

**All Saints Parish Church, Kings Heath
4th Sunday before Lent
5th February 2017**



Welcome to all visitors. Everyone is welcome to coffee after the service

Services this Week: Fourth Sunday before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am All-Age Holy Communion

6.30pm Iona Evening Prayer

Evening Prayer today will be an Iona liturgy for Candlemas, all are welcome. If you are coming, you might like to bring a (fairly small) object in some way symbolic of your work (paid or unpaid). There will also be opportunity to reflect on concerns in our lives, and to light a candle for anyone who has helped us.

Morning Prayer: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.00am
Saturday 9.15am

Wednesday Holy Communion 11.30am

Services next Week: Third Sunday before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Communion

6.30pm Evening Prayer

COLLECT :

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58: 1-9a

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a

nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2: 1-12

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God’s wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. Now we have

received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5: 13-20

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot. “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you O Christ

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Go before us, Lord, in all we do with your most gracious favour, and guide us with your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

MEDITATION

The Spirit searches even the depths of God. (1 Corinthians 2:10b)

PRAYERS:

WE PRAY:

God, there is too much shouting; too much indignation; too much belligerence. We worry that Isaiah shouts, too. But at least his anger is in tune with you. Quieten us to listen to you. Teach the nations to fast as you desire: by sharing bread with

the hungry, sheltering the homeless, setting the oppressed free and loosing the bonds of injustice.

- for the Church of England beginning to reflect on the substance or otherwise of the Bishops' report on how we honour or demean LGBT relationships.
- for any hurt, disappointed or confused by the report and its reporting.
- we remember before God those who are ill, John Davies, Bob Ebbitt, Lovetta Campbell, Pauline Elcock, Yvonne Ford, Val Hems, Josephine Hickin, Kathryn Steventon, Helen Ross, Helen McMahan and those for whom we regularly pray Pat Dyer, Carol Fallon, Rachel Hope, Jacqui Brown, Mary Goodhall and all who live at Rosemary Lodge
- we remember those who have died Joan Ford, William Priday, Frances Manly, Florence Livings, Dennis Pearson, Charles Hewson, Albert Mills, Cynthia Ebbitt and Arthur Lock

RIP

Elizabeth Horton died on Tuesday 24th January. Her funeral is on Thursday 23rd February 11.30am at All Saints and 12.30 at Robin Hood Crematorium. Please remember her dear brother John in your prayers

Mike Cheesbrough writes: Last Sunday morning's service will long abide in my memory, or as David says will become another of my witty stories. It was a fantastic time that made me realise how many friends I have at All Saints. I am taking this opportunity to thank everyone involved for such a joyous occasion. I aim to stay around for many more years, but will be spending it in the pew. Thank you all for your good wishes. A special thankyou to those who produced such a wonderful cake to round off the morning

Annual Mosque Open Day – Today Sunday 5th 1.30pm – 5.30pm Lots going on for everyone including children. Free food and parking. People from All Saints are going, meeting at 1.45pm at All Saints, lifts available. Mosque is KSIMC Mosque, Clifton Road, Balsall Heath.

Meditation Group: The next meeting of the Meditation Group is on Thursday 9 February 2017 at 29 Portman Road 7.30 for 8.00 pm start. All are welcome. Daniel Wilson

Traidcraft news: The next full stalls will be on Saturday 4th February at the Farmers' Market and on Sunday 5th February after the morning services. The new Traidcraft catalogue will be out in February. Traidcraft is holding one of their Preview days in Birmingham on Monday February 13th at Carrs Lane. You are welcome to come and hear more about Traidcraft and see items from the new catalogue. Please see Gill if you wish to know more details and let her know (604 6127) if you intend to be there as they wish to know numbers

Brexit and the developing world. The Fairtrade Foundation, Traidcraft, Christian Aid and others are concerned that, without new measures, Brexit may have serious consequences on the people who trade with us from the poorest countries of the world. Currently there is tax-free access through different European schemes but on Brexit they could face £1 billion in extra taxes. In addition there could be unfair competition if the UK signs free trade agreements with wealthier competitors. Traidcraft and others are calling for the government to safeguard the current position and make it possible for producers in poor countries to continue to export valuable products and trade their way out of poverty. Please consider sending a postcard to your MP asking for a fair deal for the people who trade with us from the world's poorest countries. There is more information on the table at the back of church.

LOST PROPERTY: Please take a look at the items of lost property laid out at the back of church to see if any of it is yours! Any items not claimed will be sold at the Jumble Sale on 25th February. Thank you Sarah and Marilyn



NOTES ON BLINDNESS

The film of John Hull's remarkable journey will be shown in the hall on **Sunday February 26th at 3.00pm**. Notes on Blindness is the BAFTA nominated, award winning drama documentary based on the audio diaries of local teacher, author and member of our congregation John Hull who died in 2015.

At the age of 47, about two years after a final failed eye operation, John found himself in complete darkness. In order to make sense of this experience and the devastating changes that it brought to his life, he began to record his thoughts on a cassette. Some years later he published this as a book. "Touching the Rock" which is the basis for the film, an intimate portrayal of love and loss and ultimately, an exploration of what John came to describe as "the gift of blindness". Notes on Blindness will be shown in the Church Hall at 3.00pm on Sunday February 26th. John's wife Marilyn who was extensively involved during the making of the film will introduce it and there will be an opportunity after the film to stay for a discussion with her. The showing is Free but there will be a retiring collection for the Vicars Discretionary Fund which is used to help the vulnerable and those in need. Refreshments will also be available. Please sign the sheet at the rear of church if you are intending to come as we would like an idea of numbers attending. many thanks - more information from Des 443 5292

Join 'All Saints Children and Families' group on Facebook, and follow @allsaintsfamily on Twitter for updates on our ministry with children and families.

'Crafternoons'! An hour after school for primary (lower secondary is fine!) school aged children with Emily in the All Saints Cafe. First and third Tuesdays 4-5pm for games, crafts, discussion and fun. Feb dates: 7th, extended 3-5pm session for half-term on 21st. Suggested donation £2 per person, PLEASE BOOK TO LET EMILY KNOW YOUR CHILD IS COMING. (07739018908, emily.childrensworker@gmail.com) *If you're interested in helping at these sessions please let me know. Thank you! Contact details above. Em

JUNK, JUMBLE and BOOKS Saturday February 25th 10am until 2pm in the Church Hall Come and find some collectables, come and browse the full selection of books we have and bag a bargain, come and get a bargain! we want your unwanted gifts, your quality jumble, your knick knacks you no longer need, whether it is an old radio, a unwanted pair of garden shears or the picture of the Algarve from a long a go holiday - bring it to Church and we can sell it and raise money for All Saints at our Junk Jumble and Book Sale. (if you cannot get it to church- we can collect) for more information speak to Des Workman, Tony Cocks, Pam Coley or Sarah Wilson or phone 443 5292

Quiz Night: Churches Together in Kings Heath are organising a Quiz Night, Saturday 25th February at the Baptist Church. It is hoped All Saints will send two teams of six people. Tickets cost £5, pay at the door, including supper. If you are interested in organising a team or being in a team please contact Margaret Healy-Pollett on 444 7267 or email margarethealeypollett@gmail.com.

All Saints Community Arts is privileged to display a small exhibition of work by the internationally renowned Egyptian artist Omar Elfayoumi by kind permission of the artist himself. Primarily a portrait painter, Omar is fascinated by ordinary people, and particularly those who frequent the coffee houses of Cairo. It is therefore highly appropriate that this exhibition is displayed in our own community cafe at All Saints Centre. Curated by Janice Rider. "Paintings from Cairo" will be showing in the Welcome Space from Monday January 9 - February 26 2017 Open daily from 09.30 - 5.30 pm and after Sunday services.

Rolling Calendar

February

Thurs 9th Meditation Group

Thurs 23rd Funeral 11.30am

March

Sun 5th 4.30 Talk on Traidcraft Tour to Nicaragua and Costa Rica

Power for Good

Second Project: Solar panels for the rear roof of New Life Baptist Church, Kings Heath

Power for Good is a registered, not-for-profit Community Benefit Society. We install solar panels on the roofs of churches and other buildings belonging to faith communities. This reduces their fuel bills and their carbon footprint. Our first project, completed in 2015, raised enough money to install photo-voltaic panels at St Richard's, Lea Hall, and St Andrew's West Bromwich. We are now receiving income from the Feed-in Tariff from these installations.

In 2017 a second project: the installation of solar panels on the rear roof of New Life Baptist Church on the High St, swings into action. For this we are looking for investments (minimum £250, maximum £5,000 per

person or organisation) totalling £24,600. Each investment is withdrawable, subject to decision of Board. The Share Offer closing date is 13th March, 2017.

We would like to invite you to invest in this project. For full details and a copy of the Share Offer Document, please visit our website, www.pfg.coop, phone 0121 241 5830 or email powerforgood.coop@gmail.com. Our business plan includes provision for a 2% return on your investment from Year Four. See Margaret Healey-Pollett if you would like to discuss this further.

Cards – All Saints no longer recycles cards, birthday, Christmas or any other occasion cards. Please dispose of them with your household recycling. **PLEASE do not leave them in church.** *Thank you*

Communion: Gluten-free wafers are now available, please mention to a member of the clergy before the service if you would prefer a gluten-free wafer when taking Communion

ALL SAINTS

is a Fairtrade Church, see: www.fairtrade.org.uk

supports the Statement of Belief of 'Inclusive Church',

see: www.inclusivechurch.net

has signed the Living Wage Pledge, see: www.church-poverty.org.uk

belongs to the Christian Ecology Link, see www.christian-ecology.org.uk

is a Jubilee Congregation,

see www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk

is affiliated to Amnesty International and Pax Christi