

ST Alban's Review?

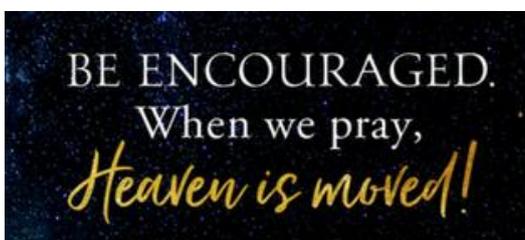
21st March 2021

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A STAR is born?

We have had a few ideas for new names for the newsletter from St Alban's: here is one possibility. Keep the ideas coming, though: you may have an even better idea! And also, please do send articles, stories, encouraging answers to prayer.

Someone has suggested a prayer request section, which is a great idea, so if you have a prayer request you'd like others to pray for, do send them to us at streatham park@gmail.com. Please be as specific as possible: we're not talking about general prayer requests such as 'Pray for peace across the world', but personal requests for personal need, or for people you know, or for local situations.



AN ANSWER TO PRAYER!

Thanks to all who prayed about the heating in church.

It has now been repaired! We are getting the flooring ready in the lounge, so please continue to pray that it will be ready for Easter.

Sunday's coming!



You may have heard the famous Good Friday sermon by S. M. Lockridge, which has as its refrain, 'It's Friday, but Sunday's coming!' We are a Sunday people: yes, there will be the difficult times, the 'Good Friday' times, and this past year has been one of those times. But Christians are a people of hope, a people of the resurrection, and whatever we're going through, we can say with confidence that Sunday's coming.

Easter Sunday, Resurrection Day, is now not far away – Sunday's coming! The PCC have agreed that we will open up for worship on that day, though we will still have physical distancing in place, masks will need to be worn, and we'll still need to be mindful about washing hands. As space will be restricted, we're asking if you could let us know if you intend coming to church on Easter Sunday, so that we can check we have enough space for everyone. Please email on streatham park@gmail.com or phone 020 8677 4521 to let us know.



**DON'T FORGET TO
SPRING FORWARD**

Remember to set your
clocks ahead 1 hour on

28 March 2021



EASTER DISPLAYS

The church has been empty for some time, and bare over Lent: it needs some love! If you would be prepared to do a floral display on an Easter theme, please get in touch. The themes could be: Empty Tomb; Sunrise on Resurrection Day; Mary in the garden; On the Road to Emmaus.

Special prizes for children’s displays – everyone a winner!

You might prefer not to use flowers for your display – just as long as it’s bright and cheerful! Children are welcome to put something together – we’ll have a special display for them.

LAST CHANCE TO GIVE TO GEOFF AND JUNE

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the leaving gift for Geoff and June Vevers. We have raised close to £800 from St Alban’s, which is fantastic. It would be wonderful to be able to get to £1000, so if you were thinking of giving to this gift, this week will be the last week we can do this. If you need us to collect, please let us know.

Marc will be circulating a card to as many as possible, but if you’re able to write your message on a sticky label, and could put it in the church letterbox, that would be great, or if you can scan it, and email it to marc.richeux@gmail.com, that would work too! Alternatively, if you’re coming in to church for Maundy Thursday or Good Friday, you could sign then.

PCC ROUND-UP

EVENTS FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

The PCC approved the following events:

Maundy Thursday: we usually hold a Passover supper in church on this day. Instead, we would like to offer 2 possibilities: for families, the opportunity to have a Passover meal at home. We will provide the elements, with a recorded online celebration and explanation. Please email suzannericheux@gmail.com if you would like to do this in your family. Alternatively, if you are on your own, there will be a service of Holy Communion in church, with elements of the Passover meal.

Good Friday: the church will be open between [10am and 5pm] for private reflection, with different ‘stations’ around the church. At particular times – [11am and 3pm] – there will be a showing of the joint Good Friday service, which will otherwise be available online.

Resurrection Day! 6am – dawn service in St Paul’s garden
10.30am – worship in St Alban’s church!

Other points the PCC discussed on Thursday:

- This year’s Annual Church Meeting will be on 30th May. In fact, it will be this year’s meeting, and last year’s meeting, taken together! People can attend ‘online’ if they want to.
- We have managed to make some substantial savings this year, but it’s likely that we will still be in deficit, despite extra giving last year.
- We will be looking at a scheme to encourage us all to **pray for, care for, and share with**, our neighbours. Look out for this later in the year!

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S WORDSEARCH



Diary

THIS WEEK

Sunday 21st March

There's an online service of Holy Communion, and audio CD available

There will be a time of prayer together on Zoom at 6pm.

There will be opportunities to 'Connect' via Zoom on Tuesday 23rd March 11:00 AM and Thursday 25th March 08:00 PM. **The details for Zoom will be emailed, and are also available on request (020 8677 4521)**

NEXT WEEK

There will be an online service of Holy Communion for Palm Sunday on 28th March.

There will be a time of prayer via Zoom at 6.00pm.

Nurturing Nature.



There is nothing like a stroll on the Common to lift your spirits and spend time with God's amazing creation. We know being outside in the fresh air is good for our mental health and you can get some healing just by being close to some trees, flowers and listening to beautiful birdsong

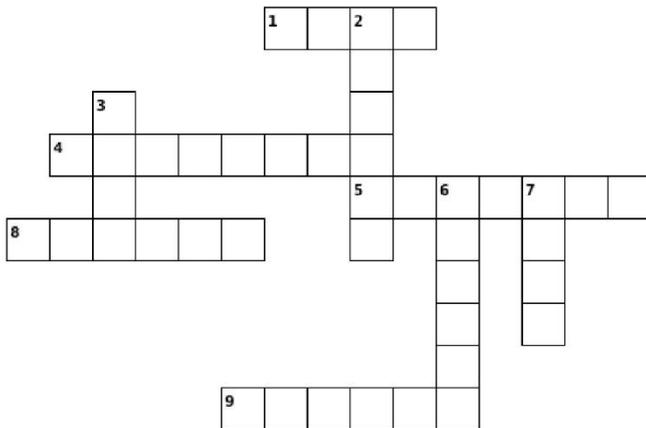
The other day I spotted a jay on Clairview road and its iridescent blue plumage lifted my mood immediately. A few weeks ago while walking in the woods on the edge of the Common a lady pointed out a misselthrush to me. It was so exciting as I had never seen one before. Nearer to home in the garden we have a robin, blackbirds, magpies, pigeons, parakeets and a visiting cat! I hope she hasn't got her eye on the birds!

I pray this small offering will help to lift your spirits and to know how close we are to amazing natural world.

By Annie Barrett



HOME WORSHIP



Across

1. Our online activity for children - 'The _____'
4. What we are when we're gathered, what we miss being when we're apart
5. What we can have at home, but what God gives us always (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)
8. We can watch the services with our _____ at home, but not with our church _____
9. How a wirewalker might access our service from home?

Down

2. We are all part of this if we believe in Jesus, wherever we are, in a _____ building or not!
3. Another way we can connect from home during the week (Tuesdays at 11am, Thursdays at 8pm!) is using this - it means 'to move quickly or suddenly with a loud humming or buzzing sound'
6. One way of accessing the services could be to use a _____ phone
7. Is the church really closed? Nope (anagram)

For all your church info:

Visit our website:

www.stalbanschurch.org.uk

email:

streathampark@gmail.com

To contact Rev Marc Richeux:
020 8677 4521

PRAYER PAGE – with thanks to Jamie Mason.

Do remember to send us any prayer requests (see front page)

Sunday: Pray for the Furzedown Ministry team. May they be encouraged, equipped and filled with the Holy Spirit as they lead and help us to navigate these days. Thank you for Marc and Suzanne's creativity, passion and ministry including through the launch of The Son Way Times. Thank you for Rob and his Word 4 Wednesday as he takes us through a book of the Bible each week. Pray for Gemma as she begins leading at Mitcham Lane and Geoff as he leaves St Paul's having blessed our communities over the last 5 years.

Monday: Thank you Lord for the fact that our children can go back to school. It is an unsettling time for everyone involved, getting used to tests, masks and uncertainty around assessments. But we thank you for the resilience of our teachers and students and everything they have overcome already. We ask for your peace today and in the days to come.

Tuesday: Loneliness. Life can feel quite lonely at times. With or Without a Pandemic. Feelings of solitude, isolation, even a sense of being forgotten are not uncommon. If that is the case today then please remember God does see us. He does care for us. I pray that He uses us to support one another. And may the occasion of Easter Sunday, where we hope to be able to see one another again, be a time of great rejoicing and fellowship.

Wednesday: Middle of the Week. Take a moment to sing God's praises. Psalm 22:3 says "God inhabits the praise of His people". Personally I find that worship can help lift my mood. It may not change your circumstances but it can change your focus. "Worship is not an escape from reality, but an expression of faith and trust in the midst of the harshest realities."

Thursday: Please pray for a return to democracy in Myanmar. Following last month's military coup there has been a series of unlawful detentions and protesters have been killed. Ethnic and religious minorities have suffered in the country in recent years and the deterioration of the human rights situation is a serious cause for concern. Praise God for Tearfund and their local partners who provide help to those affected by the crisis.

Friday: Please pray for the situation in Papua New Guinea. A surge in COVID-19 cases is threatening the country's fragile health system which already struggles with outbreaks of polio and TB. Thank God that vaccines and emergency medical teams are being sent to help. In a country where some 40% of the people live in poverty and civil unrest is common, please remember Christian organisations, such as the Mission Aviation Fellowship, who faithfully serve the remote and vulnerable communities.

Saturday: Pause to think about the children and young people in our Church. Maybe name or two of them in your prayers. Much has been written about how much children need to be in school and how on-line/zoom learning is not the same thing. But it's been a year since most of our younger members have met in church together and they too need fellowship and are missing out on connecting with the family at St Albans. Thank God for STAY, the ministry of Paul Rook and small groups for young people including POD. God is at work in Furzedown, pray that hearts and minds may be open to His call. "Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper, light in the darkness, My God, that is who you are".

Be a  Souperhero
Every ladle counts



LENT LUNCHEs (veggie) served every Wednesday during Lent
12-2pm From Kitchen hatch outside

**Real people.
Real change.** 

St Alban's Church Hall
Give what you can
(or nothing if you just want
a hot lunch – no pressure)

POVERTY
can be eradicated

Find out how at christiansaid.org.uk 

