

Ash Wednesday



Wednesday 26th February

Start Lent well by attending a service of Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes.

10:30am Said Holy Communion

8pm Sung Eucharist



**OPERATION
NOAH**

Faith-motivated. Science-informed. Hope-inspired.

Lent Study Group Tenants of the King

Wednesday Evenings, 4th March – 1st April,
at St Oswald's Parish Hall

7:45pm – 9pm with refreshments available from 7:30pm.

A study group for people from Downsview and Parchmore Methodist Churches, St Paul's Thornton Heath, St Oswald's Norbury and others who wish to join us!

This course has been devised by the ecumenical Christian charity 'Operation Noah' who are working with the church to inspire action on climate change. In the first four sessions we will use bible studies and reflections from leading Christian thinkers to explore a Christian perspective on the environment and to consider what this might mean for us in our daily life and witness.

In the final session we will draw these reflections together as we share fellowship and thanksgiving in a service of Communion.

Find out more about Operation Noah at operationnoah.org

#LIVE LENT



Care for God's Creation

www.churchofengland.org/livelent

A 40 day challenge to consider our relationship with creation

Daily readings, reflections, actions and prayers for the season of Lent based on the book, *Saying Yes to Life* by Ruth Valerio.

This is the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2020

The reflections are available in a smartphone app and in booklet form (available at the back of the church - donation of £2 please) They are available in formats suitable for adults and for children.

If reading is your thing...

You might choose to read '*Saying Yes to Life*' by Ruth Valerio.

There will be an opportunity for anyone who chooses to read the book to gather at the vicarage on Tuesday 31st March for a discussion over tea, coffee and cake. Please let Alison know if you would like to do this.

Service of Healing and Wholeness

Monday 23rd March, 8pm

Lent is a good time to ask for God's healing touch in our lives.

During this Eucharist there will an opportunity to receive the ministry of prayer for healing with the laying on of hands and anointing.

If you want to commit to regular times of prayer



Prayer during the Day

This is a short structure for prayer that can be used at any time of the day.

Why not commit to saying this office regularly at a particular time. You could use the Parish Prayer list to focus your prayers.

Copies are available in church and a smartphone app 'Time to Pray' is available.

Mid- week Eucharist

Wednesday at 10:30am followed by refreshments.

If you don't normally come to this short 'said' service, Lent is a good time to make the extra effort to join us.



Morning Prayer

9am Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30am Wednesday and Saturday

Come and join us in church on one or more days each week each week. We pray using scripture and offer intercessions for the needs of the world.

A Prayer for Lent

God our Father,
the strength of all who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers;
and because, in our weakness,
we can do nothing good without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in keeping your commandments
we may please you, both in will and deed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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St Oswald's
Norbury

Lent 2020

Dear friends

The season of Lent, the 40 days before the celebration of Easter, developed as a time of preparation for baptism or reconciliation with the church at Easter – the primary time for such celebrations.

This history explains the characteristic notes of Lent – self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study and almsgiving while looking ahead to the joy of celebrating personal renewal as the church celebrated the resurrection of Christ.

Traditionally, people give something up for Lent, often donating money saved to charitable causes, but it is helpful to take the season as a time to deepen our relationship with God through examining our faith, our lives and our place in the world. Often this will mean that we take something on rather than giving something up.

This year at St. Oswald's, along with many in the church of England, we will be taking time to consider our relationship with God through our relationship with the whole of his creation. The joint Lent group will be using a resource that adopts a biblical approach to our relationship with, and use of, the created world. There are recommended resources that can help us to reflect on this as individuals and through informal tasks. In particular the materials *#Live Lent: Care for God's creation* offer a resource for individual prayer and study alongside thousands of Christians throughout the Church of England.

The most important thing for us all is to do something that will help us to draw closer to God. There are particular suggestions offered in this leaflet but you might take a more personal approach. You might decide to pay more attention to where your food and goods come from and how they are produced; you might adopt a strategy for decluttering your space or tending your garden; you could use the parish prayer sheet to pray for each road in the parish on a daily basis; or make an extra effort to visit someone who needs a friend; you could raise money to support the Bishop's Lent call. There are endless possibilities, but all should have your relationship with God as the focus. Choose to do something, and follow it faithfully.

I hope and pray that, whatever you decide to do, this season of Lent will be a time of great blessing for you.

With love and prayers

Alison