

THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, HANGER HILL WITH ST MARY'S, WEST TWYFORD

PARISH NEWS

March 2024



www.ascensionealing.org

£1

AN OPEN INVITATION

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What is on offer here is unconditional.

There may be times when you don't come due to circumstances in your life or maybe our style doesn't suit you – but don't be estranged from us. You will be welcome when we meet again. If you want to come home for Christmas or Easter, that's all right too.

We are here.

We are pleased to share your happy times – we love your weddings and baptisms – we hope you tell us when you are in trouble.

What is on offer here is always available.



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March letter:

Lent is a journey with Jesus to the cross, and, like him, we don't get to the light and hope of Easter without going there first.

There is nothing sentimental or attractive about the cross. It's not a golden ornament in a church, and hymns about "the precious blood" distract from a story of deliberate and brutal violence.

But that's precisely why the message of the cross is so vital and so powerful. We live in a world of deliberate and brutal violence. Some of the international community have finally found the courage to say that war crimes are being committed in Gaza as families are indiscriminately shelled and bombed. The recent and unexplained death of Alexei Navalny brings into sharp focus the ruthlessness of Vladimir Putin's Russian regime as it seeks to destroy all opposition to its imperial ambitions, starting with conquest of Ukraine.

Less obvious forms of violence are the unaddressed social and economic inequalities which fuel the cost of living crisis, and the disturbing view of a number of right wing politicians that the climate crisis simply does not matter.

A faith that does not address the darkness of this world is an irrelevant faith or an escapist fantasy. Christianity is neither. It has at its heart the astonishing belief, shared by no other religion, that God not only came to meet us by becoming a

human being, but allowed himself to be the victim of the human violence and injustice at its very worst to share it with us.

The Bible explains in a variety of ways how this profoundly changes things, and, allied to the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, enables us to have a genuine hope that good will ultimately triumph over evil. The more of this we can understand, the stronger and more effective our faith will be, but we do not need to wait until we have a greater understanding. The power of the cross is such that for many people all that is needed is to grasp that the person suffering there is actually God, and God is choosing to do this in order to reach us in all of our struggles and failures and sufferings. From that comes a realisation of the intensity of God's love for us, and often a realisation that we must and can respond in faith.

The cross is the gateway to God and that is why in different ways during the week before Easter, we look upon and explore what happened there. If you do not normally come to these Holy Week services, I would encourage you to give God a little extra time and come to maybe just one of them. It could change your life.

Best wishes



PARISH NEWS

What Is Holy Week?

Christianity began because Jesus died for our sins and was raised from the dead. Christians celebrated this weekly as they shared bread and wine, and their most important festival was Easter. Within just a few centuries this also became the time when people wanted to be baptised and the benefits of a period of preparation were soon extended to all Christians by the keeping of the season of Lent. Within this there grew up a custom of having special acts of worship in the week leading up to Easter to focus in depth on the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Here's what we do.

Palm Sunday – We remember Jesus riding into Jerusalem looking like a king, but with a very different purpose in mind. Sometimes we read and explore the whole of one of the Gospel accounts on his arrest, trial and death. We also process into church with palms and give out palm crosses in a special celebration.

Stations of the Cross – When many people could not read it was easiest to tell the story of Jesus in pictures. Each "station" uses a picture to depict an event in Jesus' crucifixion. Our practice is to read the part of Scripture which describes it, along with a second passage which helps us draw out the meaning. We have a short period of silent prayer at each station. This takes place at 8pm on Monday evening in the Church of the Ascension using pictures on the screens. (NB there are no gory or distressing images.)

PARISH NEWS

Maundy Thursday Agapé – “Agapé” is the word for “love” in the original language of the New Testament and it became used to describe the meals at which Christians shared bread and wine to remember Jesus (the origin of Holy Communion). We recall the Last Supper by sharing a meal together with an informal Holy Communion. This takes place 7pm-9pm at St Mary’s.

Maundy Thursday Vigil – Jesus went to pray alone in the Garden of Gethsemane, and there is a tradition of spending some time in silent reflection in response. To help focus our thoughts, Jesus’ last instructions to his disciples in John 14-17 are read slowly, interspersed with psalms. We do this over quiet music in a one hour service in church and online at 9pm.

Good Friday – Both churches have services at 2pm where we focus on what it means to say that Jesus died for us. The format varies. St Mary’s tends to use music and singing, the Ascension uses a variety of formats. The mood is serious, of course, but also uplifting. The cross is the heart of the good news.

Easter Sunday – This, along with Christmas Day, is one of the two occasions when all Anglican Christians are called to come together to share in Holy Communion. It’s also the biggest celebration in the year as we sing out the resurrection of Jesus.

Many of us only have a routine of coming to church on a Sunday. Holy Week and Easter is a special time. When we open ourselves up to listen to the story of Jesus we give an opportunity for God to speak with us and meet with us in new ways. Why not try to come to at least one of the extra services in Holy Week. Do it as a special offering of worship to the Christ who died and rose for us all.

PARISH NEWS

Mothering Sunday

This year Mothering Sunday is on March 10th, the second Sunday of the month. We will be having an All Age service at both churches rather than on the first Sunday of the month.

Taizé Prayer Evening – March 7th

This month our Parish Prayer Evening will be shaped around the musical prayer style of the famous international Taizé community. In order to help people pray together, Taizé uses simple meditative choruses which can be easily memorised. "Oh Lord, hear my prayer" is one that some of us will know. Along with simple responsive prayers it enables everyone to take part. **The Prayer Evening will take place at the Ascension, 8pm-9pm, on Thursday 7th March.** Because live music does not work well on Zoom, we will not be able to share this event online so do come along.

Lent Night Prayer online – Tuesdays at 9.30pm

Night Prayer or Compline is a traditional way to end the day in prayer. It's a short service of prayer with responses and readings, intentionally quiet and reflective, and intended to help us reflect back with God on the day which is ending. Short prayer stops like this help us to deepen our connection with God, so do try it out if you have never done something like this. Please email Simon if you do not already have the Zoom link.

New Champions At The Ascension Quiz



Congratulations to "Odds & Ends" (Lee Dewsnap, David Delaney, Niro Kamalraj, Thajeev Kamalraj and Richard Majewski) who triumphed over the other four teams in the Ascension Quiz night at the end of February. It was also great to have lots of support from members of the Beaufort Players and we hope we will be able to more events together in future. Thank you to the organising team and everyone who took part.

**ADVERTISE YOUR CLUB
OR BUSINESS HERE**

For further details contact

Roger Dishley

07957 180288 / roger@dishley.net

ASCENSION NEWS

The Ascension Friends

Our February talk was well attended and Sabita Banerji told us about THIRST, a charity working to change the system that keeps tea pluckers and their families poor. Sabita spent her childhood on tea plantations and saw how hard the women pluckers had to work for very little money. She is founder and CEO of the charity and her illustrated talk was enlightening. She also brought some delicious teas for us to taste!

The information below is taken from THIRST publicity.



This little girl would like to be a doctor when she grows up. Her mother is a tea plucker. But, like many mothers who pluck the leaves that make your cuppa (most tea pluckers are women), she lives in poverty in a tiny, crowded, dilapidated house, without clean drinking water or electricity.

This is just one example of how THIRST is trying to help and the Ascension Friends were pleased to make a donation to the charity.

This month Spencer Williams will be talking to us about '3 More Pictures'. Many of you who have heard Spencer speak about art will know just how interesting his talk will be. Do come. We would love to see you. We meet on Tuesday March 5th at 2pm in the Welcome area. Everyone is welcome.

- Liz Williams (020 8997 5578) williams13qr@gmail.com

The Ascension Friends

A club for retired people - old or young

We meet on the first Tuesday of every month
2pm-4pm
for talks, teas and occasional outings
in The Welcome Area, the Church of the Ascension
Beaufort Road W5 3EB

Winter/Spring Programme 2024

Tuesday 6th February

THIRST – helping tea pluckers out of poverty
A talk by Sabita Banerjee

Tuesday 5th March

3 more pictures
An illustrated talk by Spencer Williams

Tuesday 2nd April

Springtime celebrations

For more information please contact Mrs Liz Williams
020 8997 5578 or williams13qr@gmail.com





The Open Door

**Coffee and chat for all
Food and clothes if you
need them**

Fridays in term time 10am-midday.

**Bags of shopping available for those
who need them.**

**Clothing available for those who
need them.**

Coffee and conversation for all.

You are welcome! The Door is open!

**St Mary's Church Hall
Brentmead Gardens, West Twyford
NW10 7ED**

Contact Rae on 07414 990645

Stay And Play



In partnership with West Twyford Children's Centre (<https://www.west-twyford.ealing.sch.uk/services-timetable/>) we run a parent and toddler group every Monday morning of term time from 9.15am to 11am.

Not only is it great fun for children with lots of space and large toys like slides and pedal cars, but it also allows access to the range of support and services offered by the Children's Centre.

Do come along if you have young children, and do tell local families about it.

Jazz at St Mary's



Did you know that St Mary's has its own Jazz Club? It takes place once a month on the third Tuesday evening from 7.30pm. It has its own house band, featuring St Mary's keyboard player Ben Croft (<https://www.benjamincroftmusic.com/>) and local saxophonist Andrew McKay (<https://andrew-mckay.co.uk>) but there is always an opportunity for other musicians and singers to take part.

To find out more contact Pete Harris (details inside back cover) and come along to what Pete will tell you is "the best jazz in West Twyford!"

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CALENDAR, DIARY & REGISTERS

Calendar

March

Intercessions

Our regular service times can be found on the back cover. On Sundays the intercessions (which are being used in an alphabetical sequence) are for the people who live or work in the various roads and schools of our Parish.

Daily Prayer can be accessed via the website.

Friday 10am - The Open Door at St Mary's

Week beginning March 3rd (3rd Sunday of Lent)

Cresta Court & Dallas Road

Sunday 10.30am - Morning Service at the Ascension
10.30am - Morning Service at St Mary's
6pm - The Sunday Word (Evening Worship) online
Monday 9.15am – Stay and Play Toddler Group at St Mary's
Tuesday 2pm - Ascension Friends at the Welcome Area
9.30pm - Lent Night Prayer online
Wed. 11am - Coffee Morning at St Mary's
Thursday 8pm - Parish Prayer Evening at the Ascension
Friday 10am - The Open Door at St Mary's

Week beginning March 10th (Mothering Sunday)

Deena Close & East Close

Sunday 10.30am - All Age Service at the Ascension
10.30am - All Age Service at St Mary's
4.30pm - Youth Group at the Ascension
Monday 9.15am – Stay and Play Toddler Group at St Mary's
Tuesday 9.30pm – Lent Night Prayer online

CALENDAR, DIARY & REGISTERS

Wed. 8pm – District Church Council at St Mary's
Thursday 8pm - District Church Council at the Ascension

Friday 10am - The Open Door at St Mary's

Week beginning March 17th (5th Sunday of Lent)

Ellen Wilkinson School For Girls & Gilbert Court

Sunday 10.30am – Morning Service at Ascension

10.30am – Morning Service at St Mary's

Monday 9.15am – Stay and Play Toddler Group at St Mary's

Tuesday 7pm - Jazz at St Mary's

9.30pm - Lent Night Prayer online

Wed. 8pm – Parochial Church Council at St Mary's

Friday 10am - The Open Door at St Mary's

Week beginning March 24th (Palm Sunday)

Golf Road & Green Vale

Palm Sunday

10.30am – Morning Service at the Ascension

10.30am - Morning Service at St Mary's

4.30pm - Youth Group at the Ascension

Monday in Holy Week

9.15am – Stay and Play Toddler Group at St Mary's

8pm – Stations of the Cross at the Ascension and online

Tuesday 9.30pm – Lent Night Prayer online

Maundy Thursday

7pm – Agapé Communion at St Mary's

9pm – Vigil Service on Zoom

Good Friday

2pm – Good Friday Service at the Ascension

2pm - Good Friday Service at St Mary's

CALENDAR, DIARY & REGISTERS

Week beginning March 31st (EASTER SUNDAY)

Groveside Close & Hanger Green

Easter Sunday

1030am – Morning Service at the Ascension

10.30am – Morning Service at St Mary's

All Ascension Sunday services are livestreamed on Zoom, recorded, and posted as videos on the Parish website where they can be accessed for the next week.

PARISH REGISTERS

No entries this month

Important Dates

- 21st April – Annual Parochial Church Meeting
- 9th May – Ascension Day
- 12th May – Ascension Patronal Festival
- 18th May – Ascension Spring event

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

How to play : place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell so that each row, each column & each 3x3 block contains all the numbers from 1-9.

(N.B. No number can appear twice in any row, column or 3 x 3 box)

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| 4 | | 8 | | 9 | 6 | | | |
| | | | | | 8 | | | 9 |
| | | 7 | | | | | 3 | |

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ARTICLES



Beaufort Players Drama Group
www.beaufortplayers.org.uk



It says here that tickets are now on sale for

'The God of Carnage'

by

Yasmina Reza

21st & 22nd March @ 8.00pm

23rd March @ 7.00pm

(doors open before each performance)

Following a playground incident with a stick in a local park, the parents of two young boys gather to discuss a suitable punishment for the 'aggressor'.

It isn't long before the pretence of courtesy amongst the almost strangers slips and both sets of marriages quickly unravel as matters of parenthood and childhood collide.

Tickets : £12 - £15

Box Office : 07730 572389

or on-line by scanning this QR code



Junior Church

JUNIOR CHURCH ON SUNDAYS

Is God calling you to help run sessions for our wonderful young people?

Is God calling you to help guide our children and younger members on their Christian journey?

We need people like you to help support or run Junior Church – full training will be given and no experience is necessary.

Speak to Rae for more info or to discuss getting involved



God is fair. He will not forget the work you did and the love you showed for him by helping his people. And he will remember that you are still helping them

- Hebrews 6:10

ARTICLES

Poem : I Am Not Alone

I am not alone,
There is someone very near
And with his love and care
There is nothing I need fear.

Whatever is my need (concern)
He will always hear my plea
And even if I have to wait
He will always answer me.

Maybe not as I expect
Or even understand
But you can be sure
It's what the Lord has planned.

So thank you, Lord for being there
Whenever I'm in need
Always at my side you are
To help and intercede.

You are *always* there
To answer my prayer

© Roger Dishley – March 2024

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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| 8 | | | 9 | | | | | |
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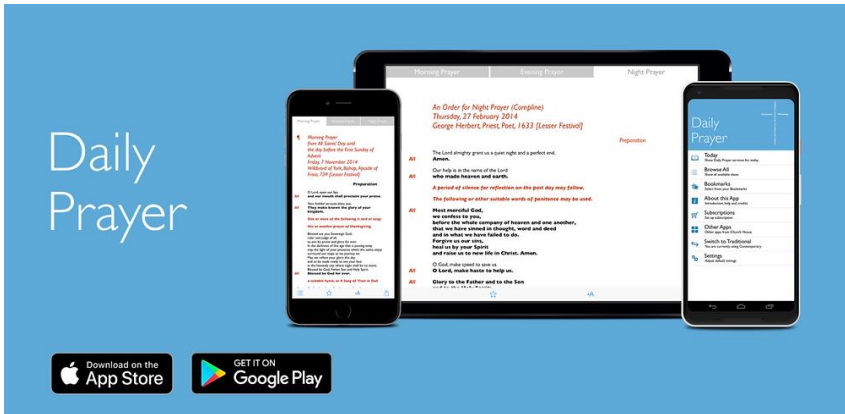
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PRAYER SECTION

We'd love to hear from you about prayer. Have you got a story about answered prayer? An insight which has helped you to pray better? An inspiring quotation about prayer? A prayer someone has written which you find useful? A question about prayer you'd like answered?



We all pray in different ways. If you prefer something more traditional in style try the Church of England's daily prayer app which provides Morning, Evening and Night Prayer (Compline) with an option to listen to a recording which includes choral music and chant.

Our next prayer Parish Prayer Gathering will be a Taize style evening on Thursday March 7th, 8pm-9pm at the Ascension. Keep in touch with the WhatsApp group, website, and Facebook page for prayer information.



Supporting Mission: Church Mission Society (CMS)

Every month we profile one or more of the agencies the Parish supports by its external giving.

Founded in 1799, CMS is an evangelistic mission working to see a world transformed by the love of Jesus. Today they are a community of people in mission working in over 50 countries, directly supporting more than 700 people and drawing thousands more into local mission wherever they are. CMS workers are transforming lives from south London to Nepal and from Ukraine to Argentina, as they hand out Bibles in conflict zones, treat drug addicts, run HIV clinics and witness the love of Christ to those around them, in practical and spiritual ways. CMS also helps local churches to explore what mission means where they are.

Their values are to be:

Pioneering - constantly seeking and moving to the edges of church, society and ourselves, and calling others to do the same: to try new things, ask questions, cross boundaries and not get too comfortable.

Evangelistic - sharing Jesus in word and action with people at the edges and inviting them to be part of his story.

Relational - getting alongside people, becoming a genuine part of the edge-based communities where we find ourselves, recognising that often we are guests not hosts.

Faithful - remaining true to our calling and not getting discouraged easily. We recognise that mission at the edges takes time, that God is our leading partner in all we do and can be trusted to bring needed change.

To find out more visit www.cms-uk.org.

And Finally

My Kid: I feel like you're always making up rules and stuff.

Me: Like what?

My Kid: Like if I don't clean my room a portal will open and take me to another dimension.

Me: Well that's what happened to your older brother.

My Kid: What older brother?

Me: Exactly.

PARISH PERSONNEL

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| VICAR: | The Revd Simon Reed..... 020 8566 9920 The Ascension Vicarage, Beaufort Road, Ealing W5 3EB E: simonreed@ascensionealing.org |
| MINISTER at ST MARY’S: | The Revd Pete Harris, 91 Ashbourne Rd, W5 3DH 020 8997 7852 E: pete@richard-rose.co.uk |
| PASTORAL ASSISTANTS: | Liz Williams, 13 Queen's Road, W5 2SA 020 8997 5578 E: williams13qr@gmail.com Rae White..... 07414 990645 E: darwinrae@hotmail.co.uk |
| CHURCH WARDEN(S): | Philippa Bird, 42 Ridley Ave, West Ealing W13 9XW .. 020 8932 1518 |
| DEPUTY WARDENS: | Rosy Sookias [A], 27 Audley Road, W5 3ES 020 8998 3670 Arby Ghazaryan [M], 69 Abbeyfields Close, West Twyford, NW10 7EG..... 07958 555506 |
| PCC SECRETARY: | Liz Williams, 13 Queen's Road, W5 2SA 020 8997 5578 |
| PARISH TREASURER: | Colin McKenzie, 26 Brentmead Gardens, West Twyford, NW10 7DS..... 020 8838 4531 E: treasurer@ascensionealing.org |
| PLANNED GIVING: | Iyabo Adeola..... E: coavestry@hotmail.co.uk |
| ELECTORAL ROLL: | Lucy Pavesi 020 3532 2524 |
| CHILDREN’S CHAMPIONS: | The Revd Simon Reed [A] (address above)..... 020 8566 9920 Annllinda Buckingham [M], 29 Waverley Gardens, NW10 7EE 07817 676607 |
| SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS: | Liz Williams (address above) 020 8997 5578 Rae White (see above) 07414 990645 |
| JUNIOR CHURCH | Rae White (see above) 07414 990645 |
| DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: | Lee Dewsnap 07702 126971 |
| SACRISTAN: | Denise Avanessian..... 020 8810 7140 |
| HALL BOOKINGS: | Rae White..... 07414 990645 E: darwinrae@hotmail.co.uk |
| PARISH NEWS MAGAZINE: | |
| CONTENT | Revd Simon Reed E: simonreed@ascensionealing.org |
| ADVERTISING | Roger Dishley..... 020 8567 0275 |
| DISTRIBUTION | Eija O’Gorman [A]..... 020 8992 0061 Kester Worme [M]..... 020 8963 0112 |

THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, HANGER HILL

Beaufort Road, London W5 3EB

Wheel chair access at front entrance

- Sundays** 1030 MORNING WORSHIP (with Holy Communion)
including Children's activities
All Age Service - 1st Sunday of the month
The 10.30am service is also streamed live on Zoom.
- 1800 THE SUNDAY WORD – Evening Service on Zoom only
1st Sunday of the month.

The Church is normally open for DAILY PRAYER 9.00-9.30am and 5.30-6pm weekdays

Other Activities

- Ascension Friends retired people's club
- Youth Group

ST MARY'S, WEST TWYFORD

Brentmead Gardens, London NW10 7ED

- Sundays** 1030 MORNING SERVICE (with Holy Communion)
including Children's activities
All Age Service - 1st Sunday of the month

Other Activities

- Stay and Play Toddler Group (term time)
- Coffee Morning
- Jazz Club
- Youth Group
- The Open Door Café and Help

HOME GROUPS, COURSES, AND YOUTH GROUP (Yr 7 upwards – enquire for details)

Please check the website www.ascensionealing.org to gain access to Zoom events.

Copy for next issue must be received by **Simon**
by end of **Monday 18th March 2024.**

