

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.

Lent Course 2018

'Chariots of Fire' continues this week, on Wednesday 28th February, with discussion about the themes raised. If you missed the first one, you can still come along to this, or any of the other sessions. Please do join us at the later time of **7.30pm**.

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

Newsletter for 25th February 2018

Welcome to St Alban's on the second Sunday of Lent

We are now in the weeks leading up to Easter, and our focus turns to Jesus' death, and in particular, Jesus' understanding of what His death meant for all who trusted in Him. Many claim that Jesus was 'just a great teacher', but for that to be true, we'd have to ignore the many things He began teaching His disciples about His death and eventual resurrection. This seemingly started from early on in His ministry, so His death appears to have been on Jesus' mind from the start, and He states that dying was really His mission. In the weeks to come, let's consider why Jesus' death was necessary, and what He believed He was accomplishing through it, so that we can learn, humbly, to benefit from it.

Events this week

**Sunday 25th
February**

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

**Wednesday 28th
February**

**2.30pm – Holy Communion
7.30pm - Lent course**

Events next week

**Sunday 3rd
March**

**10.30am – All-age worship
6.30pm – First Sunday – Ian Hare**

WEEKLY PRAYER DIARY Week beginning 25th February 2018 – with thanks to Nicky

“Come, let us return to the LORD. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us.

2 *“He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, That we may live before Him.*

3 *“So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; And He will come to us like the rain, Like the spring rain watering the earth.”* HOSEA 6:1-3

These are words of comfort – God will heal, bandage, revive and raise. He will also water to fruitfulness. But we are called to do two things also – to return to the Lord (repentance) and to really apply ourselves to knowing Him. From the Revelation passages taught to us over the past couple of months, we have got to know Jesus a little better as He introduces Himself in different ways to John and to the 7 Churches. Each day let’s start by meditating on the scripture from Hosea, and also let the Holy Spirit teach us deep down who Jesus is from His words to the churches in Revelation.

SUNDAY: The words in Hosea were first spoken by **the people of Israel** and concerned God’s dealings with *them*. Still so many Jewish people haven’t received the promises of their God which are Yes! in Jesus. As those graciously brought into the people of God, let’s pray that the still lost sheep of Israel will return to their God, find healing and life in Jesus, true understanding of their God and receive His Holy Spirit as the earth receives the soft Spring rains.

MONDAY: The words in Hosea 6:1-2 make me think of the work of God in Jesus, His life, death and resurrection. Verse 3 reminds me of the work of the Holy Spirit. With thankful hearts to our life-giving and sustaining God, pray for **our fellowship here at St Albans, and with St James, St Pauls and MLBC**. Pray for our relationship with God together. Jesus is the One who walks among the churches and holds as precious and with authority the communion He has with us. *“These are the words of Him who holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.”*

TUESDAY: *“These are the words of Him who has the double edged sword”* Our scripture on Sunday was Mark 8:31-38 and we saw how unwilling Peter was to believe the way of the Cross, to trust Jesus at His word. Later in Mark 13:5-8, Jesus was to speak difficult words of great trouble to come before the end of this age. But He said *“do not be alarmed. Such things must happen”*. All of God’s word is true, but prophecies of destruction are hard to accept. What do we believe His purpose is in all this? Let’s speak to God today about **the suffering we see or hear of in the world**, and ask the Spirit’s help to understand, and to pray.

WEDNESDAY: “Open Doors”, a charity supporting **persecuted Christians**, explains how it got its name: “It comes from Revelation 3:8 which says, *“See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.”* Brother Andrew, the founder of Open Doors, began supporting persecuted Christians because he believed that no door is closed to God, no matter how impossible that may seem. Nowhere is this more true than North Korea. And yet, our sources tell us there may be as many as 400,000 Christians living out their faith in secret in North Korea. Open Doors’ underground networks reach 60,000 desperate secret believers with food, medicines and clothes to enable them to survive. Our workers also

smuggle in Bibles, to strengthen the faith of those who are risking everything to follow Jesus.” Please pray today for these believers and this work, encouraged by that *open door* and the certainty that God’s *“going forth is as certain as the dawn”*.

THURSDAY: *“Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. “I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”* Please remember Audrey Silkin today as she has a knee operation. In our prayers please keep Joy Akiri, Suzanne Richeux, Elaine Akintade and all those we know who are grieving for the loss of those dear to them. Please also remember the Mwangi family, praying for health, strength and deepening faith. And a number of our older members and Hobnobbers are suffering from ill health, pain and weariness, so let’s pray for the peace and encouragement of Jesus.

FRIDAY: Sam Talbot, our Youth Minister, asks us to keep praying for **our young people**, especially *“that they will engage more with God”*, pressing on to know Jesus *“who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What He opens no-one can shut, and what He shuts no-one can open.”* Let’s pray for Caleb, Abi, Oscar, Vicky, Latoya, David, Tamia, Gwendolyn and Amelie in light of Jesus’ reassuring and awesome description of Himself to the Church in Philadelphia. Pray for Sam too, and the team, also for the FCLimited Directors in all their decisions.

SATURDAY: **REVELATION 1:12-16** describes Jesus as He is now! Hosea tells us that His healing and reviving are so we can live before Him. And even though He is awesome in risen glory, Jesus says not to be afraid because He is alive and victorious! In light of this truth, please bring to Him **all that we do as a Church in the community** - for His provision, and guidance. Pray also for the Riding Lights play “Where Adventure Begins” at MLBC tonight - that the Holy Spirit will indeed encourage us in nurturing our young ones as life-long disciples of Jesus.

JUST LIKE YOU 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 Transference 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.