



# ST SWITHUN'S CHURCH, PURLEY

(Situated at the corner of Grovelands Road and Downlands Road)

## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2016

This newsletter is distributed to all households in the Parish of St. Swithun, Purley, as well as to our friends outside the Parish.

### ***Prepare for Easter – A message from Rev'd Fiona Weaver***

*Dear Friends*

*No sooner had we said goodbye to the Christmas and Epiphany season and – Wow! – it's Lent already. Lent crept up on us rather quickly this year! Traditionally it is a time to take stock, reflect, and readjust inwardly and outwardly, just as much as it is a time for abstinence.*

*By the grace of God, as I reflect on our life at St Swithun's, we have had a busy start to 2016. Taking stock is not always easy, as it makes us face the realities of life. A reality we face at St Swithun's, and are seriously reflecting on, is how, as a small congregation, we can not only keep up the level of activities we already do but also embrace new challenges and activities. Among the new activities we have undertaken have been a Celtic-style evening worship service at 5 pm on the first Sunday of each month, and a café in the Carter Room to offer hospitality to the parents and carers of young children who are doing classes in the hall.*

*Personally, as I write, I am looking forward with great expectation and a little trepidation to our hosting of the Croydon Churches Floating Shelter for 5 nights. For a small congregation like ours this is a huge undertaking. It has taken us out of our comfort zone and challenged us all. Alongside these new initiatives we have also had to adjust and re-think how we run Messy Church and the Babies and Toddlers Group.*

*So as we take stock we realise that we have much to give thanks for and, with God's help, we can face the many challenges and changes ahead.*

*May you have a Holy Lent and a blessed Easter.*

***Rev'd Fiona***

PLEASE NOTE: All residents of the parish may call upon Rev'd Fiona for Pastoral Care and advice on Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

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**MESSY CHURCH:** Children up to age 11, accompanied by parents or carers, are invited to this **Saturday morning** activity. The next dates are **March 5<sup>th</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup>** from 10-12noon. For further details contact Val Haywood or Rev'd Fiona.

**MOTHERING SUNDAY:** Come to St. Swithun's at 11am on **March 6th** to celebrate Mothering Sunday. We will be holding an All Age Family Communion service where flowers will be presented to people special to us.

**EASTER ARTS & CRAFTS and EGGSTRAVAGANZA** will take place on Easter Saturday, **March 26<sup>th</sup>**, from 10am until noon, and will include completion of the Easter Garden. **Contact Rev'd Fiona to book a place.**

**THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING** will be held on **Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup>** from noon (following the 11am service), where we will elect our new Parochial Church Council.

**PLANT SALE: Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup>** in the Church Hall, Grovelands Road, from 9:00am -12:30: A wide range of plants will be available at this charity fundraising event. Why not donate your spare plants? Your offerings can be collected. Call Damaris Weller (020 8660 4119) or Robert Page (020 8660 1026) or bring to the Hall at 9am on the day.

**FUTURE EVENTS : Sunday July 17<sup>th</sup> Patronal Festival.** We celebrate Swithun, our Patron Saint. Bishop Jonathan. Bishop of Croydon, will preside and preach.

**LENT & EASTER CALENDAR** During **Lent**, which began on February 10th, **Meditation** will take place **on Thursday Evenings in the Lady Chapel from 7-7:30pm**. The calendar for March leading up to our Easter celebration at St Swithun's is as follows:

<b>March</b>	<b>Time/Service at St Swithun's (unless otherwise stated)</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Mothering Sunday</b>	<b>11am All Age family Communion</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday</b>	<b>10:50am for 11am Sung Communion with Palm Procession</b>
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday</b>	<b>8pm Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday</b>	<b>9:30am Said Communion</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>8pm Said Communion</b> with the ceremony of the washing of the feet, followed by a <b>Silent Vigil</b> until 10pm
<b>25<sup>th</sup> Good Friday</b>	<b>9:30am Easter Garden preparation</b> , then -  <b>10:30am</b> Join members of Churches Together in Purley & Kenley outside Tesco, for a joint <b>Service of Witness</b>  <b>1-3pm Meditation at the Cross at St Mark's</b>
<b>26<sup>th</sup> Easter Saturday</b>	<b>8pm Easter Vigil and Lighting of the Paschal Candle</b>
<b>27<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday</b>	<b>6:45am Sunrise Service at the Playing Fields, Higher Drive</b> , conducted by Churches Together in Purley & Kenley. (The service is followed by breakfast and fellowship at <i>St Barnabas Church Hall, Higher Drive, Purley</i> )  <b>11am Sung Communion</b> , followed by an Easter Egg hunt

**Regular Sunday Services:**

<b>8am</b>	Said Communion	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays</b>
<b>11am</b>	Sung Communion (Sunday School)	<b>1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays</b> followed by refreshments
<b>11am</b>	Morning Praise (Sunday School)	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays</b> followed by refreshments
<b>5pm</b>	Celtic Style Worship	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month</b>

**Wednesday Service:**

<b>9:30am</b>	Said Communion	<b>Every week in the Lady Chapel, followed by refreshments</b>
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**Website: [www.stswithuns.org](http://www.stswithuns.org)**

<b>Contacts</b>		
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