

## Fund Raising

The Mid -Winter Fayre held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, raised £441 and the 5p coins collection [still continuing] has raised another £23 - both for Church Funds.

## PCC – the March Meeting

will be held on Monday March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7.45 pm in St Luke's Church. In the February Meeting, changes to the choir were announced and organ problems are being investigated. Following resolution of the tree stump, negotiations for the church wall repair are in hand. Mission Statistics for the Diocese were discussed and Revd Adel introduced the Lent Magazine available for families to purchase. Preparation checks for the APCM continued, and the Child and Youth Friendly Award is being worked on. It was thought that St. Luke's Church, being 50 years old this year, should be an occasion to celebrate. Also, arrangements were made for the Lent to Easter Sunday Services.

## The Open the Book Team

made up of volunteers from the Old Windsor Churches, enact Bible stories at Kings' Court School every week. More volunteers would be appreciated. Please see Mary Sibley for details.

## Suggested Readings for March 2018

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

Exodus 20: 1 - 17                      1 Corinthians 1: 18 - 25                      John 2: 13 - 22

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March - *Mothering Sunday*

Exodus 2: 1 - 10                      Colossians 3: 12 - 17                      John 19: 25 - 27

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Jeremiah 31: 31 - 34                      Hebrews 5: 5 - 10                      John 12: 20 - 33

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March – *Palm Sunday*

Psalms 118: 1 - 2,                      Isaiah 50: 4 – 9                      Philippians 2: 5 - 11                      Mark 11: 1 – 11  
19 – 24

## REGULAR SERVICES

8 am	9.15 am	11.15 am
St Luke's Church	St Peter's Middle School Hall	Parish Church of St Peter & St Andrew
Said Service of Holy Communion - BCP 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays	Worship for all ages, Featuring Jamzone kid's club	Holy Communion Service - Common Worship

For more news and to keep up-to date with coming events please visit

[www.oldwindsorchurch.org.uk](http://www.oldwindsorchurch.org.uk)

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# OLD WINDSOR PARISH NEWS

KNOWING GOD TOGETHER AND MAKING HIM KNOWN  
A Christian Community at the Heart of Old Windsor

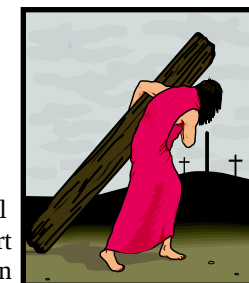
## March 2018

*“In returning and rest you shall be saved;  
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” (Isaiah 30: 15)*

*Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.  
(Zechariah 4: 6)*

Lent is here ... What are you giving up for Lent?

“Oh no, not again!”, perhaps this will be your immediate reaction if you are not yet recovered from the New Year resolution disappointment! In spite of its prevalence, the idea that Lent is mainly about 'my will power resolutions' is almost the opposite of what Lent is. Imagine you invited a friend for dinner and instead of spending time with them, you were very busy trying to prepare the best luxurious meal for the dinner. How would this leave them feeling? And apart from feeling self-congratulatory, would this help you grow in your friendship with this person? Surely not! The main idea in relationships is to try to put aside some part of me to allow more space for the invited friend to be.



Lent is a time to stretch (*lengthen*) your relationship with God, and the best way to do this is to allow the space for this stretch; to allow the space you need to DO NOTHING; simply to become available to Him; to be ready for Him to interrupt your plans. In a biblical language, it is to come after Jesus: to deny yourself, your will power resolutions as if you are able to do them, and to take up the Cross and follow Him (Mark 8: 34). I am aware that do “nothing” is the most insulting word to our achieving culture. However, to do “something” to save ourselves is also the most insulting word in Christian Faith! You cannot transform your heart, your inner being. Someone else can and that is God. This is the main plot in the biblical big story, who is God and who is the saviour: me or God.

Doing nothing and being available sounds easy and even a joke at first glance; to turn to be bitter at the first practice; then finally we will be able to taste the sweetness of its liberation once we encounter God.

I pray for all of us, that led by the the Holy Spirit we journey well through this season of Lent, to be available to encounter God. And that we enjoy His presence, so that our lifeless wilderness turns out to be the Garden of Eden.

Revd Adel Shokralla

## SERVICES

### 4<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

9.15 am at St. Peter's Middle School Hall, Crimp Hill *with Holy Communion*  
11.15 am at the Parish Church

### 11<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday

10.30 am Joint Service at the Parish Church [No 9.15 service]

### 18<sup>th</sup> March – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

8 am Holy Communion at St. Luke's Church *which is said worship*  
9.15 am at St. Peter's Middle School Hall, Crimp Hill  
11.15 am at the Parish Church

### 25<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday

10.00 am at St. Luke's Church for walk to Parish Churches [see notes opposite]  
10.15 am Joint Service begins in the Parish Church for non-walkers [note changed start time]

### 29<sup>th</sup> March – Maundy Thursday

7.30 pm the Maundy Thursday Service in the Parish Church [see notes opposite]

### 30<sup>th</sup> March – Good Friday

10.30 am the 'Walk of Witness' from The Methodist Church [see notes opposite]  
2 pm 'Stations of the Cross' at the Parish Church [see notes opposite]

### 31<sup>st</sup> March - Easter Vigil

11.00 pm the Easter Vigil service at the Parish Church [see notes opposite]

### 1<sup>st</sup> April – Easter Sunday

10.30 am Joint Service at the Parish Church [No 9.15 service]

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### 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Women's World Day of Prayer

*will be held at 2 pm in the Methodist Church.*

### 9<sup>th</sup> March - The Day Centre Communion Service

*held in the Day Centre and lasting for about 30 minutes, invites all church members to attend.  
The next service will be held on March 9<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 11 am.*

### 11<sup>th</sup> March - the Manor Care Home Service

*is held every second Sunday of the month by the United Churches group. It will be held at 3 pm on 11<sup>th</sup> March and all are invited to attend.*

### 14<sup>th</sup> March - House Group

*meets every second Wednesday in the month, so the next will be on 14<sup>th</sup> March in Mary Sibley's House at 14, Malthouse Close, Old Windsor. Mary Sibley will be facilitator and the topic will be the Bishop's choice theme of The Beatitudes. For further details please contact Antony Wood Tel. 01753 8553*

### The Ecumenical Prayer Group

*The date for the Old Windsor United Churches Prayer meeting for March has yet to be arranged.  
Please see Anne Beer, after 28<sup>th</sup> February, for details.*

### Partnership for Missional Church

*Please see insert sheet from Rebecca Scott-Saunders*

## Lent Lounge

*If you are 9+, you are invited on Sundays 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March to a lounge fun time with other young people of the same age. It will be in the Vicarage, Church Road from 7.45 - 9 pm.*

## Lent Course – Around the Bible

*Our six week **Lent Course**, entitled **Passion** continues on Mondays at 1.30 pm or Fridays at 7.30 pm in the Vicarage, Church Road. The studies, looking at the twenty-four hours before Jesus' death, through the eyes of St. Luke's Gospel, finish on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. You are invited to join either group.*

## 25<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday

*The Palm Sunday Service is one of the few services in the Church's calendar that start outside the church building. In this service we re-enact Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem before his Passion. With the Palm Branches procession in the roads of Old Windsor, we will mark the beginning of Holy Week. The procession starts at **10.00 am** at St. Luke's Church and moves to the Cross on the junction of St. Peter's and St. Luke's roads, then walks via the shops to the Parish Church. The 'non-walkers' meanwhile begin at **10.15 am** with readings and a hymn before going just outside the church [if able, and weather permitting] to meet the procession.*

## 29<sup>th</sup> March – Maundy Thursday

*The Maundy Thursday Service at 7.30 pm in the Parish Church, with its foot washing for those who wish to do so, is not only a reminder of the nature of the king we serve, but is also the kind of service we are meant to demonstrate in our love for one another in the body of Christ and also in our wider community. ....MEANWHILE JESUS TOOK A TOWEL AND A BOWL AND WENT HIS WAY TO REDEFINE THE GREATNESS.*

## 30<sup>th</sup> March – Good Friday

*The Good Friday Service “**The Way of the Cross** “ is at **2 pm** in the Parish Church. One story, 14 scenes and different creative expressions with readings, reflections and prayer. And also, at **10.30 am**, there is an opportunity for the churches of Old Windsor [joining with the Methodist and Catholic Church] to come together for the “**Walk of Witness**” from the Methodist Church to the Cross on the junction of St. Peter's and St. Luke's roads for a short service followed by hot cross buns. If you do not wish to walk, please do join the service at the Cross where some chairs will be provided.*

## 31<sup>st</sup> March – Easter Eve

*The “**Easter Vigil**” service is at **11 pm** in the Parish Church. It is an atmospheric occasion where we shout the Gloria for the first time after 40 days of Lent. The service begins with the **Service of Light** outside the church, where the Easter Candle, which symbolises the risen Christ is lit from the new fire and processed into the church. And from it the individual candles of the worshippers are lit, reminding us that we are filled with the light and life of Christ. Worshippers also listen to the vigil readings to tell the story of salvation.*

## The Pastoral Team

*consists of several Church members whose role in the Parish is to contact anyone who is unwell, lonely, bereaved or has other needs, including bringing Communion to your home if you are housebound. If you, or anyone you know, is in need of some help or would like a visit, contact Mary Hutchinson Tel. 01753 862347.*

*Due to a large number of contributions this month, some regular items had to be omitted, but are still continuing. [See February Newsletter] Apologies also for the smaller print.*

## **Partnership for Missional Church (PMC)**

Our journey of spiritual discernment began this month as those who have shown interest in being part of the Steering Team met together over tea, coffee and lovely cakes! Not all were able to make the first meeting, but those who did were clear that, as the team on this journey, we would support each other. Giving time to PMC and juggling all the other balls of life was possible because we could make it possible.

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 7 of us including Revd Adel shared attendance at the first of 3 Cluster meetings this year. My husband David, who is sharing the leadership of the Steering Team with me, attended both days. I found the day I attended both spiritually uplifting, as God was at work with all of us from 9 parishes who are journeying together.

So, the Journey for year 1 is focused on listening and discovering our partners. We will discover partners within our Parish, Community and other churches. The Steering Team will meet again shortly, to plan the next steps before we meet again at a Cluster weekend event in June. As a Steering Team, we are determined to ensure that we keep you updated with the activities and developments in a range of ways.

Please pray for our Parish and our Steering Team as we sail faithfully into God's preferred and promised future.

*Rebecca Scott-Saunders.*