

Welcome to Lent

So we have entered the season of Lent. This is our season of 40 days from Ash Wednesday to the day before Easter Sunday. This actually makes 46 days, and we get back to 40 by not counting Sundays as these are considered festivals. Nowadays the 'general public' in our culture have the idea of giving up something for Lent, although they rarely know why. It's popular to give up chocolate, usually to lose weight! Very often people have the idea of being sacrificial, although they know not why!

By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. It is a time of repentance and sorrow for sin, and of identifying with the suffering of Christ in the run up to Easter, before then celebrating the resurrection. Lent can be marked by fasting, both from food and festivities. A good way of thinking about Lent is to give up something in order to make time or room for something else, and that 'something else' is GOD! So we could give up watching some TV and spend some more time reading God's word, or in prayer. A small step can lead to amazing blessings! If we gave up checking our phones so often, we could spend some of that time praising God and praying for others and the world! That would be habit forming in a good way, we would have made steps towards 'remaining in him', and I wonder and dream about the impact for God our lives could bring!

A Prayer for Lent

Lord Jesus, we turn with confidence to you, knowing that you were tempted in all respects as we are, yet without sin. Give us your help, that we may obtain victory over our temptations. We are ashamed that we have so little power in our lives and we often fail at the same old hurdles. Help us to live in your victory and please cleanse and heal us.

Teach us to remember the promise that those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. May we wait and be made strong. We ask it in your name and for your sake. Amen

March Theme 'Windows on the Cross'

When Isaac Watts wrote that great hymn 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross', he was thinking of the whole Christian landscape that is filled and dominated by the cross. The cross of Christ is so gloriously stupendous in its significance and we have largely looked at it rather vaguely, and possibly only through one 'window'. In the preaching this month we will be looking at the cross from various windows, and in greater depth. Have we appropriated all that the cross makes possible for us as people who are exploring or who have a faith? Come along and find out.

Programme for March

The themes below are for all our services apart from 10-11am on 19th March. See why below!

5 March: Introduction: Windows

Windows on the Cross

March at St. John's



on the Cross

12 March: The Freedom Window

19 March: The Reconciliation Window (Joint Service with Methodists 10-11am at N Hillingdon Methodist Church, Long Lane)

At mid-morning there will be a Songs of Praise 9.30-9.45am only.

Then those who are in church will travel (and offer some lifts) to the joint service at the Methodist Church. So either travel from St. John's for the joint service or go straight there from home for the 10am start.

(There are early morning and late morning services running as normal)

26 March: The Sacrifice Window (Mothering Sunday).

Lent Course 2017 - 'Making Connections' All Welcome!

We live in a complex and compartmentalised society, with relationships and parts of our lives often taking place in very different places. Yet God calls us to be whole people in an increasingly complex world. This course will explore the various aspects of our lives and how we can live more

Making Connections

Lent Course

at St John's Church Hillingdon

8pm Wednesdays

8th March, 15th March, 22nd March, 29th March, 5th April

9:30am Thursdays

9th March, 16th March, 23rd March, 30th March, 6th April

www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk

holistically as Christian people, rather than as 'Church Go-ers'.

All are welcome whether you are new to St. John's Church, have never been to church or you are an established member. You are welcome whatever your background, life story or education. The course provides a great opportunity to spend time with others in a relaxed and informal setting and think about how we relate our faith to our day-to-day lives.

The sessions will include:

Connecting with Self (*God with me*),
Connecting with Home (*God with me at home*)

Connecting with Work (*God with me at Work*)

Connecting with Community (*God with me in the Community*)

Connecting with God (*God with me*)

We hope you will be able to be a part and join in with one of the groups. Everybody is welcome, refreshments at hand!

In God's love & blessings,
Alan



St John's Church Hillingdon

The music of Glenn Miller, Count Basie & Benny Goodman

Saturday 25th March 7.30pm

Tickets £10 (inc a glass of wine)

In aid of Cancer Research UK

St John's Hillingdon

Contact Information:

07972 618584

(Tues & Thurs 9am-12.30pm)

stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com

www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk

St John's Facebook:

www.facebook.com/StJohnsHillingdon

Twitter:

@SJohnHillingdon

Uxbridge Choral Society

A successful amateur choir of 80 voices.

Spring Concert

14th May 2017

Immaculate
Heart of Mary Church,
Botwell Lane Hayes

Diary

Sun March 19th 10am Joint morning service at NH Methodist Church, Long Lane

Sat March 25th 7.30pm Stardust Big Band

Sun March 26th 11am Red Nose Day cake stall

Sun April 30th 10am AGM

Sat 8th July 3pm-6pm JUSTONEat the Emirates Stadium (more details coming in the April Herald).

T's Hair Care

Unisex salon

OAP's Mon-Thurs

Opp St John's Church

Reasonable rates

01895 814514



A.V. Smith

& SONS 1923

Funeral Directors
& Memorial Stonemasons



Your family owned local
Funeral Directors, providing
an understanding and
caring service 24 hours
every day.



FPA
FUNERAL
PLANNING
AUTHORITY
CORPORATED

Please call for free
advice and brochures
on our PRE-PAID
FUNERAL PLANS

Custodian Trustee
HSBC Trust Co. (UK) Ltd.

Royal Lane, Hillingdon
(Opposite St John the
Baptist Church)

(01895) 234011

PART OF THE Lodge FRANCHISE

www.avsmithandsons.co.uk