

LENT

St Michael & All Angels



LENT is a time of spiritual preparation for the great celebration of the Resurrection of Christ at Easter. The season lasts 40 days reflecting Christ's time in the wilderness, and concludes with the dramatic events of Holy Week. During this time, all Christians are called to a profound reflection and a deep examination of their spiritual lives. This year our Lenten theme is 'Word and Sacrament' as we reflect on how God comes to us through the breaking open of the word in the scriptures and in the breaking of the bread and the outpouring of wine in the Eucharist. There is something for everyone to engage with in what is offered in our Lent programme. From sermons and courses to outings and music. May you find something to help you walk with Christ on the Way of the Cross, so that when Easter comes you may rise with Him in joy.

Father Stephen

Lent Worship and Prayer

During Lent, as well as our Sunday services, there are some special services and events that pick up on the spirituality of the season.

Ash Wednesday *14th February*

This solemn day marks the beginning of Lent and is an important day for all Christians to come to church and begin their spiritual journey towards Easter.

12.00 noon: Mass with Imposition of Ashes

8.00pm: Sung Mass with Imposition of Ashes
Preacher: The Vicar

Stations of the Cross: Fridays, 6.00pm

Meditations on the fourteen stages of Christ's journey to the Cross using scripture, poetry, images and reflections - lasts around 45 minutes.

Daily Prayer

Lent is a time to refocus our prayer life. Why not join in with the Church's regular cycle of prayer, whether Morning Prayer or a Midweek Mass?

Morning Prayer: Every day, 9.00am (except Friday)

A short service (lasting around 20 minutes) and a wonderful way to begin the day in peace and contemplation.

Wednesday Mass: 12 noon Followed by lunch.

Saturday Mass: 9.30am Followed by coffee.

Feast of the Annunciation: Saturday 24th March, Mass, 9.30am

Commemorating the visit of the Angel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary announcing she was to be the Mother of Christ; followed by freshly brewed coffee and home-made cake.



Lent Sermons

'Do this in remembrance of me'

Every Sunday at St Michael's (and during the week too), we gather together to celebrate the Mass, sharing bread and wine in remembrance of Jesus, just as he told us to; but how many of us truly know and understand the nature of the service? When did it come to have its current form? What do the various parts of the service mean? How should we pray the service? In this sermon series, Fr Stephen unpacks the Eucharist to help us deepen our spirituality of this central act of Christian worship in which we come close to our Lord.

Lent 1 (18th February): The Gathering: *Coming together to worship.*

Lent 2 (25th Feb): The Liturgy of the word: *Listening to scripture.*

Lent 3 (4th March): The Liturgy of the sacrament: *Taking, blessing, breaking and sharing.*

Lent 4 (11th March): All-Age Family Mass for Mothering Sunday

With the blessing and distribution of flowers.

Join us for this interactive, family-friendly service as we give thanks for God's loving care revealed through Our Lady Mary, Mother Church and our own mothers and all who care for us.

Lent 5 (18th March): The Sending out: *Mission to the world.*

Lent Evensongs

'On my desert Island'

Each Sunday in Lent at 6.00pm Evensong, Fr Stephen interviews a member of the congregation. They are invited to share their faith journey, life and interests using the 'Desert Island Discs' format, and describing a book, image, piece of music and poem that has profoundly influenced them - not forgetting the luxury item!

18th February: The Rev'd Judith Roberts

25th February Jane Bennett-Powell

4th March: Anthony Gardiner

18th March: Harry Hobson



Lent Excursions



Choral Evensong and Private Tour of Southwark Cathedral

Wednesday 7th March, 5.30pm

An opportunity to attend a beautiful service of Choral Evensong in London's oldest gothic church and our diocesan cathedral, followed by a private tour led by the Dean, the Very Rev'd Andrew Nunn. *Please sign up or email the parish office to book your place. This event is free apart from travel costs. A group will be leaving Barnes together shortly after 4.00pm.*

Scandal and Glory: The Cross in the Bible and Poetry

Tuesday 13th March, 6.30-8pm

St Paul's Cathedral

Jesus' death is at the heart of Christianity, but the four Gospels are very different and the cross has been seen as both the throne of God's glory and the place of ultimate desolation and defeat. We also have over two-thousand years of interpretation, paintings, poems, theologies, and liturgies that add to the complexity and sometimes the confusion. Join theologian Paula Gooder and Canon Mark Oakley (who was one of our Advent preachers in 2017) as they explore the multifarious meanings and images of the cross and what we might learn from them today. *Please note: This event is free, but tickets must be booked online via the St Paul's Cathedral adult learning website. You can either do this yourself or ask the Parish Office to book on your behalf. Fr Stephen will be going to this event and will lead a group from St Michael's.*



Adult Sunday School

'A tour through the Bible'

The Bible is central to the Christian faith, but many Christians, whether new or lifelong, still feel that they do not understand enough about its structure, shape, origins and purpose. In this swift tour through scripture, Fr Stephen seeks to give us a broad understanding not only of what the Bible is but also how to approach and read it as Christians. Each session takes place immediately after Mass on Sunday and lasts about 40 minutes. *Please sign up to express interest or the sessions will not take place.*

Lent 1 (18th February): What is the Bible? *The scriptures as a whole*

Lent 2 (25th February): What is the Old Testament? *Spiritual foundations*

Lent 3 (4th March): What is the New Testament? *The Word and the word.*

Lent 5 (18th March): How do I read the Bible? *A Christian approach*

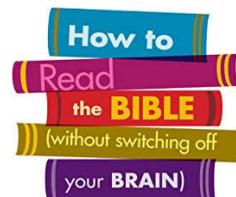
Lent Reading

How to read the Bible (without switching off your brain) Simon J. Taylor.

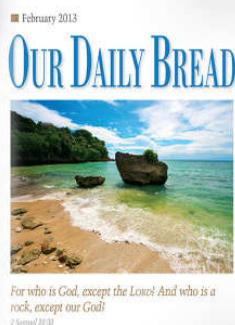
As a complement to our scriptural theme, the St Michael's Lent book for 2018 is by the American biblical scholar, Simon J. Taylor. Accessible but also nuanced, this book asks and seeks to answer many of the comments, questions and misconceptions about the Bible from a Christian perspective: 'Does science disprove the Bible? Why is there so much violence? Does reading the Bible mean believing impossible things? *A limited number of copies of the book will be available at the back of church during Mass on Sundays for £10, otherwise you can order copies online.*

Our Daily Bread: Bible Reading Notes

Free copies of *Our Daily Bread* will be available at the back of the church. These are very short and accessible reflections on biblical passages for every day.
www.odb.org.



SIMON J. TAYLOR



Lent Talk

Baroness Shirley Williams: 'My life, my faith'

Thursday 1st March, 7.30 for 8.00pm.

Distinguished politician, author, academic and Christian, Baroness Williams will be sharing her reflections on her life in politics and how this has been shaped and guided by her faith. *A Churches Together in Barnes event, hosted by St Osmund's Church in the Church Hall on Castelnau.*

CTIB 2018
Lent Talk

My Life, My Faith

Shirley Williams

The Rt Hon, the Baroness Williams of Crosby

Thursday 1st March 2018

7.30 for 8pm



St. Osmund's Church Hall Castelnau SW13 9RT

Devotional Concert

Bach's St Matthew Passion

11th March, 6.00pm, Tickets £15-£40

One of Western music's greatest works, composed in 1727 for Good Friday in Leipzig, the work recounts the Passion of Christ with great drama and beauty. Conducted by Martin Neary and accompanied on period instruments with the English Chamber Singers and the St Michael's Choir. This concert is part of the Barnes Music Festival and full information can be found on the website: www.barnesmusicfestival.com and on the leaflets and brochure in church.

Lent Lunches

Eating together and raising money for church and charities

Simple Sunday lunches of soup, bread and cheese, hosted by members of the congregation, as we share fellowship together and raise funds for our church and our nominated charities of the year (FiSH and the Diocesan Matabeleland Link). You are invited to offer whatever you feel your lunch at home on the day might have cost. To help with catering, please sign up on the lists in church, or contact the Parish Office.

25th February: Fiona Brannon (22 Elm Bank Gardens)

4th March: Donna and John Brocklebank (9 Cleveland Road)



While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, 'Take, eat, this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'

Matthew 26.26-28

Lent Confession

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

During Lent many Christians make a special effort to examine their consciences and seek out spiritual guidance and the grace of God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, often called Confession. Confession times will be advertised during Holy Week, but you can make your Confession during Lent by making an arrangement with one of the clergy. If you have not done this before, or would like to find out more, you are also welcome to have a conversation about how to prepare and what to do.



The Parish Office

c/o St Michael's Vicarage

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For more information about any of the events and services listed in this leaflet, contact the St Michael's Parish Office. Please note, there will be a separate leaflet with information about services for Holy Week and Easter.