

Tooting Deanery courses

- Safeguarding training from the diocese is being offered again this year, at St Alban's, on Saturday, 9th June. This is suitable for those working with children or older people, or having an official role in the church – eg on the PCC.
- The Key Training (Children & Youth Work) Saturday, 30 June 2018, 9:30am - 2:30pm Ascension Church, Malwood Road, Balham. This is a basic training course for adults, led by the Diocesan Children's Missioner. The course does not assume that you have any experience of working with young people at all. It is very informal and any questions are good questions! It is designed for those who are new to working with children & young people in a church context, or for those who wish to improve their skills, techniques and understanding. It is also a wonderful opportunity to meet leaders from other churches and share ideas. **Book by end of May!**

4th Sunday prayer

Our time of prayer after the service on Sunday is a great opportunity to meet together and pray more informally for the things we want to bring to God, and to seek Him for the things He wants to put on our hearts. We can pick up on prayer for individuals which might not have been covered in the intercessions in the service, and give more time to both prayer and waiting on God. It's a great privilege we have to come in prayer together to God, and it's for all of us to use it.

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**

Welcome to St Alban's on the first Sunday of June, and Trinity Sunday

We're nearly half way through the year already! 'Where does the time go?' is the constant cry! We've barely got over Easter, and we're heading towards all the summer activities. Now is the time to pause and take stock – we enter what's called 'Ordinary Time' – no special festivals, or periods where we're preparing ourselves (like Advent or Lent), but an opportunity to take stock, to reflect on commitments, resolutions and promises we may have made at the beginning of the year, and which may have fallen by the wayside in the busy-ness of life. It's also a great time to recall the promises of God to us in Jesus – the simple, abiding and constant promise of God's love demonstrated in His death for us.

Events this week

Sunday 26th May	10.30am	Holy Communion followed by a time of prayer
-----------------------------------	----------------	--

Events next week

Sunday 3rd June	10.30am 6.30pm	All-age worship First Sunday
------------------------	---------------------------	---

WEEKLY PRAYER DIARY – Week beginning 27 May 2018 – with thanks to Nicky Butler

When we don't know what to say to someone, we are grateful when they open the conversation and give us talking points! So it is with God – with the help of His Spirit I've found His word never fails to draw me into conversation with Him (often a mix of thanksgiving, wonder, questions, and requests). So let's take time over the Bible passages this week, before we pray, and listen to our Father first.

SUNDAY: The more I read the gospels and the words of Jesus when He was on the earth, the deeper His words draw me ... often out of my depth ... but thank the Lord for His Spirit who keeps me afloat as I cling on all the harder! Today, let's look again at **John 3:1-21** (the passage Anthony spoke on) and ask the Spirit to strengthen our grasp of the truth and help us to walk in it. *Over the next two days we will be praying for **Mark and Rosalie Balfour** working with street children in Guatemala. But let's meditate on the scriptures first before launching in!*

MONDAY: **John 3:8.** In Mark and Rosalie Balfour's latest newsletter they write: "Finally, Jesus said that, "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself: he can only do what he sees the Father is doing..."(John 5.19). We don't ever want to be 'doing our own thing' but to keep our eyes on Jesus and follow his lead. Please pray that we always keep in step with Him." Also they write: "The street/prevention team at the centre have asked us to consider starting something like a church service at the weekends for families who are connected to the mentoring program. We, together with Duncan, feel that the answer from Jesus at the moment is to wait - and keep praying and listening to Him about this project. We have peace about this because we know from experience that rushing into doing what looks like the 'right thing' before Jesus actually says "go" is never a good idea. Do keep praying for and with us in this."

TUESDAY: **Psalms 84** Here are two more prayer requests from Mark and Rosalie: "please pray for the teenage boys connected to the Centre who are going through some very tough times and for the team here as they try to work with them. Especially could you pray for 'A', a young guy who is being drawn into gang life and needs help to walk away from that.
- Building work at the Street Kids Direct Protection Home in Guatemala City had stopped while we prayed for and sought more funding to continue. Please give thanks to the Lord for the amazing provision of £83,000 this past week which

means that the first floor (where the children's accommodation will be) can be finished. SKD still need more money to finish the project - you can find out more details here: <https://www.streetkidsdirect.org.uk/> - can you please keep praying for the completion of the Home, which is sorely needed as a place of refuge for some of the most vulnerable children connected to the Centre."

WEDNESDAY: **John 3:30 and Luke 22:24-27** After reading these scriptures please pray for **Jamie Mason** as he prepares to move from the America desk to the Australia desk at the Foreign Office (based in London!), which will involve more leadership and responsibility. Then, with the help of the full passage **John 3:22-35**, remember **Jamie and Kenneth and all Christians in parliament** (Civil servants, MPs, Lords, interns...)

*Over the next three days, we will be praying for **young people** we know (if you don't know any specifically, please pray generally, for, in God's hands, even general prayers hit their mark!). With Psalm 84 to guide us, we will cover some of the challenges of being a teenager.*

THURSDAY: **Psalms 84:1-4** Young people who need a safe place and the presence of their protector

FRIDAY: **Psalms 84:5-7** Young people who need strength to persevere in their faith

SATURDAY: **Psalms 84:8-12** Young people who need help to resist the attractions of the world.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)

You will no doubt have been bombarded with mail about giving permission to hold data about you, and consent to communication with you. This is due to changes in data protection regulations which will come into effect from now. All organisations need to comply, and churches aren't exempt! That means we will be asking you for your consent to hold information we currently hold about you (in the directory, or because you attend a group like Hobnobs, for instance), and asking you to confirm which ways you would be happy for us to contact you. We also need to check that you're happy for us to share information we have about you (eg the directory) with our partner churches. Finally, we need to let you know how you can view the information we hold on you, and that you can ask us to delete it at any time. The forms which are being given out this week are for this purpose, and don't commit you to supplying any other information than you have already given us.