

# Engage

Spring 2018

50p

Inspiration from the churches of  
St Mary's, Sanderstead, and  
St James, Riddlesdown



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### SERVICES AT ST MARY'S & ST JAMES DURING HOLY WEEK

**Monday 26 March, St Mary's**  
10am Morning Prayer with Eucharist  
8pm Stations of the Cross

**Tuesday 27 March, St Mary's**  
10am Morning Prayer with Eucharist  
8pm Prayer Labyrinth

**Wednesday 28 March, St Mary's**  
10am Morning Prayer with Eucharist

8pm St James Reflections

**Maundy Thursday 29 March, St Mary's**  
6pm Seder Meal  
8pm Eucharist followed by the Vigil Watch

**Good Friday 30 March**  
St James  
10.30am Reflection  
2pm Liturgy of the day

**St Mary's**  
12noon Stations of the Cross  
9pm Compline

**Easter Saturday 31 March, St Mary's**  
8pm Easter Vigil with Easter Fire and Eucharist

**SUNDAY 1 APRIL EASTER DAY**  
9.45am Eucharist, St Mary's 11.15am Eucharist, St James

## A Message from Fr. Grant



### Reflections from Fr Grant in this Lent and Eastertide

Dear Friends,

Lent has begun, when as Christians we seek to draw closer to God. Our abstinence in these days are meant to mirror the experience of Jesus and his fasting in the desert, and to replicate the sacrifice of his journey into the wilderness for 40 days.

According to one website, the most popular things given up for Lent last year were chocolate, social networking, alcohol, Twitter, Facebook, school, meat, sweets, coffee and fizzy drinks, but as I write, I haven't yet given anything up...ought I to feel bad?

While giving things up may help curb our over-indulgence, the central theme of Lent is that of repentance, of us turning our lives around so that the kingdom of God will be seen more, not just in our own lives but also in the world. But the reality is that sometimes it's hard to see the evidence of that kingdom at work.

It doesn't take much to find tragedy. We don't have to look very far to see bad news.

The truth is: if it bleeds, it leads. I'm always amazed by the way that traffic almost comes to a standstill when there's been an accident. It's not that the road is blocked but people automatically slow down to have a look...sadly we are often more aware of the bad stuff in the world than we are of the good...

The recent and terrible school shootings in the news are one of many very public tragedies that leave us cold and fearful. But there are the silent and personal tragedies, which weigh us all down and keep us awake at night. And throughout all these comes the echo of the word why?

Why does it sometimes feel as if God has turned his back; why does he allow monsters to lurk in the dark?

Such questions have been a part of our human story for as long as we've been here and sadly they mar our understanding of the one who at Easter made a way possible for us to be reconciled with God.

A group of people in the street were asked, "What is Jesus like."

They responded that he is loving, good, giving, compassionate, altruistic, peaceful... All of which of course are true....

But what no one said was that Jesus was someone confrontational, or who talked about judgement. He's the ultimate peacemaker, they said, who wants peace at any cost. He doesn't challenge people except to demand love and tolerance...he doesn't force anyone into a hard decision.

The fact is that such a Jesus would never have been crucified...Jesus constantly challenged wrong behaviour, challenged injustice, challenged sin, while always offering the grace to do it... Like it or not, the gospel of Jesus is a paradox, for salvation while free is not cheap. It demands a response.

A soap manufacturer and a vicar were walking together on a street in a large city. The soap manufacturer casually said, "The Gospel you preach hasn't done much good has it? Just look. There is still so much wickedness in the world, and a lot of wicked people, too!"

The vicar made no reply until they passed a dirty child making mud pies on the side of the road. Seizing the opportunity, the vicar said, "I see that soap hasn't done much good in the world either; for there is much dirt, and many dirty people around."

The soap man said, "Oh, well, soap is only useful when it is applied."

To which the vicar replied, "Exactly, so it is with the Gospel."

The message of Easter is that all are welcome to receive God's grace and no one is beyond it....

The gift of God through his Son remakes, restores and repairs.

It starts in the dark, but ends in light.

It starts with bondage but ends in freedom.

It starts with death but ends in life.

God bless you if you have given something up this Lent, but can I also encourage you to take something up – the challenge to use the soap of God; to make the most of every opportunity to being in his presence, so that we and all God's people may reflect the image of his Son and bring about his kingdom.

With love and prayers for you and our parishes.

**Fr. Grant**

## Join us for Worship at St Mary's every Sunday

8am, Said Eucharist (2nd & 4th Sundays)

9.45am Our main service is the Eucharist (from the Greek word for Thanksgiving) with choir or worship band (2nd Sunday), sermon, servers, children's groups, young children's aisle and refreshments afterwards.

6.30pm, 2nd Sunday in the month Celtic Eucharist  
Last Sunday in the month, Choral Evensong

Thursdays  
10am Eucharist, followed by coffee and social time

These acts of worship and open spaces are offered for everyone. For those who feel God is close, and those who feel that God is far away, for those who believe, and those who cannot believe.

Everyone is welcome here.

Jesus said,  
“Deny yourself,  
take up your  
cross and  
follow me”



### Stations of the Cross

In the Old City of Jerusalem is the 'Via Dolorosa' or Way of Sorrows. It is the journey our lord travelled on his way to the cross. As part of your Lenten Journey why not join us at St Mary's as we walk through the final hours of Jesus' life through words, images, silence and film.

### Walking the Prayer Labyrinth

Come and join us as we travel through Lent & Holy Week using the Prayer Labyrinth.

Refreshments are available throughout the evening.

The Labyrinth is an ancient way of praying and reflecting on our spiritual journey.

Throughout Lent and Holy Week there will also be some interactive prayer stations in St Mary's with different themes to help you reflect upon your Lenten Journey.

# Thank God for Mums!

**Come and join us for one of our Mothering Sunday Services on the 11th March**

9:45am St Mary's Sanderstead

11:15am St James Riddlesdown

## 2018 Lent Course

This year's Lent course uses clips from the film 'The theory of Everything'

Thursday's @ 11am and 7.30pm in the Family Room at St Mary's



## Saturday 24th March

Join us at 2.30pm - 4.40pm at St. James Riddlesdown for fun, food, fellowship and worship

It's a Service for all the family!



## Celtic Eucharist

An opportunity to take some time to listen to God in quiet reflection. **Second Sunday of each month at 6.30pm St Mary's**

## Daily Morning Prayer with Eucharist

Most of us lead busy and often noisy lives. Join us Monday -Wednesday in Holy week at St Mary's as we begin the day with Morning Prayer and Holy Communion. (See calendar for times)

**8pm Wednesday of Holy Week @ St James  
Led by Jane Hoskins (SPA)**

## 'Companions On The Road'

A Time for reflection, with music & word, as we walk through Holy Week



## Maundy Thursday



## Good Friday



## Holy Saturday



## Easter Sunday

He isn't  
here  
for he  
is risen

The Passover was celebrated to remind the children of Israel of God's rescue. In the Eucharist, first celebrated in the Passover Meal with Jesus and his disciples, we too celebrate God's rescue of humanity.

Come and share this meal in St Mary's church hall on Maundy Thursday at 6pm and then join us for the Maundy Thursday Liturgy in the church at 8pm.

Tickets need to be pre-booked @ £7.50 per person. Includes wine !!!

10am – Good Friday Reflections @ St James

'A Light Amidst The Darkness'

12 Noon - Stations of the Cross @ St Mary's

2pm - Good Friday solemn liturgy of the day @ St James

9pm - Compline @ St Mary's

As the sun sets on Holy Saturday, Christians across the world gather to hear the story of God's rescue, the story that begins in the Garden of Eden and culminates in the empty tomb. Come and join us as we hear this story afresh in the liturgy of the Easter fire, and the first Eucharist of Easter. Easter Saturday 8pm at St Mary's. Refreshments to follow

9:45am St Mary's & 11:15am St James

Join us for the great celebration of the risen Christ with the Renewal of our Baptismal Vows, and an Easter egg hunt for the children following the service.



## St Mary's choir – a review of 2017

2017 was an exciting year for the choir. Our numbers increased significantly as four new trebles and a bass joined our ranks. Our repertoire also expanded for both Sung Eucharist and Evensong services and we performed several new anthems. Notable among them was Goodall's 'The Lord is my Shepherd', Rossini's 'O salutaris Hostia', Rutter's 'Look at the World' and Chilcott's arrangement of 'Be thou my vision'. For Evensong we performed new sets of responses and canticles, introits and new hymns. On Passion Sunday, we sang Puccini's Requiem, accompanied by Angela Jones from the Sanderstead Handbell Ringers. Angela also provided music before and after the service. The Easter services went well and it was nice to get both St. Mary's and St. James's choirs together again. Progress has been made on finding two young people to receive choral scholarships. An information pack was put together and emailed to many local schools. The first choral scholar was appointed for one year starting from May 2017. The second choral scholar was appointed for one year starting from September 2017.

In May, the choirs of St. Mary's, St. James and All Saints combined to make a total of 28 singers for the Ascension Day Eucharist at St. Mary's. In June, a professional soprano provided a vocal masterclass to choir members. Also in June, a Summer Concert was held at St. James, where the choir sang four pieces. In July, we joined St. James for their Patronal Festival. We also sang at two weddings last year, including a Christmas wedding. Work on St Mary's organ at the end of March significantly improved the instrument. Problems caused by what turned out to be quite significant water damage to the pedal section were repaired, covered by the insurance. St Mary's District Church Council received a quote for future work that needs to be carried out and a maintenance schedule was drawn up. A generous donation from a member of the congregation allowed the first stages of work to begin throughout August, improving a number of issues. An urgent repair was required in January of this year when a large split was discovered in the leather of one of the bellows.

Christmas was, as ever, eventful. The choir sang carols during the Christmas Tree Festival and for the annual carol singing, the latter raising £201.70 for the Children's Society. The Advent Carol Service and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols were greatly appreciated by all those who came along. Donations by members of the congregation allowed us to purchase candle holders for the choir stalls, which had their inaugural lighting for the Advent Carol Service. The choir welcomes new members and, with Easter on the horizon, there isn't a better time to join. Choir practice takes place every Friday evening in the church: trebles practise from 7:30pm and the full choir practise between 8pm and 9pm. Come along to a Friday evening rehearsal to find out what being a chorister at St. Mary's is all about; you will be most welcome!

**David Thomas**, Director of Music

## Spring clean

Although Easter is early this year, it would be good to do the annual church clean before then. I would like to hold it on Saturday 17 March at 9.30am. I will supply the cleaning materials but if you can bring a vacuum cleaner then it will make the work easier and quicker. As the church gets more use, it gets dirtier more often. Our small band of dedicated regular cleaners (Mazrene, Jo and Kate) have been joined by Kim, for which Grant and I are very grateful. We could still do with an additional two cleaners to fill in for periods when they can't make it, or after short periods of heavy use.

The cloth on the chairs hasn't been thoroughly cleaned since they were installed 18 years ago. In that time, a lot of builders' dust has added to the accumulation of ordinary dirt, not to mention an amount of candle wax. The only good remedy is to have them steam cleaned. I know that at present our funds are stretched with the boiler replacement but we will soon reach a stage when people get up dirtier than they sat down (try hitting a chair seat hard with a piece of wood).

I Look forward to seeing you all on the 17th and thank everyone who turned out last year. It made an enormous visible difference. If you would like to help on a regular basis then you can always see me in church or ring me on 020 8657 8003

On your behalf I express my thanks and appreciation to the cleaning team for all their efforts throughout the year.

**Bill Jackson**

## Midweek and Sunday Services At St Mary's and St James During Lent & Easter 2018



Sunday 11 March, Mothering Sunday, St Mary's  
9.45am Eucharist 6.45pm Celtic Eucharist  
St James  
11.15am Eucharist  
Monday 12 March, St Mary's  
10am Morning Prayer  
Tuesday 13 March, St James  
10am Morning Prayer  
7.30pm Lent Course  
Thursday 15 March, St Mary's  
10am Eucharist 11am Lent  
Course  
Saturday 17 March, St  
Mary's MISSION ACTION PLANNING DAY  
Sunday 18 March, 5th Sunday of Lent, St Mary's  
8am Eucharist 9.45am Eucharist  
St James  
11.15am Eucharist 6.30pm Evensong  
Monday 19 March, St Mary's  
10am Morning Prayer  
Tuesday 20 March, St James  
10am Morning Prayer 12.30 Mothers' Union Eucharist  
Thursday 22 March, St Mary's  
10am Eucharist 11am Lent Course 7.30pm Lent Course  
Saturday 24 March, St James 2.30 - 4.30pm Messy  
Church  
Sunday 25 March, Palm Sunday, St Mary's  
9.45am Eucharist  
St James  
11.15am Eucharist

## Holy Week



8pm Stations of the  
Cross  
8pm Prayer Labyrinth  
8pm Reflection  
6pm Seder Meal  
8pm Eucharist  
Followed by the Vigil  
Watch  
Monday 26 March, St Mary's  
10am Morning Prayer with Eucharist  
Tuesday 27 March, St Mary's  
10am Morning Prayer with Eucharist  
Wednesday, 28 March, St Mary's  
10am Morning Prayer with Eucharist  
St James  
Thursday 29 March MAUNDY THURSDAY, St Mary's  
Friday 30 March GOOD FRIDAY, St James  
10am Reflection 2pm Liturgy of the Day  
St Mary's  
12noon Stations of the Cross 9pm Compline  
8pm Easte Vigil with  
Easter Fire and  
Eucharist  
Saturday 31 March, EASTER SATURDAY, St  
Mary's  
Sunday April 1, EASTER SUNDAY, St Mary's  
9.45am Eucharist  
St James  
11.15 Eucharist

## Walking the Pathway through Lent

The season of Lent. The church links the 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Morning with the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness. The time when he stepped aside from the everyday to discern how he was to fulfil his earthly ministry.

Jesus was fully part of the creative Trinity, yet also fully human – he needed to experience all the temptations that confront humankind. He needed to make choices. He needed God's guidance.

So what does it look like for us as we walk the pathway through Lent? Unlike the season of Advent, the Sundays in Lent don't have quite such a clear thematic pattern – apart from Mothering Sunday, which we celebrate halfway through the season.

Looking at creation we are aware that daylight hours are longer, the weather is becoming milder, bulbs are flowering in tubs and flowerbeds, and the tightly furled leaf buds are beginning to break open. The blackthorn in the hedgerows is flowering, yet the branches remain dark and leafless for now.

Spiritually speaking, the tone of Lent is one of solemnity and 'going deeper,' a time to take stock of where we are

in our walk of faith; where we are in relationship with God and neighbour; a time for decluttering our lives of the various baggage – spiritual or material – that has accumulated over the past year.

The pathway through Lent leads us to the new life and hope of Easter. Although not called to enter desert or wilderness places as Jesus was, we all face times of testing and temptation in our lives. As human beings, we can be self-centred and out for gain and self-advantage. On occasions we cause hurt, as in a moment of anger and forgetfulness, when we're tired, stressed or just want our own way! Basic human selfishness.

Jesus taught that we should not come before God in prayer and worship if we are still carrying resentments, hurts or disagreements. Nor if we are guilty of wrong doing in one way or another. Sin – an unpopular word nowadays – is still very real among us human beings! It is a major player in the distancing that we sometimes feel in our relationship with our Unseen Creator.

There are times on the Lenten pathway when we come before God and pour out our sadness and guilt at our misdoings, lack of compassion, thoughtless actions, lack of patience. We

are assured of God's unfailing love and willingness to forgive each one of us – if we truly desire to mend our ways. The symbolic signing of the cross in ash on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday is an opportunity for us to focus on this.

So how will you walk the pathway through Lent this year?

Some will give up sugar in tea, avoid eating biscuits/cake/chocolate, abandon the treat of a glass of red wine, or maybe resolve to take regular exercise, join the Lent study course, or collect money for charity.

Maybe you could resolve to get up 15 minutes earlier each morning, in order to set aside a longer time to be still with God, to spend time with him, before the day's activities begin. As the gospels tell us that Jesus frequently did...

God is with us every step of the Lenten pathway, and beyond. Even among the boulders and rocks of difficulty, the barren earth and bare trees. God is in the spring of water in the desert, in the flower between the stones, in the star in the sky above.

Seek Him, listen to Him, walk with Him.

*Jane Hoskins*

## St Mary's in bloom



Members and visitors to St Mary's are treated throughout most of the year to magnificent floral displays, and we are grateful to our flower team for their dedication and skill.

During the year St Mary's flower arrangers have enjoyed creating floral designs for a number of weddings as well as displays for the various church festivals, in particular a special poppy arrangement for Remembrance Sunday, which was displayed in the church's St John's Chapel.

The Christmas Tree Festival in December was a great success with many wonderfully decorated trees and an entry by a member of our flower team.

The year drew to a close with an array of Christmas flower arrangements and our beautiful Advent ring, decorated in contrasting foliage to complement the five candles. The Advent ring is a Christian tradition that symbolises the passage of the four weeks of Advent, culminating when the white candle is lit on Christmas Day.

We were very grateful to those members of the congregation who made donations to the flower fund during 2017.

The flower team look forward to the year ahead with many new ideas to come!



The hub continues to provide practical assistance to an ever-increasing number of families and individuals, as St Mary's co-ordinator Bill Jackson explains.

Every year, as I start to write this article, I hope to be able to tell you that the requests for food and similar help have diminished and that the end of the hub is in sight. Sadly, I can tell you only that the reverse is true – to the extent that in January this year the Hub experienced a 66% increase in demand over January 2017. This at a time when demand normally falls off after Christmas and inflation is still historically low.

The hub's busiest month ever was December when they provided 4,000 meals in that month alone. As a result, they urgently need your help to replenish their food stocks. What may happen later this year if food and energy inflation increases as predicted and wages and/or benefits no longer cover their client's rent, as is now often the case, is a very disturbing thought.

The hub organises supermarket food collection days (all Saturdays) three to four times a year. They need more help to collect it. If anyone would care to join me for an hour (I do Waitrose, Sanderstead) on these occasions, I would be happy to have their company. In the hub's 10 collections in 2016/17, supermarket shoppers donated a total of very nearly 100 trolley-loads of food, toiletries etc and £1, 618 in cash. In 2017/8 their six collections to date have brought in 57 trolley-loads of items plus almost £900.

Eighty agencies refer clients to the hub, including Job Centres, services and departments of Croydon Council, hostels and refuges, children's centres, churches, schools and a wide range of other statutory and voluntary health, mental health and care organisations.

These rather dry statements conceal an increasing despair and concern on the part of the families and individuals who receive the donations. I really recommend that you read the "In their own words" section of the next annual hub report ([www.purleyfoodhub.org.uk](http://www.purleyfoodhub.org.uk)).

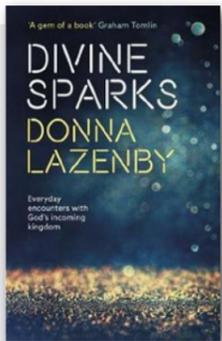
Prayer underpins the work of the food hub (as it does the floating shelters). It gives our volunteers a chance to practise what Jesus preached and shows a society largely convinced that belief in God is the source of much of the world's ills, a very public and visible demonstration of the love of that God in action.



May I express my personal thanks and appreciation of the generous and outstanding response St Mary's congregation makes every time I walk to the front of the church on Sunday mornings to make yet another appeal of one sort or other. (I'm always gratified that, when I turn round, everyone is still there).

When you read about or experience the reactions of those this church helps in the food hub, the floating shelters and in other places, you will know that we are helping people who live on the very edges of our society, but who nonetheless exist in the very places where Jesus is most likely to be found and encountered.

## Book Reviews

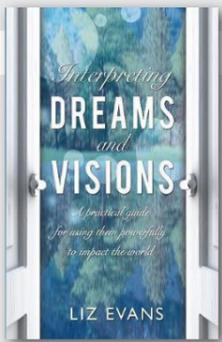


**Divine Sparks - Everyday Encounters With God's Incoming Kingdom**  
By Donna Lazenby, IVP, £9.99

Many of our everyday encounters in the world are touched by the divine, but we are not aware of it. We may find it impossible to miss God in the great interruptions of human existence, but God often finds a humbler dwelling-place . . .

Donna Lazenby was in a packed underground train when it was taken siege by a group of

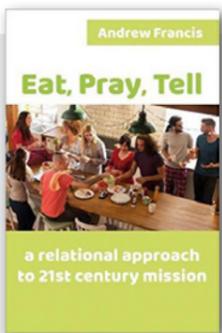
musicians, ripe to start a party. The eruption from dull passivity into joy and song seemed to her a picture of the coming of the kingdom of God. And so, she began to write a series of reflections that open up ways of seeing light in darkness, love in places of desolation, and the in-breaking of Life, when all seems tired and old.



**Interpreting Dreams and Visions - a practical guide for using them powerfully to impact the world** By Liz Evans, LionHudson, £16.99

You will spend on average six years of your life dreaming. This is more than a simple mental process, for the Bible tells us that dreams and visions are important ways in which God chooses to speak

to people. This book explains the language of dreams and visions, so that you can hear what God is saying to you at night, and during your prayer times.



**Eat, Pray, Tell - a relational approach to 21st century mission**  
By Andrew Francis, BRF, £7.99

Community theologian Andrew Francis believes that eating together could be what saves the Church from the threat of extinction in one generation. Drawing on the example of Jesus' own mission, Francis says that 'hospitality is central to our committed life together. Welcome and bring-and-share tell much of who we are as Jesus' followers.' Referring to the story where Jesus told his disciples to go to a town and find someone who would receive them, Francis points out that the disciples were directed eat

within the community, build friendships, teach the gospel, pray for people and heal them.

Based on the principle of 'no meeting without eating', this book shows how a strong commitment to eating together can build a welcoming, authentic community. "Eat, pray, tell is not a lightweight commitment," says Francis, "but if it becomes rooted in our home-based pattern of mission, it creates a 52/7 agenda."

## Puzzle's for all the family

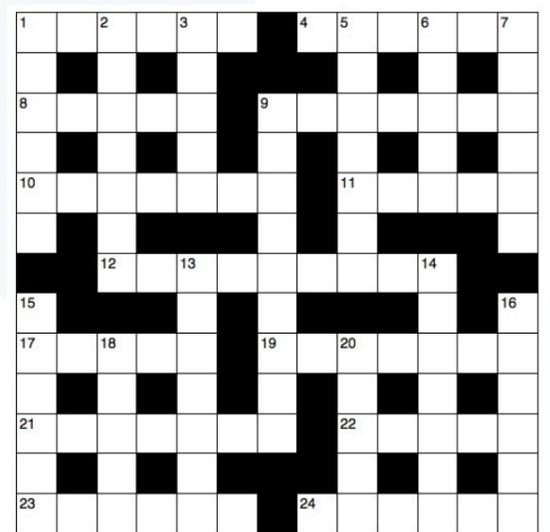
### Crossword Clues & Answers

#### Across

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)  
4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)  
8 "They .... .," you will say, "but I'm not hurt!" (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)  
9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)  
10 Jewish (7)  
11 Dirge (anag.) (5)  
12 'A truthful witness gives honest ..... , but a false witness tells lies' (Proverbs 12:17) (9)  
17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)  
19 'Do not use your freedom to .... the sinful nature' (Galatians 5:13) (7)  
21 'As you can see, he has done nothing to .... death' (Luke 23:15) (7)  
22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)  
23 'All the people ... .. one man, saying, "None of us will go home"' (Judges 20:8) (4,2)  
24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham's side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

#### Down

- 1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)  
2 'In an ... to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea' (Acts 27:30) (7)  
3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)  
5 'But I have a baptism to .... , and how distressed I am until it is completed!' (Luke 12:50) (7)  
6 'Of the increase of his government and peace there will be ... ..' (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)  
7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)  
9 'For I desire mercy, not ....., and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings' (Hosea 6:6) (9)  
13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob's well (John 4:5) (7)  
14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)  
15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)  
16 One of Paul's first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a .... in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)  
18 Donkeys (5)  
20 Raked (anag.) (5)



### Wordsearch

Find all these words in our wordsearch grid

Russian Revolution Rally Kiev Powerful Orator Bukharin Moscow Demolished Christian Faith Argument Abuse Ridicule Silence Priest Orthodox Church Christ Is Risen Assembly Indeed Ancient liturgy



# Croydon Churches Floating Shelter

St Mary's CCFS co-ordinator Bill Jackson extends his thanks to those who help in this vital work and sums up the 2017/18 season.

Although the floating shelter season continues until the end of March, the Sanderstead United Reformed Church/All Saints Church shelter finished on 18 December 2017. We never know what challenges we may encounter from season to season but our guests were responsive and willing to engage with us, despite the many problems rough sleepers face in an increasingly hostile environment.

As always, the shelters not only provide respite from the streets but allow our guests vital space and time to consider their futures, free from the constant battle to find food and shelter, to re-establish family and friend contacts and to pursue job and accommodation possibilities.

In our seven-week season, we were hosts to 30 guests (including four women). A few were with us for only

one or two weeks but most stayed for at least four or five. By Christmas all our women guests had moved into accommodation and to date (Feb 2018) 11 other guests had also been found hostel places. There is currently a waiting list for shelter admission to one of the 14 places available. We expect to host in excess of 60 guests by the end of March.

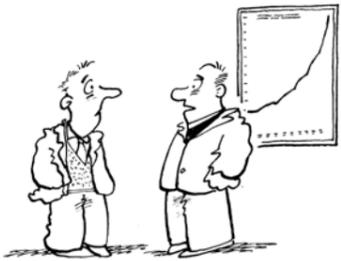


All shelters carry clothing replacements, some have showers and medical advice. Our guests arrive each night at 7.30pm. They have a two-course evening meal at 8pm, are given a bed for the night, have breakfast and take a packed lunch with them to the shelter the following night. This involves a great deal of planning by the 21 participating churches. Each year we are looking to replace volunteers who drop out. In November, another lead co-ordinator

will take my place, although I shall still be involved with the shelters as an assistant.

If you, or anyone you know would like to help us in this vital work to ameliorate rough sleeping in Croydon or would like to know more about us, then please contact me on 020 8657 8003 or email [bille.jackson@gmail.com](mailto:bille.jackson@gmail.com)

## Fun & Games



...I wish that was my Sunday attendance figures - but it's actually the age profile of my congregation!

It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, young James stayed home from church with his gran. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. James asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by," his father told him. "Wouldn't you know it," James fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up."

### Somebody or other

A preacher, who was somewhat "humour impaired," attended a conference to help better equip pastors for their ministry. One conference leader strode boldly up to the pulpit and grabbed the entire crowd's attention by declaring: 'The best years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman who wasn't my wife!' The crowd was shocked. But when he followed it up with: 'and that woman was my mother!' the crowd burst into laughter and gave him their attention for the rest of the talk. The next week, the pastor decided he'd give this humour thing a try, and use that joke in his sermon. As he climbed into his pulpit that Sunday morning, he tried to rehearse the joke in his head. It

suddenly seemed a bit foggy to him. However, getting to the microphone he let rip with gusto: 'I want to tell you all something personal this morning. The greatest years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman who was not my wife!' The congregation inhaled half the air in the room. Stunned silence fell. After standing there for almost 10 seconds, trying to recall the second half of the joke, the pastor finally blurted out, '...but I can't remember who she was!'

### What now?

Today I was in the toilets at a popular coffee chain. Someone had written, 'What Would Jesus Do?' on the wall. Another person had added, directly underneath: 'Wash His hands.' And a third person added, 'And your feet.'



"...and finally I'm happy to report that decision-making has become much easier following the downsizing of the Church Council."



...I think I must have missed that module when I was at theological college!

### What teacher says and what teacher means...

If you have ever wondered what the teachers really think of your child, you may enjoy these snippets from real reports....and the thought behind them!

James has a remarkable ability in gathering needed information from his classmates. (He was caught cheating in an exam).

Karen is an endless fund of energy and viability. (Your hyperactive monster can't stay still for five minutes.)

Fantastic imagination! (He's one of the biggest liars I have ever met).

Margie exhibits a relaxed attitude to school, indicating that high expectations don't intimidate her. (The lazy thing hasn't done any homework all term).

Sue is a real athlete, with superior hand-eye coordination. (The little creep stung me with a rubber band from 15 feet away.)

Nick thrives on interaction with his peers. (Your son never shuts up).

Nancy's greatest asset is demonstrative public discussions. (Every time I give homework, she responds by starting a classroom argument over it).

John enjoys the thrill of engaging challenges with his peers. (He's an incorrigible bully).

Jane is an adventurous nature lover, who rarely misses opportunities to explore new territory. (Your daughter missed class and nearly drowned trying to catch wriggly things in the school pond).

### Scared

Some people are scared of church like they are scared of helicopters – they are frightened of being sucked into the rotas.

### Petrol

You know it will be a bad day when it costs more to fill up your car than it did to buy it.

### Critics

People like criticism - just keep it positive and flattering.



All she had said was it was time for her annual lawnmower service

# St MARY'S & St JAMES CHURCH DIRECTORY

<b>St Mary's Church, Sanderstead</b>	Purley Oaks Road, S. Croydon CR2 0NR www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk
<b>St James Church, Riddlesdown</b>	St James Road, Purley CR8 2DL stjamesriddlesdown.org
<b>Vicar Priest in Charge (St James)</b>	Fr Grant Cohen, tel 020 8657 1725 mob 07717170386 grant@sanderstead-parish.org.uk (Not available Fridays)
<b>Hon. Assistant Priest (St Mary's)</b>	Revd Peter Macan, tel 020 8657 1398
<b>Hon. Assistant Priest (St James)</b>	Revd Dawn Rowland, tel 01883 818522
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	St James, Barbara Walker, tel 01883 346541 Jane Hoskins, tel 01883 344916
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<b>Director of Music (St James)</b>	Jane Hoskins tel 01883 344916
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<b>Sacristan (St Mary's)</b>	Muriel Stocker, tel 020 8651 1776 bstocker@msn.com
<b>St Mary's DCC Secretary</b>	Rachael Woods
<b>St James PCC Secretary</b>	Mrs Helen Stafford, tel 0203 590 9632
<b>Charitable Giving Team</b>	Ben Laundon, ben.laundon@ymail.com
<b>St Mary's Prayer Group</b>	Usually meets 1st Saturday in the month for lunch and prayer. For more information contact Fr Grant Cohen
<b>St Mary's Home Group</b>	Usually meets on alternate weeks. New members are very welcome For further information please contact Fr Grant Cohen
<b>Mothers' Union</b>	Variety of regular social events, action and worship promoting Christian care for families Margo Barrett, tel 020 8657 6163 margo@barrett7654.fsnet.co.uk St James Mothers Union Lesley Frankham, tel 020 8660 9081
<b>Uniformed Organisations 8th Purley Scout Group (St Mary's)</b>	www.8thPurley.org.uk tel 020 8763 2933
<b>11th Purley Scout Group (St James)</b>	rabradshaw@ISP-Q.com tel 020 8668 9868