

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, GT ILFORD

MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR MAY 2023

READING: Jeremiah 29:11-14

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

REFLECTION: SERMON FROM APCM 2023

This year has seen a return to normal following the last few years. We meet in person at our services, take communion, hold meetings and courses in person. We continue to have the technological changes in place. The use of Zoom – Facebook as an on-line presence.

But the biggest difference of course is the lack of numbers in our morning congregation – look at the increase on the Electoral Roll and the fact is that this increase comes from the Asian congregation. It's complicated and for each person who hasn't returned there is a different set of reasons. People come and thank us for our warm welcome and enjoyable services and yet either do not return or come only occasionally. Why? It's a Mystery.

Yet there is a wonderful, generous amazing small number of faithful people who attend on a regular basis. As Jesus said, "Where 2 or 3 are gathered in my name I am with them". This small faithful group of people maintain all that is required to keep the church functioning. Once again, I would like to say thank you to all of them. Without you we could not continue as St Andrew's. However how long this can continue is the big question.

In 2010 when I was interviewed for this job God gave me a vision of this church filled with Asian faces. In February of this year this became a formal reality with the Asian congregation becoming fully part of us - St Andrew's – the Church of England. As Jeremiah reminds us God has plans for us that are for our good and to fill our hearts with hope for the future. This vision he gave me has been fulfilled and we now wait to see what his plan for the next stage of St Andrew's future will be. We are called to pray for his direction and then be willing to respond to it. Like Gideon who asked for a sign and then obeyed we too must ask for that sign and laying aside our fears and uncertainties move forward and follow it.

We look forward to seeing how this will work out. Already our official numbers will increase - electoral and weekly numbers alike. I pray that the number of people willing to be actively involved in the maintenance, life and running of this church will also increase.

Our challenge is to find a way to be one church with two distinct congregations with different types of worship but both working together to be the living presence of Jesus here in church but also in all the places we go.

This year ahead will be challenging but we trust that God will encourage each and every one of us to follow the path he has for us individually and also collectively. God has promised that he will restore the fortune of his people, gathering his people together of different nations to be one in his kingdom.

Let us pray that God will give us the strength to face our fears and move on. To grow spiritually and numerically through God's grace.

However, after prayerful consideration and a lot of soul searching, I feel that I have led the church as far as God asked me to. For me this season has come to an end but I know God will continue in his faithfulness to lead the church forward into new growth and exciting times. But I am not the person for that season so it is with love I am announcing my retirement and that my last service will be on the 8th October this year.

My thanks and prayers to you all.

Every blessing
Revd Canon Marie Segal
Vicar at St Andrew's Church

PRAYER

Thank You, Lord, for the good plans You have purposed for me and for all Your children. Enlarge my vision of You and enable me to trust Your Word of truth through all the circumstances of my life, knowing that Your thoughts towards me are only good continually. Thank You, Father, that all things work together for good, for those that love You and are fitting into Your plans and purposes. Continue to keep and protect Your people and I pray that we will continue to trust in Jesus, Messiah and King. This I ask in Jesus' precious name and for his greater glory and joy, AMEN.

Every blessing
Revd Marie

DATES - MAY

1 st		Bank Holiday
2 nd	9.30 am	Morning Prayer followed by Clergy Meeting
3 rd	10.00 am	Holy Communion followed by Coffee Shop
6 th		Coronation Big screen
7 th	12.30 pm	Joint Coronation Service followed by big lunch
8 th		Bank Holiday
9 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer followed by Clergy Meeting
10 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion followed by Coffee Shop
	12.30 pm	Lunch at Luigi's
12 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion followed by Worship Meeting – everyone welcome
13 th		Eurovision evening - do join us
15 th	10.15 am	Monica's funeral at St Andrew's
16 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer followed by Clergy Meeting
	2.00 pm	Coffee at Gardener's cafe
17 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion followed by Coffee Shop
18 th	7.30 pm	Ascension Day service followed by PCC
22 ^{3rd}	9.30 am	Morning Prayer followed by Clergy Meeting
	7.30 pm	Pub night at The George Wanstead
24 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion followed by Coffee Shop
29 th		Bank Holiday
30 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer followed by Clergy Meeting
31 st	10.00 am	Holy Communion followed by Coffee Shop

PRAYERS

Monday- Pray for the world

Father God, we pray for our world today. We pray for peace and hope to abound. Many have been troubled by natural disasters, conflict, and the results of a global pandemic. In challenging times, help us to turn to you as our source of strength and hope. Merciful Lord, we offer a prayer for your peace to be with all those who have suffered and continue to do so. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Pray for John, Mike, Claire, Agnes, Carol and Linus. Pray for baby Frank and for Esme.

Tuesday – Pray for the church

God Of mission, who alone brings growth to your church, send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions, joy to our worship and power to our witness. Help our church to grow in numbers. In spiritual commitment to you and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray for the church congregations, morning and Asian. Deepen our spirituality and increase our numbers.

Wednesday – Pray for the sick

Dear God, We come to you today with heavy hearts, as we lift up those who are sick [name] in prayer. We ask that you bring healing and restoration to their body, mind, and spirit. We pray that you grant them strength and courage as they face this difficult time. May they find comfort in your loving presence, and may they trust in your sovereign plan for their life. We also pray for their caregivers, that they be granted wisdom, patience, and compassion as they provide care and support. In your precious name we pray. Amen.

Pray for Vinita and Hermes, Veronica, Ivy, Carol and Addison. Pray for Sushmo, undergoing new treatment.

Thursday – for the dying and those who mourn

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublesome life, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.

Bless those who mourn the death of relative or friend and feel that with this loss their lives are incomplete. Bless those who mourn, and fill these empty hearts with pleasant memories, the sound of laughter, sunshine and happier days. Bless those who mourn, and heal their brokenness with the soothing balm of your gentle touch, that they might know shalom, wholeness, peace. Amen.

Pray for Steven Mortimer and family, mourning the loss of his wife, Betty, Janet Turner and family following the death of her husband Bob, and the Cadette, Hinds and Lowe families following the recent deaths of loved ones. Monica's family as her funeral takes place on 15th May. Pray for those mourning: Veronica, Mandy, Joy and their families and Beryl's friends. Pray for the families of Nick Cant, Mr Sadiq and Cynthia Camacho.

Friday – for yourself

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours. Now and for ever. Amen.

Pray for Iris, Iris, Jenny, Barbara, Michael C, Sally, Jeanette, Gordan, Sandra, Mark, Dave and Jonathan.

DAILY PRAYERS FOR RESIDENTS IN OUR PARISH

- 1st Eastern Avenue.
- 2nd Endsleigh and De Vere Gardens.
- 3rd Kensington Gardens and Whitfield Court.
- 4th Redcliffe Gardens and Valentine's Walk.
- 5th St George's Road and Cranbrook Rise.
- 6th Mornington Avenue and Lincoln Gardens.
- 7th Preston and Devonport Gardens.
- 8th Castle Drive and Studley Drive.
- 9th Royston Gardens and Evanston Gardens.
- 10th Carlisle Gardens and Wakefield Gardens.
- 11th Ripon Gardens, Canterbury Avenue.
- 12th Ely Gardens, Peterborough Gardens and Hereford Gardens.
- 13th Worcester Gardens and Gloucester Gardens.
- 14th Chichester Gardens and Rochester Gardens.
- 15th Highlands Gardens and Lennox Gardens.
- 16th Stanhope Gardens and Sackville Gardens.
- 17th Seymour Gardens, Arlington Gardens and Ranelagh Gardens.
- 18th Cowley Road, Vaughan Gardens and Clarendon Gardens.
- 19th Beehive Lane and Royston Gardens.
- 20th Cranbrook Road.
- 21st The Drive.
- 22nd Wanstead Lane.
- 23rd Belgrave Road.
- 24th Exeter Gardens.
- 25th St Helen's Road and St Edmond's Road.
- 26th St Andrew's Road and Fairholme Road.
- 27th Wanstead Park Road.
- 28th Stonehall Avenue and Wells Gardens.
- 29th Ranelagh Gardens and Clarendon Gardens.
- 30th Chelmsford Gardens, Hillview Crescent.
- 31st Members of our congregations who live outside the parish.

NOTICES

CONGRATULATIONS to Duncan Paterson – our Organist and Choirmaster, who has won an Award from Redbridge for his Lifetime Contribution to Education. Well-deserved Duncan.

SAVE THE DATE: Next year will be the 100th Anniversary of the consecration of St Andrew's and we will be holding a Celebration Service on Saturday 1st June 2024 to mark the occasion. The next planning meeting will be held on 11th September. If you have not already given names to Marion of those to whom we should send a "Save the date" message please do so as soon as possible.

ENERGY PRICES, as you are aware, are increasing and this affects the church's finances. One of the ways we are trying to save money is by cancelling the weekly cleaning of the church so we are turning to you and asking if you could give an hour or so once a month to come into church and help to clean and tidy up the building.

FOODBANK: We continue to give to the Foodbank in 2023. Thank you.

Can you give one Sunday a month to help **SUPERVISE THE SMALL NUMBER OF CHILDREN** who are coming to church? This will take place at the back of church during the sermon. The expectation is that children will sit with their parents for the rest of the service. Let Revd Hayley or Revd Marie know if you are willing to go on this rota.

SERVICES			
Morning Congregation	10.30 am	Asian Congregation	4.00 pm

Sunday 7 th May	12.30 pm	Coronation service King Charles III Joint Holy Communion Luke 22:24-30	
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Sunday 14 th May 6 th Sunday after Easter	Sung Holy Communion Acts 17:22-31		John 14:15-21
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Thursday 18 th May Ascension Day	7.30 pm Acts 1:1-11	Holy Communion	Luke 24:44-end
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Sunday 21 st May 7 th Sunday after Easter	Family Holy Communion Acts 1:6-14		John 17:1-11
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Sunday 28 th May 8 th Sunday after Easter	Holy Communion (Cross) Acts 2:1-21		John 20:19-23
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