



Newsletter for March 2018

Parish Office, Church Road, Ham Common, Richmond, Surrey TW10 HG

standrewsham@btinternet.com

020 8948 7374

<http://standrewsham.church>

Lent draws to a close...

We will soon finish our Lent series 'Finding Sanctuary' and take its insights into the next season of the year. But there is still time to contemplate Pope Francis' words on Lent.

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



“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

Holy Week Services at St Andrew's:

25th March, Palm Sunday

10am palm procession from the Church Hall into

10.15am Parish Communion

6.30pm Choral Tenebrae Service with extended choir and extinguishing of candles

29th March, Maundy Thursday

8pm Holy Communion service including stripping the Altar and extinguishing the lights

30th March, Good Friday

10am Family Service telling the Easter story

12-3pm Devotion with reflections, choral music, hymns and silence. Come and go quietly at any time.

Sunday 1st April, Easter Day

8am, 10.15am and 12 noon Holy Communion Services.

6.30pm Evensong

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place in church straight after the 10.15am service on 22nd April at 11.30am.

Tea, coffee and childcare for young children will be provided. Please put this date in your diary so you are free to join us.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR); what you need to know

by Richard Barber Churchwarden

From the end of May the Government is introducing new rules about how personal data is stored and used. Currently, the UK relies on the Data Protection Act, but the new legislation will give people more say over what companies can do with their data. The GDPR applies to all organisations and businesses.

The great difference the new rules will make is that everyone at St Andrew's will have to formally consent to “opt in” to agree to St. Andrew's sending you anything. This will be done by asking everyone to sign a simple form confirming basic personal details – address, phone, email etc – and ticking a box to say “I'm happy for St. Andrew's to contact me”.

Forms will be distributed during the next two weeks. Please complete the form when you get it and return it to Sarah at the Parish Office without delay. Thank you.

Preparation for Easter: 1st Sunday in Lent

Reverend Alice began the service by asking us for examples of experiences which had changed the way we thought; examples given by the congregation varied from going on a retreat and going to University. From Genesis to the Gospels, God develops a relationship with humanity which becomes more and more direct. In chapter 2 of 'Sanctuary' the abbot says "prayer is the simple act of addressing God as You rather than Him." God is always present to us but we may not be always present to him. So how do we become more receptive to Him? Meditation has been used since the earliest days of the church- this can be done by repeating a phrase slowly or by reading slowly. Reverend Alice gave us her example - the Jesus Prayer: 'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. (Some people choose to miss out the last two words).



Lectio Divina is sacred reading, such as reading slowly and thinking about a few verses of a gospel. The four movements of *Lectio Divina*. Clockwise from top left: *Lectio* ("read"); *Meditatio* ("meditate"); *Oratio* ("pray"); *Contemplatio* ("contemplate")

Jesus had time for prayer and meditation during his 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness and he emerged spiritually strong. With Reverend Alice's help we hope to do this also with our thoughts and prayers during this time of Lent.

1st Sunday in March: Humility

Reverend Alice invited us to think of what humility isn't – Uriah Heep with grovelling, subservience, enforced submission, passive aggression, or humiliation. Humility is a virtue, a powerful force and a state of mind to be desired which can enrich our lives. Humility is linked to success: the most successful chief executive officers in business are those whose ambition is for the company. Jesus had this same characteristic of humility. The parable of the farmer sowing seed demonstrated that the grain which fell on good soil grew. In the parable, the 'good soil' represents the people who hear the Word.

We were told that the origin of the word 'humility' is from the Latin word for soil and earth 'humus'. Humility is 'down to earth', a safe and fertile place for people to grow. Arrogance is sterile, humility gives life. We sang 'Take my life and let it be' and considered the symbol of a flower with its fragility, so that we were reminded of our role to protect, make space for and be aware of others.





*THANK
YOU to ALL
MEMBERS
OF THE
PCC for
ALL THEIR
WORK*

News from PCC meeting on 12th March 2018

Worship outreach and training (WOT): Chris Ruse led a discussion reviewing our Mission Action Plan, thinking about what worked and what we need to take forward.

Finance: Approval of annual accounts: The Treasurer informed the PCC that the annual accounts have been checked by the examiner. Income and expenditure were both below budget resulting in a surplus of over £5,000. Monies have been set aside for work on the Hall and to complete the West End, with the remaining balance being available for work on the roof.

Requirements for a card reader and Just Giving: A card reader using Wi-Fi from the Office Wi-Fi and Blue Tooth would be possible. Rev Pettit has also investigated Just Giving. Further investigation and discussion with other churches is planned. **Missions and Charitable Giving:** Current donations will continue with a review during the year.

Electoral Roll: 230 on roll with 83 people resident in the parish (36%). The Annual Revision of the Electoral Roll will close on Sunday 25th March.

Building and works: West End Stage 3 - the doors will be fitted in May. The hall refurbishment work is starting shortly and will commence with the lavatories. Roof repair to leak in roof above the pulpit will progress from April. Monument work: Some work has been allocated to Richmond Council. Two days of community volunteering have taken place. Later work may take place in September.

Child protection and safeguarding of vulnerable adults: the guidance document 'A Safe Church' is being updated by the Diocese and will be made available in the church by the summer. A safeguarding audit will take place later in the year.

Data Protection: New regulations and thus new guidelines - implications for the church being considered.

Retiring Members of the PCC: Margaret Rees is standing down this year after six years of service. The PCC thanked Margaret for her work, especially with Richmond Council.