking
S	27	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	8am	Said Eucharist	Our parish and its people
		Mothering Sunday	9.15am	Joyful Noise	
			10.30am	Sung Eucharist (Parade)	
			12noon	Holy Baptism	
М	28				Family life
Т	29				Peace in the Middle East
w	30		12.30pm	Said Eucharist	The elderly
Ŧ	31		7.15pm	Meditation	Those in fuel poverty

Wednesday 2 March 2022 ST PAUL'S CHURCH Ash Wednesday the beginning of Lent **Eucharist** with the imposition of ashes 12.30pm (said) 8pm (sung) viest. Endue thy Ministers with a ST PAUL'S CHURCH And make thy chosen people And bless thine inbende ople in our time to the context swer. P. And bless thine inheritance Give peace in our time inheritance Because there is none of of the othere is none of the sr. Give peace in our time for us, but only there is hone of lord O God, make clean our head hour head. Sunday 13 March 2022, 6pm for us, but only thou, o cood, make clean our hearts within And take not thy Holy Spirit from **CHORAL** EVENSONG FOR LENT towers in which for the example oning prover without a last Coll diteration Including music by Purcell, Farrant and S. S. er ar Evening Prayer. Wesley the all holy desires all Preacher: The Revd Anna Stuttard Priest-in-Charge, St Aldhelm's, Edmonton



99TH BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS TO RENE SATCHEL

Rene, who has been a much loved member of St Paul's Church for many years, celebrated her 99th birthday on Sunday 20th February with a party at her home for family, friends and neighbours.

Rene received many cards and gifts to mark this special day and she was serenaded with a rousing chorus of 'Happy birthday to you', sung by all of the guests.





THERE WILL BE A PARISH COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 5th MARCH 10.30 TO 12 NOON IN THE PAULIN ROOM (BACK HALL) EVERYONE WELCOME.

Our coffee mornings are always a good chance to catch up with friends and meet new people over a cup of coffee and some homemade cake. There will be craft activities for children.

LUMINARIES: TWENTY LIVES THAT ILLUMINATE THE CHRISTIAN WAY BY ROWAN WILLIAMS



CHARLES DICKENS 1812 TO 1870

Last Eastertide an article appeared in the Church Times by Canon Rod Garner examining 'the dichotomy that was Charles Dickens'. This caught my attention as my knowledge of his life and novels is minimal. I believe his childhood was not unhappy until his father's work meant a transfer to London, followed by financial troubles which led to Dickens cutting short his education and having to work in a factory sticking labels on jars.

It was his successful efforts to become a writer that drew him out of poverty. He began by writing articles followed by a story, written in serial form for a magazine. This is how Pickwick and his Friends began to be known, rather as in today's soaps on television.

Dickens married in his early 20s and eventually he and his wife had 10 children. In the early years of his marriage he appears energetic and exuberant and, unusually for that time, always celebrating Christmas not just by attending church but by inviting friends for meals and parties and going to great lengths to entertain his children. He did not forget his children's spiritual needs and wrote a book 'The life of our Lord' as an encouragement that they should be merciful, kind and forgiving.

As the family grew and his status in society, so did his needs to increase his earnings. This gave him the impetus to write 'A Christmas Carol' which, although a resounding success, did not make as much profit as he hoped because he had insisted on coloured pictures and a high quality product that made it expensive. A Christmas Carol came at the right time, reflecting the change beginning in public opinion. It was also a book which was about redemption. Even a character like Scrooge, who had done so much to make himself and others unhappy, could see the error of his ways and change before it was too late and, where necessary, make restitution and find forgiveness.

Unfortunately Dickens could not deal with his own life with such clarity. Outwardly he appeared as a successful novelist and entertainer. He

travelled around this country and also travelled in North America, reading extracts from his novels. Although his wife accompanied him on one tour to America, his relationship with her deteriorated. He made derogatory remarks about her in public and at one point even tried to put her into a mental asylum, a strategy not unknown in Victorian times. We can only guess as to how this situation came about.

Dickens by his own estimation was incapable of rest - 'much better to die doing'. In addition to his writing and reading tours he accepted endless invitations to campaign against social evils and also accepted and enjoyed lunches and receptions. He was unstintingly generous to individuals and organisations. He spent twelve years working tirelessly to establish a refuge where young women were helped to turn their lives around.

We know almost nothing of Mrs Dickens's life but that it probably resembled the lives of many middle-class women, except that she had a husband who was becoming a celebrity and a workaholic and who had less and less time for home and family. Also Dickens had a longstanding affair with an actress Nelly Ternan, twenty-seven years his junior. This was only possible through meticulous subterfuge. We do not know if this this started or encouraged the really bad treatment of his wife, but there may have been a connection. Canon Garner wrote concerning Dickens's treatment of his wife, 'all this caused incalculable pain and misery to their children. On one occasion Dickens confessed his failures to his daughter Katey. Much later she recorded that she knew things about her father's character which no one else knew. "He was not a good man but he was not a fast man; he was wonderful!"

If the example of Jesus inspired Dickens philanthropy, frequently the church drew on the savagery of his pen. For four years, possibly as a possibly as a measure of his exasperation, he joined the Unitarians, who deny the divinity of Christ.

'Dickens espoused a practical Christianity. The historical truth of the Gospels, the saving power of the cross and the hope of resurrection mattered much less to him than the need to make life better for those who, through no fault of their own, had fallen short of the Victorian Creed of respectability and self-improvement. There was something about Dickens as he set about this work. The fusion of his .'

genius and personal magnetism with his passion for social reform proved irresistible.'

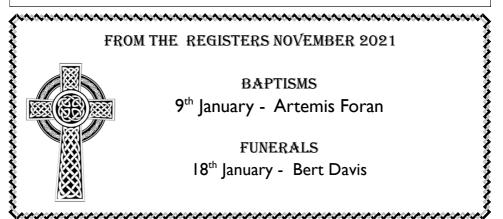
Although I began this article with reference to the dichotomy that was Charles Dickens, in 'Luminaries; twenty lives that illuminate the Christian way', Rowan Williams explores Dickens through his novels, which he sees as an attempt to tell the truth about human beings by exaggeration and caricature. Williams wrote 'Dickens is the enemy not so much of an unjust view of human beings as of a boring view. He loved the poor and destitute not so much from a sense of duty as from a sense of outrage that their lives were being made flat and dead. He wanted them to live. He wanted them to expand into the space that should be available for human beings to be what God meant them to be.'

Novels not only help people to understand situations they have not had to face personally, they can also reveal something of the inner thoughts and character of the writer. In Dickens's novels, we find characters who are fettered by living a life of deception, those who cannot change for the better because they cannot admit to even themselves that they can be wrong or mistaken, and those who see their stubbornness as fortitude.

In a way it seems strange that the author of A Christmas Carol could not see his own need to repent, but perhaps Dickens saw Scrooge as representing the hypocrisy he believed existed in the lives of those who profess to be Christians yet would do so little to reveal the suffering and injustice of the times. Dickens wrote for his children, 'we may confidently hope that God will forgive us our sins and mistakes and enable us to live and die in peace'. Rowan Williams writes about Dickens, ' a man then, who portrays human beings excessively and extravagantly, a man who portrays humans beings in hell, and yet, when we read him, it does not read like bad news. What does he have to say at the end of the day about redemption? In some ways not a great deal. Or rather, there is a tension again and again in his books between a carefully, neatly resolved, happy ending and an immense burden of recognised, almost unbearably, unresolved suffering'.

However, in the character of Sir Leicester in Bleak House, Dickens portrays a character who stubbornly holds open the possibility of forgiveness and restoration and who on his deathbed says with regard to his wife who fled from him in guilt and terror, 'I revoke no dispositions I have made in her favour'. Rowan Williams writes 'the image of the hope of God's forgiveness is expressed in its most shocking vividness in that lonely figure stubbornly holding the door open, revoking no disposition made in our favour. Powerless to enforce love or justice and yet indestructibly, even extravagantly, offering the only kind of love that is appropriate to the extravagant and excessive nature of human beings. An utterly unreasonable compassion, which, because of its utter unreasonableness, can change everything.' Perhaps Dickens in the end did not know how to change or put right any of the past but still clung to the hope of God's forgiveness.

Revd Christine Morton



MARCH 2022 FLOWER ROTA

There will be no flower decorations in church during Lent

26th March The Flower Group will meet in Church to prepare flowers for Mothering Sunday

Our Flower Arranging Organizer, Adele Houldsworth, would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to join the team. Both experienced flower arrangers and novices welcomed. To learn more about the group contact Adele on 020 8360 3676.



"Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-finding or finger-pointing but because he wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out, ready for all the good things he now has in store." N. T. Wright

Join us this Lent at St Paul's. We're offering a variety of services and events, from simple services and silent meditation to engaging talks with high profile speakers and the full beauty of Anglican liturgy. We hope these resources help you to enter into the mystery of Lent, and draw you closer to Jesus.

All services and events are free and take place at St Paul's Church, unless stated otherwise.

Midweek Eucharist

Why not make a midweek celebration of Holy Communion part of your Lenten discipline this year?

This simple, said service, lasting 25 minutes, including a short homily, has been moved to a later time during Lent so that it easily fits into your lunchbreak if you're working from home!

Every Wednesday 12.30pm



Paula Gooder Finding Nourishment in the Wilderness: Reflections on Lent in dark times

Dr Paula Gooder is one of the UK's most exciting and engaging biblical scholars, marrying an exceptional knowledge and understanding of the New Testament with a passion is to ignite people's enthusiasm for reading the Bible today. She is Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral. This talk is part of a Enfield Deanery Synod meeting hosted here.



Thursday 10th March 7.15pm for 7.30pm

Lent Prayers and Meditation

Finding God in the silence. A time of prayerful silence and reflection organised by our Pastoral Team. As well as a time of silence, each week there will be a reading, some intercessions and a Taizé chant.

Thursdays 17th, 24th and 31st March

7.45pm lasting 45 minutes



Bishop Rob Wickham: Lent in the 21st century

A Lent talk organised by Churches Together in Winchmore Hill, Palmers Green and Grange Park, drawing together Christians from different denominations in the local area. The Bishop of Edmonton reflects on living Lent in the contemporary world.

Tuesday 15th March 7.15pm

Winchmore Hill United Reformed Church, Compton Road



Nistisima Georgina Hayden in conversation

Georgina Hayden discusses her new book Nistisima, inspired by 'fasting food' - food eaten during Lent and other times of fasting observed by those of Orthodox faith. She will be talking to Fr Daniel Sandham, and together they'll be exploring fasting in different traditions. Includes samples of Georgina's food!

Wednesday 6th April 8pm

Tickets (free) required



Tips for keeping a good Lent

Lent is a period of 40 days, mirroring the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, when we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Lord's passion, death and resurrection at Easter. It is a season of penitence and self-denial. Here are few tips for keeping a good Lent:

Fasting: Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent are days of fasting and abstinence. It's traditional to eat and drink sparingly on these days, and to miss a main meal. Donate the money you save to charity. (Children, pregnant women and those with health needs shouldn't fast unless it's safe to do so.)

Make your confession: Some people find the practice of confessing their sins in the presence of a priest, and receiving sacramental absolution, a helpful way of 'spring-cleaning the soul' during Lent. Contact

Fr Daniel to make an appointment, or he can put you in touch with another priest if you'd rather make your confession to someone you don't know.

Give something up / take something up: Lots of people give something up for Lent. Make sure it's something which helps you grow in your faith. Use the time and money you would have spent to help you grow in discipleship, and/or to help those in need. You could take something up to replace that which you have given up.

"Fasting makes sense if it really chips away at our security and, as a consequence, benefits someone else, if it helps us cultivate the style of the good Samaritan, who bent down to his brother in need and took care of him."

Pope Francis

HOLY WEEK and EASTER 2022

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

Palm Sunday 10 April

8am	Said Eucharist
10am	Liturgy of Palms, Procession
	and All-Together Eucharist
	starting on The Green

Good Friday 15 April

10am	Children's Liturgy
2pm	The Liturgy of Good Friday,
	with Holy Communion

Easter Eve 16 April Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 8.30pm The Easter Vigi

8.30pm	The Easter Vigil		
	followed by champagne and canapa	é	

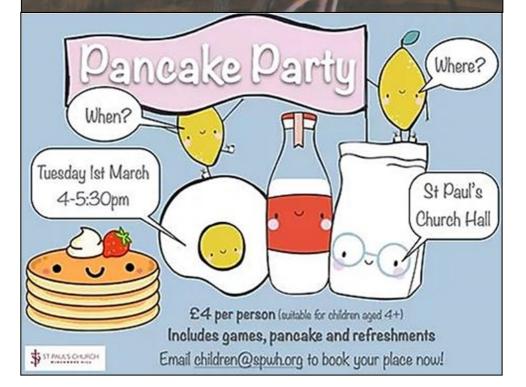
Maundy Thursday 14 April

8pm	Sung Eucharist
	followed by Watch of the Passion
	until midnight

Said Eucharist and homily

Easter Day 17 April

8am	Said Eucharist
9.15am	Joyful Noise Eucharist
10.30am	Sung Eucharist



7pm



The Living in Love and Faith course is part of a Church of England process of learning and discussion around questions of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

As society's attitudes towards same sex relationships and marriage, and questions of gender identity have changed, the C of E is undertaking a period of reflection on how it should respond. There are instances where individuals have been misunderstood and often hurt by the Church's position around same sex relationships and gender identity. While many of us at SPWH have not had to engage with these questions directly, we have recognized that there is a need to think about such matters theologically and this is what the course has enabled us to do.

Over five weeks a small group have met together, using video material produced by the C of E to consider in turn questions about identity, relationships, sex and how the Church might move forward and live together when there are often deep disagreements about how we should approach these matters. We have had teaching from different bishops, have studied various bible passages together, and have watched video story films introducing us to people with different lived experiences, which helped us to remember that we are never thinking about these principles only in abstract but that the issues discussed often affect people on a deeply personal level.

We had good discussions, and it was clear that we did not all always agree on exactly what the Church's response should be. We used the Pastoral Principles for our discussions so that we listened well to each other, were aware of silence, and paid attention to our own prejudices to create an atmosphere where no one felt fearful or unable to share their own experiences, thoughts and feelings. All of this was underpinned by prayer together.

The feedback from the course will be included in the wider reflections within the Church of England as part of its discernment process about a way forward together to live in love and faith.

Sarah Elkins

BURNS RAFFLE 2022

Sadly we had to cancel the planned Burns Night, so instead we organised a Burns Raffle in which we sold only 100 tickets with 5 prizes each worth at least \pounds 100.

The Prize winners were:

Ist number 47 Geraldine Orfeur

2nd number 74 Peggy Hollingsworth

3rd number 63 Simon Jarosch

4th number 94 Katherine Plested

5th number 93 Tanya Rotheram

Thanks also to suppliers: Stantons, La Paella, Nurjenna, Buckle & Vaughn and Scotts Travel.

Thanks also to the Social Committee who all helped to put the prizes and raffle together to enable us to make £500 profit – well done and thank you everyone. Martyn Caswell

LENT APPEAL 2022

This year we invite you to donate to our annual charity, CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably).

United against suicide, CALM runs a free, confidential and anonymous helpline as well as a webchat service,

offering help, advice and information to anyone who is struggling or in crisis.

You can donate to our Lent Appeal via the website www.spwh.org or you can make an online payment to:

Account name St Paul's Winchmore Hill PCC

Account number 23119504

Sort code: 16 00 15

Reference (this is very important!): Your surname plus 'Lent Appeal' Alternatively, donations can be made via the Parish Office in an envelope marked 'Lent Appeal'.

HALL HIRE

The main Church Hall can be hired for weekend birthday parties. £50 per hour. Discounts available for regular use. Ring the Parish Office for more information - 0208 886 4290





MOTHERS'

UNION

Our former vicar, David Nash, was the speaker at the MU meeting on 17th February. He gave a fascinating talk on 'The Golden Age of Hymn Writing' during which he talked about five well known hymns and their writers.

The meeting ended, as always, with refreshments in the hall and a chance to talk together.



MOTHERS' UNION DIARY MARCH 2022

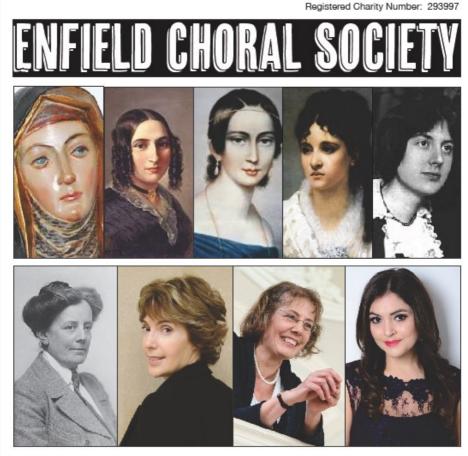
THURSDAY I7TH MARCH AT 2PM IN THE HALL

MU Annual General Meeting in the Church Hall There will be the usual annual reports and the election of members and officers to the MU Committee, followed by refreshments. Members who would like to join the committee, please contact Sue Chambers.

FRIDAY 25[™] MARCH THE DEANERY LADY DAY SERVICE WILL BE AT 7.30PM IN ST. ALPHEGE'S CHURCH, HERTFORD RD, N9 7DH. At this service branches from across the Deanery meet to give thanks for the MU and its work around the world.

If you would like a lift to the service please contact Sue Chambers.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ALL OUR MOTHERS' UNION MEETINGS



Hildegard von Bingen, Fanny Mendelssohn, Clara Schumann, Mel Bonis, Lili Boulanger, Ethel Smyth, Cecilia McDowall, Janet Wheeler and Claire Filer



WOMENCOMPOSERS: PAST& PRESENT CONDUCTED BY BEN THAPA

ST PAUL'S CHURCH, CHURCH HILL, N21 1JA, 7.30PM

Booking (in advance only): £14 (£7 under 25s in full time education) Contact: tickets@enfieldchoralsociety.org.uk or telephone: 07793 082991

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