

Newsletter for 18th February 2018

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.

Day Retreat

Please join us for a Furzedown Team Ministry day retreat on Saturday 17th March, 10am-4.30pm, at Whitelands College Chapel, Holybourne Ave, London, SW15 4JD. This will be a time of teaching, prayer and personal reflection on the theme “Meeting



God on the Mountain”. Admission is free, but please bring a packed lunch. See clergy for more information.

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 first Sunday of Lent!

Now is the traditional time for fasting, and for repentance. We may not have the restrictions our ancestors used to have (for instance, meat was forbidden, on pain of a fine, in medieval England), but it means we need to exercise self-discipline if we want to commit our time and attention more seriously to God. Nobody is likely to reprimand us if we fail to keep to our chosen fast – it will just be between us and God. It’s up to us to take seriously our sin, and what it cost Jesus to deal with it. Let’s use all the resources we have – Lent books, Lent course, church services, homegroup – to encourage each other during this time.

Events this week

**Sunday 18th
February**

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

**Wednesday 21st
February**

**2.30pm – Holy Communion
7.00pm - Lent course**

Events next week

**Sunday 25th
February**

**10.30am – Holy Communion
with monthly prayer after the
service**

WEEKLY PRAYER DIARY Week beginning 18th February 2018

SUNDAY: Yesterday was designated 'Random Acts of Kindness Day'. It may seem artificial, but it's a reminder to us as Christians that we're to 'do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers' (Galatians 6:10). This is for every day, not just one day, so pray that God will show you one person each day who you can bless with a small (or large) act of kindness.

MONDAY: This week is Student Volunteering Week, so many students will be involved in social action. Pray that these opportunities will enable young Christians to demonstrate acts of love and service, and that young people will join in with what churches and Christian organisations are doing, and be impacted by the good that is being done in God's name. Pray that this time would help young people to mature as socially responsible adults, and in coming ever closer to their Father God.

TUESDAY: The PCC met last week, and amongst other things, decided that the Annual Church Meeting would take place on Sunday 29th April. One of the most important things that happens then is the election of churchwardens and a new PCC. Alison has been sole churchwarden (with help from Margaret) for longer than she should, and we need to pray for someone to replace her, or at least work with her. Ask the Lord to put this on the heart of the person who he is calling.

WEDNESDAY: Our joint Lent course starts this evening at 7pm. Please pray that a good number will attend from all the churches, that people will get to know each other better, but most importantly, that they will know God better, and draw closer to Him as a result of these 5 weeks.

THURSDAY: Refugees continue to be in the news, and the world seems powerless or unwilling to do much to help them. Pray to our God, who loves all who He has made, and has a heart for the weak and the vulnerable, to do for them what the world appears unable to do: to bring shelter, a home, and a hope. Pray that He will mobilise His church, so that many folk who are in desperate circumstances will receive the love of God, and hear the good news of Jesus.

FRIDAY: The church, both local and national, is always looking for people who have a call to ministry of different kinds. The diocese has a vocations quiet day on 2nd March, for all kinds of vocations, and a weekend retreat over the same weekend for those exploring ordained ministry. Pray that people from all walks of life will hear and respond to God's call, and that those who go on these retreats will sense clearly what God is calling them to. [If you would like to explore this further yourself, there are posters with further details in church, or speak to Marc]

SATURDAY: Please pray for our service tomorrow, that it will be a time when we hear from God, and share with one another the blessings that He's given to us. Pray that those who need prayer will receive it, and those who need healing will be lifted up to God for His Spirit to work in them. Ask that God will draw more people to our fellowship so that all may be built up as we use all the gifts He has given us. Pray that every person who comes will be touched by God's love in some way.



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 this Wednesday, 21st February. Please do join us.

**JUST LIKE YOU
JUST LIKE ME**

You are warmly invited to an evening with Just Shelter to explore how local communities can support refugees.

Guests from Refugees at Home and the Goodfaith partnership share stories about hosting refugees

A presentation will be given by the Transferrise team on the results of their two day workshop on the question:
how can we encourage people to engage with the refugee situation?

The evening will be held at Home community café, located in St Andrews church, Garratt Lane March 8th from 8-10pm. RSVP Drinks and refreshments provided.

We have an opportunity to hear from people helping refugees in different ways on Thursday 8th March, 8-10pm at St Andrew's church, Earlsfield. It's organised by Just Shelter, and is called 'Just like you, just like me'. If anybody would like to go, please speak to Marc.