

UNITED CHURCH OF EGHAM

A local union of the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church

MARCH, 2018

Dear Friends,

Recently I was invited to participate on a radio programme from the Royal Holloway College radio station "*Insanity Radio*". (I don't know if they were trying to tell me something!). The programme was hosted by the Catholic chaplain at the College and is based loosely on the format of the popular Radio 4 programme *Desert Island Discs*. It is broadcast every Wednesday afternoon at 3.00 pm and each week a guest from the local community is invited to select their choice of music and a couple of luxuries they would choose to have on a desert island, and to say a little about themselves and their involvement in the local area. I have to admit that I found it quite challenging trying to discern from all the creature comforts available to us, which of those I would like to take with me, and which I would choose to leave behind.

This got me thinking and particularly so, as we are now in the season of Lent. Lent is traditionally associated with the practice of 'giving things up' but latterly we are often encouraged instead to take on something new. A presenter on *Thought for the Day* this week put it like this: "Lent is not to be seen as some kind of punishment and penance for all the mistakes we make, but rather an opportunity to renew our relationship with God". I would agree with those sentiments, which to me are the heart of what Lent is all about. The point is that whatever we do through Lent should make a difference. So, for example, we could make a difference through setting aside a special time each day to reflect upon a passage of scripture or prayer. Or maybe we could let go some of the things we take for granted and instead give our money or time in aid of a good cause such as *Water Aid* or *Christian Aid*. Through such self-sacrifices we can make a very real difference to the lives of others.

Having said this, we must acknowledge that Lent is not just a time of self-sacrifice and self-improvement, but rather it is also a time to make changes that will enable us to grow spiritually in the whole of life, through Easter and beyond. If we are to share in the true meaning of Easter, we must fully engage with Lent. To help us on our journey, I quote a Lenten prayer from '*Litany of the Disciples of Christ the Servant*':

Servant Christ,
Help us to follow you into the desert.
With you to fast, denying false luxury,
refusing the ways of false indulgence,
the way of success at all costs,
the way of coercive persuasion.

Servant Christ, help us to follow you.

Your friend and Minister, **Alan**.

MINISTER: Revd Alan Wickens

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UNITED CHURCH OF EGHAM - MARCH 2018

Thursday 1 st	2.30 pm	Lent Study at Christ Church United Reformed Church, Windsor
Friday 2 nd	2.00 pm	Women's World Day of Prayer - service at the Village Centre, Englefield Green
	8.00 pm	Women's World Day of Prayer - service at St John's, Egham
Sunday 4 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship and Holy Communion - Revd Clare Downing, Moderator of Wessex Synod of the Church
United Reformed		
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship - A Taize Service - Revd Alan Wickens
Tuesday 6 th	8.00 pm	Tuesday at Eight - Reflections by Anne Heberton on her trip to the Holy Land.
Wednesday 7 th	12.30 pm	Craft Club
Thursday 8 th	2.30 pm	Lent Study at Christ Church United Reformed Church, Windsor
Sunday 11 th	11.00 am	MOTHERING SUNDAY: Morning Worship - Revd Alan Wickens
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship - Mr Paul Murphy
Thursday 15 th	2.30 pm	Lent Study at Christ Church United Reformed Church, Windsor
Sunday 18 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship - Revd Alan Wickens
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship and Holy Communion - Revd Alan Wickens
Wednesday 21 st	12.30 pm	Craft Club
Thursday 22 nd	2.30 pm	Lent Study at Christ Church United Reformed Church, Windsor
Friday 23 rd	10.00 am to 8.00 pm	(Book Sale -----
Saturday 24 th	8.00 am to 12.30 pm	(----- in the Church)
Sunday 25 th	11.00 am	PALM SUNDAY: Morning Worship - Mr Paul Murphy
	12.30 pm	Church Meeting, following the morning service
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship - Mrs Margaret Ash
Thursday 29 th	7.00 pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY: United Service at Christ Church United Reformed Church, Windsor
Friday 30 th	10.00 am	GOOD FRIDAY: United Walk of Witness, starting at St John's Parish Church, Egham

Regular meetings: we have - BROWNIE GUIDES (Mondays at 6.30 pm); BEAVER SCOUTS (Tuesdays at 6.00 pm); CUB SCOUTS (Thursdays at 7.00 pm); SCOUTS (Fridays at 7.30 pm);

COFFEE AND TEA will be served in the Vestibule of the Church each Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10.00 am to noon, when the Church will also be open for prayer. On each Thursday there is a LUNCHTIME SERVICE from 12.30 pm followed by a TIME OF FELLOWSHIP (bring your own salad or sandwich or whatever!) when coffee and tea will be available, and then a SOCIAL AFTERNOON of board games.

DUTY ROTA FOR MARCH, 2018

	<i>Sunday Deacons</i>	<i>Sidesmen</i>
4 th am	Jane Leckie	Nyree Long and Janet Figgins
pm	Graham Burrough	Graham Burrough
11 th am	Harry Cumming	Jill Reynolds and Derek Weston
pm	Lindsay Mair	Lindsay Mair
18 th am	Anthony Long	Marion Mason and Di James
pm	Paul Murphy	Paul Murphy
25 th am	Jane Leckie	Christine Maynard and Frank Clark
pm	Graham Burrough	Graham Burrough

FLOWER ROTA FOR MARCH, 2018

4th: Janet Figgins; 11th: Christine Maynard; 18th: Diane Humphries; 25th: Di James