



St Andrew's Church
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The Companion

February 2015

Issue 10

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Dear Friends,

During February we really long for the Spring.

The festive frost is now a distant mem-

ory and summer holidays still seem so far away. Somehow the seemingly endless cold weather is not helped by the liturgical no man's land between Christmas and Easter. We begin this month with Candlemas and towards the end we come to Ash Wednesday . Two feasts, one of light, another of darkness. So is February a spiritually grey month? Should February regain its Anglo-Saxon name, "Solmonath", meaning simply, "Mud month"?

The name "February" comes from the latin, "februum", meaning "purification" and indeed the Romans had a purification festival mid-month called, "Februa". How apt that we begin February with Candlemas, celebrated by

many Christians as "The Feast of the Purification of the Virgin".

It was forty days before a Jewish woman was considered ritually clean after childbirth, so Mary would have taken Jesus to the temple as soon as she was considered purified. The ceremony involved parents bringing their child to the temple to be redeemed. Money was handed over so that the first born son, who should of course belong to Yahweh and therefore the temple, could be paid for and thus released from temple service.

Far from polar opposites the two festivals are actually poignantly intertwined. At the beginning of February we reflect on the price an earthly father will pay for his child. By the end of the month we reflect on what price a Heavenly Father will pay for his children. Ash Wednesday is about the mortal, fallen condition of our human existence (with the reference to Genesis 2.19 and remembering we are but dust) but also of the human existence God chooses, the vast price God will pay for us.

Ashes were used in ancient times to express grief and indeed if the story ended there Ash Wednesday would be a very sorrowful moment but of course it is not the end. The reference to our mortality that we remember on Ash Wednesday takes us right back to the beginning of the story in Genesis but certainly liturgically, and trust me most priests know this better than most, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of a long and hard journey of self searching, of truth telling and of faith that will eventually bring us to the very moment of redemption in the death and resurrection of Christ, the moment in which the ashen cross will seem rather a distant memory, replaced by a blossoming tree of life. In a way you need to start with the cross of ash to find the cross of life so I hope you will start your journey of Lent by coming to the Ash Wednesday service.

Fr Edd

Right: The last of the new chairs is brought into the church.

EYE HALVE A SPELLING CHECKER

Eye halve a spelling checker, it came with my pea sea,
it plainly marcs four my revue miss steaks eye can knot sea.
Eye strike a key and tipe a word and weight four it two say weather eye am wrong or write, it shows me strait a weigh.
As soon as a miss steak is maid it nose be four two long, and eye can put the error write, it's rare lea ever wrong.
Eye have run this poem threw it I am shore your pleased to no Its letter perfect awl the weigh— my checker tolled me sew !





Above and left: The hall is full for our Burns' Night. The Vicar addresses the haggis and the dancing begins! Thank you to Janice and her team for a fantastic evening!

We are trying to compile a directory of contacts we can personally recommend as good, safe and efficient. Many of us, particularly the vulnerable worry about picking a name out of the yellow pages So if you can vouch for good local plumbers, electricians, Computer bods etc , then please contact the office and let us have the details! Here is the list so far:

Painter/decorator: Ilias 07804506129

Builder: Jason 07944 589124

Mobile Dog Grooming:Lena
07913330550

The Mac Repair Centre:
02083645861

Tricia Webb recently returned from a holiday in Malta and now makes us all wish we were there!



MALTA

Looking forward to a New Year break with my friend, Helen, we decided on Malta, a place she knew where we would meet up with her Australian friend, Marva, who is living there. Despite checking the weather forecasts for Malta, which were not good, we left on 30 December with a fair amount of optimism that the weather would improve. Wrong - coldest winter in years! One of my first stops - after Christmas sales at Dorothy Perkins for a warm winter coat. However, for a place with such a huge amount of history and culture there was plenty to keep us busy.

We rented an apartment in Sliema, a resort on the bay with a view of the capital, Valletta, across the water. From the windy balcony we could see the waves crashing into the entrance to the harbour. As many of you-

will know, this small island's strategic position in the Mediterranean made it a vital allied base during WWII and the siege of 1941/42, finally broken in August. The people of Malta bravely faced many hardships, with very meagre supplies of fuel and food and, as a country, were awarded the George Cross which is proudly displayed on the country's flag. Holding the island from invasion played a very important part in later allied successes in north Africa. I am proud to say that my Uncle Bert served in the RAF and was based in Malta during the siege. Unfortunately, we did not find time to visit the underground operations room which was the vital command post during WWII. However - certainly on my list for next time.

For New Year's Eve, Marva had made reservations for us at Giannini, probably the most

highly rated restaurant in Valletta. Upstairs in an old, old building overlooking the bay we had a delicious 7 course (all small) meal - beautifully cooked and presented. For this kind of meal, along with wine, the bill was surprisingly small. The pound/euro exchange rate favours us right now. The food in Malta is widely diverse - lots of delicious seafood, as well as just about anything you fancy from Italian to Chinese and everything in between. Interestingly, a national favourite seems to be rabbit - especially in a stew called *Stuffat Tal-Fenek*. I didn't like rabbit when my Mum cooked it (back in the days of rationing). However, Helen does like it and assured me it was delicious. Another Maltese favourite - cauliflower soup - they grow very well in Malta. If you've never given this dish a try - look up a recipe and make some - delicious.

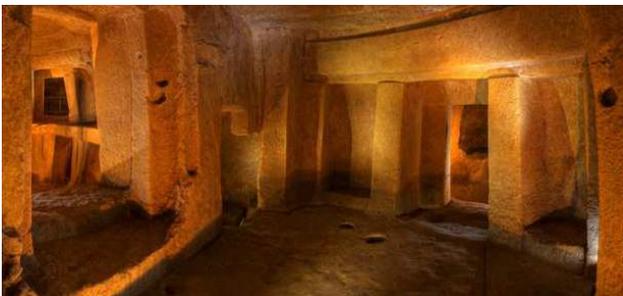
The Maltese language (I hadn't realised there was one) is very interesting - a mixture of Arabic, Italian, some English,

some French. It is considered to be a Semitic language closely related to western Arabic with interesting dots and dashes above some letters to indicate how, for example, an H is pronounced or a G.

On the Sunday of our visit we attended Mass at St. John's Cathedral. After entering through a somewhat plain exterior the interior is revealed in a blaze of sumptuous Baroque art - magnificent. In the oratory is the real treasure, a painting by Caravaggio of the Beheading of St. John. The service was in Maltese and Latin, but we were provided with service sheets in both English and Maltese - quite easy to somehow follow both. Comparing the sheets I found that the Maltese word for God is *Alla*. The service was lovely and



the choir magnificent. The priest who gave the sermon did it in both Maltese and English all without any notes that I could see. Some of the priest were tiny - about the height of a 9-10 year old child. It crossed my mind that maybe deprivation during the war had stunted their growth. As the service came to an end the large choir walked down the aisle to the back entrance singing 'Come All Ye Faithful' in Maltese. Helen and I quietly sang along in English. Altogether a lovely experience. While walking the pedestrians centre of Valletta we spotted a notice about a lunchtime concert on the following Tuesday in the Church of St. Francis of Assisi. Happened to fit in with our plans so we went along (8 euro each) and enjoyed the first concert of a trio (1 piano, 2 violins) of young Russians playing mu-



sic of Russian composers. Very enjoyable.

One day, while Helen and Marva went off for coffee, I went to the Hypogeum (they had been before). This is an extensive underground shrine over three levels consisting of halls, chambers and passages. Estimated to have been constructed between 3600 and 2500 BC the site was discovered in 1899. It is estimated that about 7,000 had been buried there along with artefacts. Reservations (online) are a must as only 10 can visit at a time and slots get booked up in busy times.

We visited Medina (not to be confused with Medina in Saudi Arabia). At one time the capital of Malta, this lovely old city sits high on a hill where it could be defended from invaders. It is a walking only place and, rather than explore in the

pouring rain, we visited the audio visual attraction which takes the visitor through Malta's long history from the time the first

Primitive people arrived from Sicily.

Another day we took the ferry to the small nearby island of Gonzo and took a drive around. Its rocky coastline, crystal clear water and soft sand beaches make it a Mecca for snorkelling and diving in the warmer months. Like Malta, Gonzo has its fair share of churches, ruins and monuments. Gozo also stages an annual live nativity play where farmland is turned into Bethlehem and the story enacted by 150 actors. Unfortunately, the queue was too long for us to be able to wait. While I'm on the subject of the nativity - Malta has a long history of producing beautiful nativity scenes and crèches at Christmas - there is even a museum. They are everywhere. Many of them don't use straw but, instead, grow a form of plant used as green manure by farmers called Gulbiena (vetch in English). It is grown in the dark before Christmas resulting in long stringy white shoots. I am looking for seeds and growing instructions to grow some

for St. Andrews next Christmas.

Malta is the island where St. Paul was shipwrecked on his way to Rome in 60 AD after his arrest in Judea. The event is documented in the Acts of the Apostles and Christianity arrived in Malta. The small island in the north of Malta is marked with a statue. We passed the island while on a tour bus, but were not able to stop. Another audio visual attraction tells the story of the shipwreck. There is a very old church in Valletta named St. Paul's Shipwreck.

While we were lucky to have a friend on Malta with a car, it is very easy to get around. There are plenty of open top tourist buses going a various routes around the islands and the local bus service is also very good and inexpensive. If you do want to drive you'll still find yourself driving on the left and you'll find a lot of familiar shops in Malta - M&S, Debenhams, Dorothy Perkins, etc. Definitely a place worth a return visit - hopefully at a time of better weather where the outdoors can be enjoyed a bit more.

February Parish Diary

1st Candlemas

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Children's Eucharist

Malachi 3. 1-5 Hebrews 2. 14-18 Luke 2. 22-40

2nd Bible Study (see notice sheet for time and venue)

5th 6.00pm Junior Choir Practice

7.00pm Adult Choir Practice

6th 9.30am Little Fishes (Toddler Service)

10.00am-12noon St Andrew's Toddlers (In Church)

8th The Second Sunday before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Sung Eucharist

Prov 8 1,22-31 Ps 104 26-35 Col 1. 15 -20 John 1 1-14

9th Bible Study (see notice sheet for time and venue)

12th 6.00pm Junior Choir Practice

7.00pm Adult Choir Practice

13th 9.30am Little Fishes (Toddler Service)

10.00am-12noon St Andrew's Toddlers (In Church)

6.30pm Teenage Group

15th The Sunday next before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Sung Eucharist

2. Kings 2. 1-12 Ps 50 1-6 2 Cor 4 .3-6 Mark 9.2-9

16th Bible Study (see notice sheet for time and venue)

18th Ash Wednesday

8pm Solemn Sung Eucharist

19th 6.00pm Junior Choir Practice

7.00pm Adult Choir Practice

22nd The First Sunday of Lent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Solemn Eucharist

Gen 9.8-17 Ps 25 1-9 1 Peter 3. 18 - 22 Mark 1. 9-15

23rd Bible Study (see notice sheet for time and venue)

24th 8.00pm Lent Course (At the Vicarage)

25th 12.00pm Lent Course (In the Church)

26th 6.00pm Junior Choir Practice

7.00pm Adult Choir Practice

27th 9.30am Little Fishes (Toddler Service)

Bible Studies



Bible studies are usually on Mondays at either 1pm or 7pm but the venues and times change. For all weekly Bible Study Groups please contact Richard Hilditch through the parish office.



Ash Wednesday Service

18th February, 8pm

Every year the Palm Crosses that are gathered in from the previous year are burned and the ash which is produced is used to mark the heads of those who attend the Ash Wednesday Service.

This service marks the beginning of Lent, a period of forty days (excluding Sundays) which mirrors the forty days Christ spent in the wilderness. It is a time of deep thought and prayer, but perhaps most importantly a time of repentance of turning away from sin and turning to follow Christ afresh.

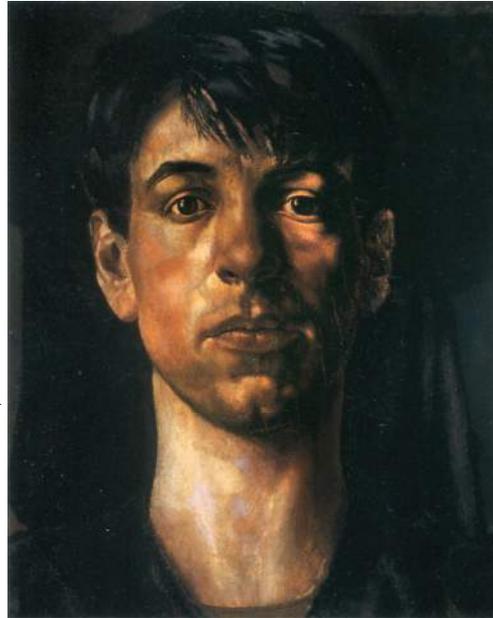
Christ in the Wilderness Lent Course 2015

Tuesdays in Lent at 7.30pm at
the vicarage

Wednesdays in Lent at 1.30pm
in the church

Sir Stanley Spencer was born on the 30th June 1891. Shortly after leaving the Slade School of Art, Spencer became well known for his paintings depicting Biblical scenes occurring as if in Cookham, the small Thames side village where he was born and spent much of his life. Spencer referred to Cookham as "a village in Heaven" and in his biblical scenes, fellow-villagers are shown as their Gospel counterparts. Spencer was skilled at organising multi-figure compositions.

Spencer's works often express his fervent if unconventional Christian faith. This is especially evident in the scenes that he based in Cookham which show the compassion that he felt for his fellow residents and also



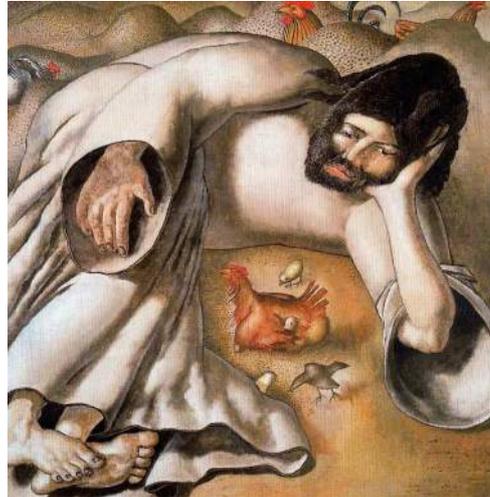
his romantic and sexual obsessions. Spencer's works originally provoked great shock and controversy.

Spencer's early work is regarded as a synthesis of French Post-Impressionism, exemplified for instance by Paul Gauguin, plus early Italian painting typified by Giotto. Whilst a student Spencer allied with a, short-lived, group who called themselves the "Neo-Primitives" In later life Spencer remained an independent artist and did not join any of the artistic movements of the period.

During the First World War Spencer spent two and a half years on the front line in Macedonia, facing both German and Bulgarian troops, before he was invalided out of the Army following persistent bouts of malaria. His survival of the devastation and torment that killed so many of his fellows, including his elder brother Sydney, in action in September 1918, indelibly marked Spencer's attitude to life and death.

This remarkable English painter produced a series of works entitled Christ in the Wilderness (1939–54), portraying the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness. These beautiful and compelling images give us a startling insight into Jesus' vocation and his own understanding of his ministry. They show his great love for nature and affinity with all creation.

This Lent we are going to follow Stephen Cottrell's book which reflects on five of the Christ in the Wilderness paint-



ings, and reveals them to be a rich source of spiritual wisdom and nourishment.

We are running the course both on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday Lunchtimes so that most people can make a session each week.

Anyone is welcome to join the course. Although attending all evening or all daytime sessions will help with continuity it is certainly not essential.





Little Fishes (Toddler Service) Change of Time! Fridays 9.30am

Little Fishes is a 15 minute long interactive service for babies and toddlers. It will be held **every Friday morning during term time at 9.30 am**. Little Fishes includes action songs, puppets and prayer with a bear! Of course adults are most welcome too, as it is a great opportunity to meet other parents, carers



St Andrew's Toddlers (In the Church) Fridays, Term Time 10am-11.30am

A weekly meeting for parents, grandparents, carers and pre-school children. It's a drop in group – charging £1.50 for a family of any size. Activities include tables for craft and play-doh, a carpeted area for tinies and a stall where cards and small items are sold, run by a regular visitor. Drinks for children and adults are included and there is a very popular singing session near the end. The most popular activity for adults is a good chat!

The venue for Toddlers has changed this term and is now in the church building itself rather than the hall because the hall is now used by a nursery at that time however the church is bigger and just as comfortable!

Children's Eucharist (1st Sunday of every month, 10.30am)

This is a service for the whole family but with a focus on the children. It is shorter and simpler than usual with an emphasis on children's involvement. There is a children's talk instead of the usual sermon and a few more children's songs. The children's corner can be used for very young children .



Teenage Group (At the Vicarage)

Every other Friday night at 6.30pm in term time, this gathering for teenagers meets. Being a teenager is not easy in the modern world so we aim to give our young adults a safe place where they can enjoy social time together, facilitated by adult members of the church. **If you are a teenager who is interested let the vicar know or just come along!**



In our busy lives it can be easy to make prayer an afterthought rather than part of the pattern of healthy life of faith. We hope to make prayer a little more of a focus in the new year and so we are creating a new prayer circle to meet after Church on Sundays for about half an hour to offer special intercessions for the world, the Church and each other. The prayer circle is also a space for those who seek a little support or encouragement in their prayer life. Anyone is welcome to visit the prayer circle after church, to share in the prayers being offered or to make requests for the prayer circle to include individuals in their intercessions.

If the prayer circle is well used on a Sunday then we may start an evening meeting in addition. For more information or to become more involved please contact Suzanne and Geoffrey Parker on: **020 8882 3071**

Dear All,

I was very moved to see so many people at the Eucharist on Sunday. We were united in Communion but one regret is that I was not able personally to greet many of you;



Many thanks to you for the very generous response to the appeal for the new church and community centre at Tottenham Hale. Thanks too for the personal gift of life membership of the National Trust. It was a delightful surprise and very appropriate; from childhood I have had an interest in domestic architecture and I shall take inspiration from the magnificent gardens.

This comes with huge gratitude for sharing with you in ministry and with my prayers for you all,
In Our Lord, the Rt Revd Peter Wheatley

On the evening of Sunday 25th January at St Paul's Cathedral Bishop Peter presided at his farewell service. The Bishop of London, the Right Reverend Richard Chartres, preached. Our very own Rowena and Cordella had some of the best seats in the house under the dome and were delighted to be present at such a joyous occasion as representatives of St Andrew's. The Cathedral was packed, the music and liturgy inspiring and Bishop Richard's sermon, as always, was powerful. It was incredibly moving for all to whom Bishop Peter had been such an influence and example during his ministry in the Edmonton Episcopal Area. Bishop Peter is renowned for remembering faces and knowing his flock and he did not disappoint in greeting countless well-wishers after the service.

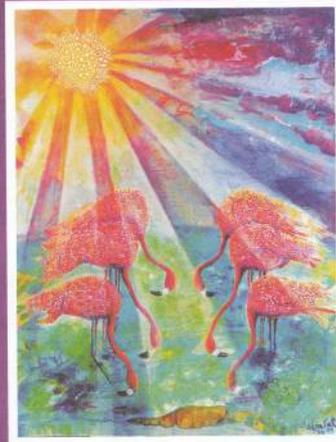
It may be some time before a decision is made as to who will replace Bishop Peter - a hard act to follow. We will keep you informed.



JESUS SAID TO THEM:
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Speaker: Revd. Maureen Lunn
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The Nightingale Cancer Support Centre was

launched in 2002 to help residents in the Borough of Enfield whose lives have been touched by cancer and who were somehow slipping through the established care system. The Nightingale serves patients, relatives, carers, friends and those who are concerned about cancer care. We hope to be able to provide help and information to those who need it along their journey. We aim to work together with existing services within the borough and to co-ordinate local volunteer teams so that valuable resources are used to best effect. We run our services from The Lancaster Centre which is situated on Lancaster Road, a short distance from Enfield Town. Both the W8 and 191 buses run past the centre and the nearest train station is Gordon Hill.

The Nightingale 02083664333

<p>Parish Administrator: Lynda Capstick 020 8447 8108 lynda@sandrewsn14.plus.com Vicar: Fr Edward Turner 020 8886 7523 priest@expertit.net Hall bookings: info@southgatehallhire.co.uk www.st-andrews-southgate.co.uk www.southgatehallhire.co.uk</p>
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parties also available!
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Thursday 7-8pm	
Saturday 10-11am	at ST THOMAS CHURCH Prince George Avenue, N14 4SN

For further information please contact

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