

SELFIES!

Could you take a selfie at work, or in a significant place you spend time during the week? If you can't do that, could you get someone else to take a picture with you? It could be at your place of work (maybe with a colleague if they didn't mind!), at home or with someone you spend a significant time with during your week Monday to Friday. Please could you send them to streathampark@gmail.com or post them to our Facebook page (St Alban's Church, Streatham), and if possible, tag your location? We would like to use them for our family board in church (with your permission!)

Lent Course 2018

'Chariots of Fire' continues this week, on Wednesday 7th March, with discussion about the themes raised. If you missed the first couple, 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

St. Alban's Church. Pretoria Road, Streatham, SW16 6RR

T: 020 8769 5415 / 020 8677 4521 /

Email: albanschurch@tiscali.co.uk

Website: www.stalbanschurch.org.uk

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

Newsletter for 4th March 2018

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

It's also the first Sunday of March, and the first Sunday in what is officially spring! It may not have felt like it this week, but it reminds us that warmer days can't be far away! It's good to recall, in the middle of the more sombre days of Lent, that the brighter season of Easter, with the celebration of the resurrection, is not too far away; equally, it's good to remember, when we're in the middle of difficult or dark times, to recognise that there is the light of Christ ahead of us. And, though it may be hard to see, to realise that Christ walks with us in the midst of suffering, just as He went the dark way of the cross before coming to the bright dawn of Easter.

Events this week

**Sunday 4th
March**

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

**Wednesday 7th
March**

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

Events next week

**Sunday 11th
March**

**10.30am - Mothering Sunday with
Holy Communion
6.30pm - Monthly prayer**

WEEKLY PRAYER DIARY Week beginning 4th March 2018

SUNDAY: This is the middle of Fairtrade Fortnight: we know that God is a God of justice and calls His people to be those who promote justice (for instance, Amos 5:24 "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"). Pray that this fortnight will awaken us, both in the church and outside, to the issues of justice that are at stake in the things that we buy.

MONDAY: Thank God that the society in which we live has been profoundly shaped over centuries by His Word and through His Spirit, and that the concepts of Christian charity, hospitality, care for the weak and vulnerable, still hold a strong sway in this country. Please pray that as our nation becomes more secular, these foundations won't be lost or further eroded, but that rather, people will realise how important they are, and return to the Lord who alone is the source of such deep values.

TUESDAY: Please lift to the Lord our local area of Furzedown. Pray for the witness that the churches are to Furzedown over the coming weeks of Lent in general, and through Easter week in particular. As we continue to shape our plans, ask the Lord to give us direction for what we should do, and where/how we should do it. We have booklets for Good Friday to give away: pray that the Lord will help us to be discerning about who we give them out to, and that they will reach the people who are searching.

WEDNESDAY: We continue with our Lent course this evening. Pray for this, and for all that we are doing, individually and as small groups, to help us focus on Jesus, and all that He has done for us. If you aren't joining others (or if you are, but would like something more to reflect on), try reading, and meditating on, John 8:12-30, one of the set readings for today. Ask the Lord to help you to enter more deeply into what it meant for Jesus to die for us, and to be the light of the world.

THURSDAY: Today there is a meeting at St Andrew's Earlsfield for members of local churches who are wanting to find out how we can help refugees coming to this country. We often feel helpless in the face of a huge problem, but we have a God who is greater than all the problems of the world: pray that He will mobilise His people, and those who aren't yet His people, but who are concerned to help in this situation; that He will give us hope, help us coordinate our efforts, and by all doing what we can do, make an impact that will be noticeable.

FRIDAY: Continuing on from last night's meeting, pray that the inspiration that came will last, and that connections made and plans hatched will bear fruit: that refugees' lives will be made more bearable through homes being made available, practical help will be offered, and God's love shown to people who are in desperate circumstances.

SATURDAY: Tomorrow is Mothering Sunday – take a moment today to think of, and pray for, those women in your life who have cared for you in one way or another: mothers, grandmothers, sisters, teachers (both school and in church), church leaders, friends, health care professionals (and the list could go on...). Ask the Lord to bring to mind any who need care themselves at the moment, and show how you could show God's love to them.

BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

Monday 12th - Alison Delsol

Monday 19th - Joyce Bagaley

Saturday 24th - Natalie Richeux

Sunday 25th - Nicky Butler

Saturday 31st - Rev Sue Clarke

GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

**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 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 Andrew's church, Garratt Lane
March 8th from 8-10pm. RSVP
Drinks and refreshments provided.

Illustration by Guy Birkbeck

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.