

# THE BEACON

## MAGAZINE OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

### MARCH 2018

#### NORMAL WEEKLY SERVICES

##### SUNDAYS

8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.00am Family Communion (United Anglican / Methodist Service)

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month – All Age Worship Service (Usually not Communion)

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month – Methodist Local Preacher

5.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month, Choral Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the month, Evening Worship (various styles)

*Changes to these details are given in the weekly Notice Sheet, available free of charge at the back of the church.*

##### WEEKDAYS

Daily – Morning Prayer 9.00 – 9.30am

Third Friday in the month:

11.30am Short Service of Holy Communion, followed by lunch in the Community Hall.

## *The Vicar's bit*

Last Wednesday (as I write this) Gerald and I attended the Deanery Synod meeting. The Deanery is an area that pretty well equates with the London Borough of Sutton, and Synod is tasked with supporting the work of the churches in the area, as well as having a strategic view to ministry over those churches as a whole. During the meeting, we welcomed both a new Area Dean, the Revd Canon Mother Angela Gbebikan, and a new Lay Chair, Alison Huneke.

The meeting featured a representative from the Diocesan discipleship team, and we had a detailed discussion of the definition of and relationship between 'discipleship' and 'vocation'. These are my thoughts on the subject, and how it might relate to us at Saint John's.

The basic meaning of the word 'disciple' is a 'learner' – and was, in biblical times, one who learned by following and absorbing the example of the teacher. Our ultimate teacher is Christ, as revealed through scripture, the witness of the Holy Spirit, and the example of His followers. Discipleship means becoming more Christ-like... both in heart and in action. This involves the discipline (same root) of prayer, reading the bible, speaking out the faith, worshipping together, showing God's love and character in the world, etc... Discipleship is common to all believers, though we work it out as individuals.

'Vocation' means a 'calling' – and is unique to each of us. As Christians, we are all called – but not all to the same things. And we all have a range of callings, which may change over time. So, for my part, I believe I had a calling to be a priest from the mid-teens. However, in my journey to that place, I also had callings to be an organist, a teacher, a husband and a father. I believe that all callings are Godly (who else calls us?), all can be blessed... and no calling is greater than another.

(I also believe that, while many jobs may be callings, it is possible to have a job that is not a 'calling' but merely a means to an end – but that's a discussion for another day).

We need to determine what our callings are. We may hear a clear call from God. But more often we hear that call disseminated by others. It is good to encourage one another in our gifts. Who knows – when someone receives many comments about their caring nature, for example, they might decide to explore a vocation as a Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary (SPA). We may have a calling within our church, within the wider church, the wider community, or even nationally and internationally. I would urge us all to explore our vocation further – and certainly within our church community. With the Annual Meeting coming up in April, we are once again looking for people stand for ECC,

as churchwardens, as deanery synod reps... as well as all the other tasks needed in our church family. And, yes, I do believe some have a specific call to be pray-ers... or holy dusters... or flower arrangers... or singers. And, who knows, we may find a new Reader, SPA or priest.

As a final thought, we might take to heart the diocesan vision... being a people that is Walking with Jesus and getting to know Jesus better as we journey on; Welcoming all, embracing our diversity and seeking new ways of being church; and Growing in numbers, generosity, faith and discipleship as we grow God's Kingdom. If that's not a vision of being 'called disciples', I don't know what is!

*Mark*

### **Services at Saint John's in March and Early April**

- |             |           |   |
|-------------|-----------|---|
| 4 March     | *10.00 am | All Age Service – (Lent 3)                          |
|             | 5.30 pm   | Choral Evensong                                     |
| 11 March    | *10.00 am | 'Mothering Sunday' – Parade                         |
| 16 March    | 11.30 am  | Holy Communion and Lunch                            |
| 18 March    | *10.00 am | Family Communion (Passiontide/Lent 5)               |
|             | 5.30 pm   | Healing Service                                     |
| 25 March    | *10.00 am | Family Communion 'Palm Sunday'                      |
|             | 5.30 pm   | Passover Meal                                       |
| 26-28 March | 8.00 pm   | Holy Week Meditations                               |
| 29 March    | 8.00 pm   | Maundy Thursday Communion and Stripping of Altars   |
| 30 March    | 9.45 am   | Good Friday Walk of Witness in Sutton               |
|             | 2.00 pm   | Last hour meditation                                |
|             | 7.00 pm   | 'Requiem' by John Rutter                            |
| 31 March    | 8.00 pm   | Easter Eve Vigil (said)                             |
| 1 April     | 6.15 am   | Easter Day - Sunrise Service & Breakfast            |
|             | *10.00 am | All-Age Communion – Easter                          |
|             | 5.30 pm   | Choral Evensong                                     |
| *8.30 am    |           | Holy Communion (traditional language) every Sunday. |

9.00 am Morning Prayer, Monday – Saturday in the Lady Chapel

\* NOTE NEW TIMINGS FOR MARCH

***Please note that, from Sunday 4th March, morning services will be ½ hour later - 8.30am and 10.00am respectively.***

*The meeting following Vanessa Elston's visit in November suggested that a slightly later start might enable people to prepare for church more easily.*

*This will be for a trial period, and reviewed at the Annual Meeting on the 15th April.*



*By Janet Williams*

It was a wet afternoon for our Meeting on 24 January but fifteen members turned up and we had a very interesting afternoon discussing various social issues.

Kathleen opened the meeting and also led the prayers. During the Branch news she reported the sad news that Hilary Clarke had died in the middle of December.

After the Diocesan news, we were led by Kathleen into our first topic for discussion on various aspects of modern slave labour. Well known ones are prostitution, cannabis farms, labouring and nail bars. We were also urged never to fill so called charity bags for clothing that come through the door. Most are phoney and never go near a charity but are processed and sold in eastern Europe.

We then talked about how valuable to the economy are the immigrants, particularly from eastern Europe. They are more likely to be younger than the native population and more likely to work and pay taxes than to claim benefits.

Another subject to claim our concern is the sexualisation of children, largely brought about by the influence of the media. Then followed the worry of the rising world population and the greater need for birth control.

Having touched on robots taking over the work place, we moved on to more local problems and spent some time on loneliness. It was thought we could do something to

help by more of us visiting housebound people and perhaps bringing them to meet each other at tea parties and other social events.

It was certainly a very thought provoking afternoon and it wasn't easy to bring the meeting to a close.

A Bring and Buy sale followed the meeting and this made £56.00. It was a welcome start to our ongoing collection for Mothers' Union charities which enable the society's work all over the world.

Our next meeting on 28 February meeting will be the Corporate Communion, followed by the AGM and then tea and cakes.

Women's World Day of Prayer will be marked by a service at 10.30am on 2 March at the Salvation Army Citadel in Sutton

## **LFTOO: 8 February meeting helped us get ready for Shrove Tuesday... with some tossing and tasting: How do you like your "Pancakes"**

It was a surprise to learn at the meeting that at least one of our members had never made pancakes or for that matter "tossed" them which is what it all about really... the fun of flipping them over without them ending up on the ceiling or floor. Eating them again was a lot of fun especially if prepared to experiment a bit with filling or different batter recipes. There were aficionados of the American pancake so it was good that we had plenty of maple syrup to go round. The crepe batter required a little patience to "flip over" successfully – maybe due to the presence of black cherry liqueur – but thankfully with the help of some autumn fruits and cream they tasted good. For the traditionalists among us there was the English pancake batter accompanied by some freshly squeezed lemon juice and of course sugar...

Well, if your own Shrove Tuesday pancakes didn't get tossed this year then why not get some practice in like the LFTOO Ladies and enjoy them a little later or throughout the year... yummy.

It is a challenge giving up something for Lent so, as a group, we are happy to commit our time and talents to making something for others. Our next meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March will be the start of that process as we make something new from something old. These will be added to some special items donated by members, their friends and relatives, for our table sale at the Belmont Festival in aid of the church fund as well as the Marsden appeal.

Look out for updates on our progress – to-date we raised fifty pounds plus from our “Shrove Tuesday” efforts which will go the Church funding raising appeal.

### **2018 Calendar Update:**

For more information on subsequent LFToo events please look out for the church notices and calendar.

## **Emmanuel & Juliana Boakye-Danquah**

*It has been a delight for us to have had Emmanuel and Juliana on placement with us over the last couple of months. The purpose of the placement was for them to explore a church in another tradition from that with which they were familiar. Emmanuel and Juliana have joined us for a variety of services and other events, and we were grateful for Emmanuel preaching at the end of January. They plan to continue to join us from time to time.*

*I asked them to write something about themselves... (Mark)*

Emmanuel and Juliana are currently pursuing a degree course in Ministerial Theology at the University of Roehampton in London. They were on a short placement at Saint John’s Methodist Church Belmont. They are ordained pastors from Triumphant Global Ministries, of a Pentecostal tradition, and they pastor one of their branches at Sandhurst, in Hampshire. Juliana is Emmanuel’s associate pastor helping him to look after the flock of God.

Reverend Juliana Boakye-Danquah is an Evangelist by calling and a mother by design. A true woman of God, crafted for The Lord's work through her various life experiences and love for the things of God. Emmanuel and Juliana are childhood sweethearts and have been married for more than thirty-six years. Together they have five biological children, a boy and four girls. By the Grace of God, they have raised these five wonderful children in the fear of God. Four are married with one yet to go. This means their family territory has increased with four wonderful in-laws, a daughter and three sons. They also foster three children: Gordon, Harriet and Freddie. Emmanuel let Juliana quit her job in the Local Authority as a benefit assessor to enable them to foster these three lovely children about fourteen years ago.

They see the incorruptible seed of the Holy Spirit really taking root in their family as seen in Galatians chapter 5: verses 22-23 - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,

peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law”.

Juliana partners Emmanuel in ministry, they truly love God and are passionate about winning souls and ensuring they fulfil their God-given destiny. They are also ardent intercessors and are generous in hospitality.

Emmanuel has a formal career in the public sector as a specialist practitioner in Housing, Revenue, Local Taxation and Welfare Benefits systems in UK Local Authorities. An experienced trainer in benefit law and UK local legislation and taxation, a specialist trainer in the use of systems and benefit software, and Housing and Council Tax benefits delivery.

As a young man, Emmanuel was commissioned as an air force officer in the Ghanaian Air Force. Emmanuel is into Geospatial Engineering, a broad field that crosses multiple specialties that focuses on multiple dimensional mapping and organising. His work involves extracting geographic data from satellite imagery, aerial photography and compiling them into maps and maintain multiple geospatial databases

As an ordained Christian pastor his vision is to help developing countries in Africa to build harmonized and geocoded comprehensive address databases across their nations, which will bring them significant contributions to enable them to gain a twenty-first century push in their socio-economic and political objectives.

Emmanuel believes that “If a harmonized and geocoded comprehensive address database was available across these developing countries the potential pay-back would amount to billions of U.S. dollars’ worth of improved efficiency every year, there would also be less duplicated effort, faster response times, the saving of life and property, more tax collected and many intangible socio-economic benefits affecting the welfare of these countries.

# **JUMBLE SALE**

**SATURDAY**

**14<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**1.00 pm. to 3.00 pm.**

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**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April 10.00 am - 7.00pm**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April 8.00 am - 9.30 am**

Sorry **no** Furniture

For further information please email  
[fundraising@stjohnbelmont.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@stjohnbelmont.org.uk)

## God in the Arts

*For 2018, the Rev Michael Burgess is exploring symbols of the Christian faith as found in works of art.*

'He gave us eyes to see them' - palms

*The people of the Hebrews*

*With palms before thee went:*

*Our prayer and praise and anthems*

*Before thee we present.*

Those words from the hymn of St Theodulph, the 9<sup>th</sup> century bishop of Orleans, will be sung by congregations up and down the land on 25<sup>th</sup> March, as they relive the joy and triumph of our Lord's entry into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday. The people then shouted 'Hosanna to the Son of David.' They spread their cloaks and cut down branches to strew before Jesus. St John tells us that they were palm branches – a reminder of the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles and traditionally a sign of rejoicing.



That mood and that scene are captured in Pietro Lorenzetti's painting of 1320 for the Basilica of St Francis in Assisi. The costumes and architecture are typical of medieval Siena, his birthplace, but we sense the colour and emotions of the gospel story. Three men are lopping off palm branches to lay on the road. Jesus sits on a donkey with a colt by His side. Everyone is caught up in the excitement, and there is a scribe with his goose feather pen ready to write down the event.

When we gather on this Sunday, we shall hear the gospel of that entry read, and carry our own palms. They are often made into the shape of a cross because this day is a prelude to our Lord's final earthly days of suffering and death. There is a reminder of that in this fresco. All the disciples behind Jesus have a halo – save one. It is Judas, who will play his part in that journey to Calvary. We keep our palm crosses from last Easter until the beginning of Lent. The palms spread beneath the donkey would have withered by the end of that first day, but our crosses will shine victoriously as we look beyond Good Friday to the joy of resurrection life on Easter Day.

## **The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2018**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we move on through Epiphanytide, when we are giving thanks for the many gifts that God has given to us and our parishes and for the generosity of the parishes through the Parish Support Fund, I am pleased to be able to send to you materials for this year's Lent Call. Lent begins quite early this year and I hope that you will be fully prepared for this important time in the Church's calendar and that you will find this material a useful aid to keeping a holy and prayerful Lent.

The monies raised through the Bishop Lent Call each year go to support work in other parts of the Anglican Communion and projects in our own Diocese. In 2017 we were able to give grants totalling over eighty-thousand pounds to our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and to projects that work with people in our Diocese. As we spend time in prayer and contemplation this Lent, I hope that you will feel able to generously support the projects we have chosen this year in the Holy Land, locally in the Diocese of Southwark and our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe. I am glad that this year the ninety-plus pilgrims that I will lead to the Holy Land with the Dean will be able to visit two of the projects we have chosen to support in the Holy Land.

Successive Bishops of Southwark have called the parishes to a time of prayer and contemplation during Lent, through the Lent Call since 1986 and over the years, this has raised nearly one million pounds which has been shared with more than a hundred and fifty projects. I am grateful to all our Churches and Schools for their generous gifts and fundraising. It is good that we share what we have in this way. It is as important though that the Bishop's Lent Call helps each of us to keep a holy and prayerful Lent as we consider our lives and how we can show our love for God to the world.

Greetings cards produced for the Lent Call are available again and can be bought from Trinity House. They offer images from our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and are blank for you to use in whatever way you wish.

It is possible to give to the Lent Call by text and online (<http://bit.ly/LentCall18>) as well as by cheque, which should be sent to John Jackson at Trinity House. Do follow our twitter feed (@southwarkcofe) as we will be adding extra material about the projects each week. There will also be a Lent Call blog which will include photographs and information from the Pilgrimage that I am leading with the Dean of Southwark to the Holy Land in February as well as more information about the other projects. (Do look out for the Pilgrimage blog too!)

This year we have used the wonderful words from Isaiah read by Jesus in the Temple and recorded in the Gospel of Luke chapter 4 verses 18 -19:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

We are each called to tell others about the Good News of Jesus Christ and to make it known in our lives as we seek to live in the way that God would have us so. We are to be bearers of Good News and of Christ, wherever we are.

The projects we are supporting seek to bring help to those who are in need in the Holy Land as a result of the years of conflict; to offer help to our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe as they work at this time of national transition for a better tomorrow there and to care for those in need of help across a wide spectrum of issues such as homelessness, mental health and domestic violence here in our own Diocese. Alongside giving to these projects I hope that you will wish to pray for the people concerned and the needs these projects address. The projects we are assisting this year are listed below to help you.

With my thanks and prayers for our partnership in the service of the Kingdom,

The Bishop of Southwark The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun

In 2018 the Bishop's Lent Call is supporting projects, in the Holy Land, in Southwark Diocese and in Zimbabwe.

Projects in Zimbabwe: Initiatives supporting education and rebuilding in our Link Dioceses of Central Zimbabwe, Matabeleland, Masvingo and Manicaland.

Projects in the Holy Land: Jeel Al Amal The Al Shurooq School for the Blind The Al Ahli Arab Anglican Hospital

Projects in the Diocese of Southwark: Bede House Croydon APCMH The Spires Centre

There are more details of these projects below, and fuller information on the board at the back of church.

## **The Bishop's Lent Call Projects**

**In Zimbabwe:** Despite the change of leadership in the country it is still a time of uncertainty and confusion with money and food in short supply. In this climate it is often young people who find their opportunities much eroded. Government schools have diminished over the past decades and in many places church schools provide the

best education, and in some cases the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe has been asked to be the responsible authority. Even so it too is faced with shortages of equipment and inadequate buildings. Pupils often have to travel long distances, many are hungry and parents often cannot afford fees and uniforms. The Lent Call aims to provide funds for educational materials, repairs to buildings, boarding houses, uniforms and supplementary feeding schemes if necessary.

**In the Holy Land:** Money raised from the Lent Call will help support three institutions operating under very difficult conditions. **The Al Ahi Arab Hospital** offers some of the best health care in the beleaguered city of Gaza, surrounded for the last ten years by a fence or wall, permits being required to enter or leave the city. **The Al Shurooq School for the blind** was originally situated in Jerusalem but, here again, the need for permits made it difficult for those in need to attend. However in 2004 the school acquired land in Bethlehem which made access a little easier. Over the years the school has developed and now caters for thirty-three children and five undergraduates. It is also developing work with deaf and dumb children through play. Lent Call gifts will help provide multisensory experience class rooms. **Jeel Al Amal school** is accredited by the Palestinian, Israeli and Jordan authorities and provides a home for seventy-two boys with severe behavioral problems. There is also a school attached that takes boys and girls aged from five to twelve. Money from the Lent Call will go to support this ongoing very important work.

**In the Diocese of Southwark: Bede House** a local community charity which runs four key services. Learning Disabilities, Youth Work, Starfish Domestic Violence, and Community Engagement, all of which help local people create better lives for themselves, their families and their communities. **Croydon ACPHM** founded by families concerned that their relatives experiencing mental health difficulties were not being cared for spiritually or pastorally, it now runs a Welfare Support Project for those from other faith and non-faith groups: **The Spires Centre** helps those who are homeless or have insecure accommodation and may be facing unemployment or addiction problems. Open to rough sleepers every weekday morning it provides much needed space to feel warm comfortable and safe and more able to cope with life.

## Prayer for the Month

*Saint Patrick's Day falls on 17 March, and so we offer you one of his prayers.*

### **The breastplate of Saint Patrick**

*A prayer by St Patrick against the temptations of the world*

I rise today with the power of God to guide me,  
The might of God to uphold me,  
The wisdom of God to teach me,  
The eye of God to watch over me,  
The ear of God to hear me,  
The word of God to give me speech,  
The hand of God to protect me,  
The path of God to lie before me,  
The shield of God to shelter me,  
The host of God to defend me.

Against the snares of the devil and the temptations of the world,  
Against every man who meditates injury to me,  
Whether far or near.

## The Month Ahead

### **LF Too**

**Thursday 8 March**  
**8.00 pm I the Meeting room**

### **Something New from Something Old**

Thank about using an unwanted item or two  
in a very different way

**Vicar's Pub Night**  
**Monday 12 March**

**From 7.30pm Downs Tennis Club**  
**Holland Avenue**

**Mothers' Union**  
**Wednesday 21 March**  
**10.45 am at trinity House**

**Diocesan Council**

**2.30 pm in the Hall**

**A talk by Anne Rusbridge**

**Friday Holy Communion and**  
**Lunch**  
**Friday 16 March 11.30 am**

## **SUNDAY CLUB**

Sundays at 9.30am in the Community Hall (Age 3yrs and above)

## **SCOUTS (1<sup>st</sup> Belmont)**

**Beavers:** Tuesdays 5.30pm - 6.30pm.

**Cubs:** Tuesdays or Thursdays 7.00pm - 8.00pm.

**Scouts:** Mondays 6.45pm - 8.15pm

**Explorer Scouts:** Mondays 8.45pm - 9.45pm

## **GUIDES, BROWNIES & RAINBOWS**

**Rainbows:** Thursdays 5.00pm-6.00pm.

**Brownies:** Fridays 5.15pm-6.45pm.

**Guides:** Tuesdays 6.30pm-8.30pm

**Guides & Rangers:** Fridays 7.00pm-9.00pm.

## *Beacon dates for issue*

### **Copy Date**

*(if leaving in pigeon holes, by Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January, please)*

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

### **Distribution Date**

#### **Items for inclusion.**

Leave it in pigeon hole for Caroline Everson (Editor)

E-mail: caro1902@hotmail.co.uk

*Please ensure that items are not left in the church office.*

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018**



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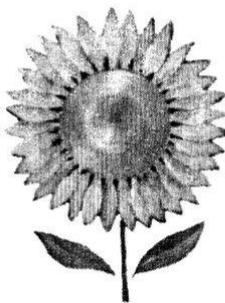
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