



**CONGRATULATIONS TO DAVID
MWANGI**

on his confirmation at Westminster Abbey on Wednesday with his school! It was a special occasion for him and his family, and we pray that he will know God's blessing and calling on his life as he journeys on with Him.

PCC MEETING – 15th FEBRUARY 2018

The PCC will be meeting next Thursday to discuss matters relating to St Alban's. If you have any items that you would like to be considered, do email them to streathampark@gmail.com or speak to a member of the PCC.

How to get in touch

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Fair trade goods are available in the church lounge on
Wednesdays and Thursdays 10-11.30am

**Welcome to St Alban's on the last Sunday before
Lent!**

We have a couple of days in which to indulge, get rid of the things that are bad for us (but which we enjoy!), before we turn to a period of leanness and fasting. We may or may not observe this aspect of Lent strictly, but its purpose is to help us draw closer to God, and hear what He is saying to each of us, and to the church. It's a time to recognise our own frailty and failures, and to seek God's forgiveness, and His help, as we realise that we'll never live His way without the Holy Spirit.

Events this week

**Sunday 11th
February**

**10.30am – Holy Communion
6.30pm - Monthly prayer**

**Wednesday 14th
February**

**2.30pm – Holy Communion
7.00pm – Ash Wednesday
service at St Paul's**

Events next week

**Sunday 18th
February**

**10.30am – Morning Worship
1.00pm – 3rd Sunday lunch**

WEEKLY PRAYER DIARY Week beginning 11th February 2018 – with thanks to Audrey Silkin

SUNDAY: Lord, we have a most urgent request to make to you. For many years “The Croydon Cat Killer” has been catching people’s cats – decapitating them, chopping off one leg and the tail, the leaving the corpse on the front door mat. No one can understand why he hasn’t been identified and caught. He ranges over a big area now, and a £10,000 reward is on offer. Lord, we implore you to let him be caught and dealt with.

MONDAY: Lord, thank you for Marc’s exposition of the situation regarding refugees which he gave on First Sunday. So may people want parts of other peoples’ countries and make life intolerable The experience is truly awful as people move to find a place to live. Children lose their families and cannot find anyone to look after them. Thank You for the charities which are working to bring positive experiences, especially for children. Lord, You tell us that as Christians we need to care for one another. May churches work out how we can do this as we meet at St Andrew’s church, Earlsfield, in March.

TUESDAY: Lord, we pray for the Purulia Hospital in India and all the countries where the Leprosy Mission is working. We pray for families torn apart by misconceptions and lack of knowledge about leprosy. It is seen as a disgrace. Children are kept indoors so that the neighbours won’t know the problem and ridicule them. Husbands leave wives with no support. The skills at Purulia Hospital are available to cure, heal and restore patients. Please let us support the Leprosy Mission as they work on this disease and give people their lives back – even new limbs and especially hands where the fingers have become diseased.

WEDNESDAY: Lord, may we turn our thoughts to Lent and to studying its meaning. May we learn a lot from the Lent Course film and discussions, and may they have an individual meaning for each of us. To read again all the dreadful suffering you went through with people failing you and the shocking pain of the cross is hurtful to us. Your sacrifice is for our salvation. May we grow close to you. May we allow our time to be spent on studying Your Word and understanding who we are and how You want us to live.

THURSDAY: The Christian Blind Mission needs our prayers in dealing with health matters which in England we take for granted. The charity now calls itself the Overseas Disability Charity and reaches out to do orthopaedic work. Hospital treatment for cataracts in Africa is too costly for families and the journey to the hospitals too difficult and long. Without the help we, via this charity, can give, many people will face a life of blindness, lack of work, lack of a home and lack of sympathy from other people. They are lonely and isolated. We pray that people affected by avoidable blindness can reach the treatments and have their sight restored.

FRIDAY: We thank You for our area of Furzedown with its lively churches and schools plus various activities and music events. May people be upheld by neighbours and friendships be developed at the Furzedown Project, Hobnobs, MLBC and St James’ breakfasts.

SATURDAY: Lord, we pray for all Christians who are persecuted for their faith. In many countries churches are destroyed, pastors and worshippers injured. We pray that you will give great strength to the charities who are working against this evil: Barnabas Fund, Open Doors, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, plus Release International. There have been many attacks on churches over Christmas. In Pakistan 9 were killed during the morning service and over 50 injured. May the Holy Spirit help Christians to love their hostile neighbours. May their faith be strong so that they can strengthen others. We ask You to heal those injured by violent acts.



Lent Course 2018

‘Chariots of Fire’ is the theme for this year’s Furzedown Churches Lent Course. At each session we will watch part of the film and discuss in small groups the issues it raises. Five Wednesday evenings from 7pm at St Alban’s, starting on 21st February. The week before we will gather at St Paul’s at 7pm for a special Ash Wednesday service. Please do join us.

Where Adventure Begins – Faith in the Family

Did you know that the majority of Christians become followers of Jesus because they were brought up in a Christian household? The importance of parents and grandparents passing on their faith is therefore absolutely vital. Riding Lights Theatre Company have collaborated with New Wine to present a brand new play called ‘Where Adventure Begins’ which aims to encourage us all in the task of nurturing young life-long disciples. It will be fast-paced and fun and it is coming to Furzedown Churches on Saturday 3rd March, 7.30pm at MLBC. Pick up a leaflet and book your ticket online at new-wine.org/adventurebegins.