LENT 2020

Saint Michael & All Angels

**'Late have I loved you, Beauty ever ancient,
ever new, late have I loved you!'**

Words of Saint Augustine of Hippo from 'The Confessions', his famous spiritual autobiography. Augustine, who was a bishop in north Africa in the 5th century, is someone who stands out in Christian history as a 'luminary' on the way of faith and, for that reason, he is the focus of our Lent this year. He stands out for his realisation that as human beings we are not transparent even to ourselves. That we don't know what we know because we have forgotten so much. That we think we are free but never fully grasp our motivations. That to be a person is always to be in search of ourselves and part of a continual process of asking, wondering and exploring who we are. Augustine is therefore an illuminating guide for the reflective season of Lent, as he tells us that we need to spend plenty of time getting in touch with ourselves before we can get in touch with God. This year's Lent programme offers a broad range of events and activities to help you deepen your faith and prepare for celebration of Easter. You are invited to take part so, like Augustine, you may discover the beauty of God who is ever ancient and ever new.

Father Stephen, Vicar

Lent Worship and Prayer

During Lent, in addition to our Sunday services, there are some special services and events that pick up on the spirituality and themes of the season

Ash Wednesday *26th 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 *Every Friday 6.00pm*
Meditations on the 14 stages of Christ's journey to the Cross - lasts around 40 minutes. The Stations of the Cross displayed in the church throughout Lent are those by Margaret Adams.

Daily Prayer
Lent is a time to refocus our prayer life. Join in with the Church's regular cycle of prayer, whether Morning Prayer or 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 *Wednesday 25th March 12.00 noon*
Low Mass with hymns commemorating the visit of the Angel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary announcing she was to be the Mother of Christ - traditionally a day when you can break the Lenten fast and, therefore, the service is followed by sparkling wine, and lunch in the Community Centre.

'You have made us for yourself O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you."

The Confessions

Lent Sermons

Our sermon series explores the life and faith of Saint Augustine and how he helps us on our journey of faith today. The sermons will be based on chapters from this year's Lent book - sections of which will be available each Sunday to take away and read.

Lent 1 (1st March): *Fr Stephen Stavrou, Vicar:* Augustine's journey towards faith.
Lent 2 (8th March): *Fr James Hutchings, Team Rector:* Augustine on debates and disagreements.
Lent 3 (15th March): *Fr Martin Calderbank, Curate:* Augustine talking about God: beauty, light, truth.

Lent 4 (22nd 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, our own mothers, and all who care for us.

Lent 5 (29th March): *Mthr Judith Roberts, Assistant Priest:* After Conversion: living as a Christian.

Lent Evensongs

'On my desert Island'

We continue our popular series, in which Fr Stephen interviews 'castaways' from the congregation during 6.00pm Sunday Evensong. They are invited to share their faith and life in the 'Desert Island Discs' format - describing a book, image, piece of music and poem that has profoundly influenced them - not forgetting the luxury item they feel they can't do without!

1st March	**David Walser**
15th March:	**Donna Brocklebank**
29th March:	**Topaz Amoore**

'And men go abroad to admire the heights of mountains, the mighty waves of the sea, the broad tides of rivers, the compass of the ocean, and the circuits of the stars, yet pass over the mystery of themselves without a thought."

The Confessions

Lent Excursion

Westminster Abbey and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries

Guided tour of this ancient royal church and a space hidden for 700 years!

Join us for this in-depth tour of the Abbey followed by a visit to the brand new Diamond Jubilee Galleries (opened 2019) which are located in the beautiful 13th century triforium and display the greatest treasures of the Abbey, telling the story of its thousand-year history.

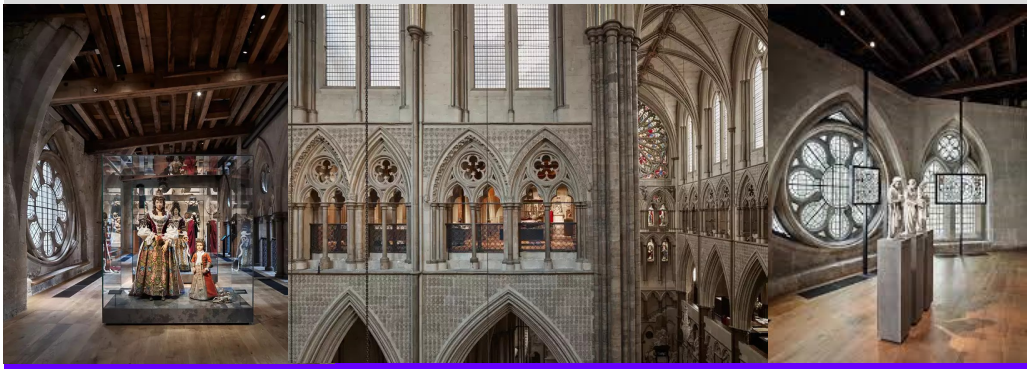
Places for the tour (up to 20 people) will be allocated on a first-come basis, but there will be a waiting list. Sign up by Thursday 5th March.

Date: Tuesday 10th March

Cost: £6 for the tour + travel + any refreshments at the café.

Travel: Barnes Bridge Station to Waterloo then Jubilee Line to Westminster.

Time: We will depart on a train leaving at 1.16pm from Barnes Bridge Station and will be back in Barnes around 6.45pm.



Lent Lunches

Eating together and raising funds for church and charities

Simple Sunday lunches of soup, bread and cheese, hosted by members of the congregation, as we spend time with one another while raising funds for our church and our nominated charities of the year (SPEAR and Jeel al Amal school in Palestine). You are invited to offer whatever you feel your lunch at home on the day might have cost. *To help with catering, you can sign up on the lists in church, or contact the Parish Office, but you are also welcome to just turn up on the day.*

8th March: Harry and Mandy Hobson (93 Elm Bank Gardens)

15th March: Fiona and Andrew Brannon (22 Elm Bank Gardens)

Adult Sunday School

'From Jerusalem to Rome': Acts and the Early Church'

What were the first Christians like? How did the Church grow and change in the first century? The popular Adult Sunday School returns with a focus on the life of the Early Church in this fascinating period as it moved from a minor Jewish sect in rural Palestine to a major faith in the imperial capital of Rome. Using the book of Acts as our starting point, the sessions will combine bible study with historical exploration and discussion about how our Christian life today reflects that of the first 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 (1st March): The Roman Empire and Paganism.

Lent 2 (8th March): The life and worship of the first Christians.

Lent 3 (15th March): Women, slaves, and the Gospel.

Lent 5 (29th March): Persecution and Martyrdom in Rome.

N.B. The course may be of particular interest to those coming on the pilgrimage to Rome in 2020.

'Late have I loved you, Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you … you called, you shouted and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed your fragrance on me, I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you, now I hunger and thirst for more. You touched me, and I burn for your peace.'

The Confessions, book X

Lent Home Groups

During Lent, you are invited to take part in a Home Group. These are friendly and informal discussion groups hosted by members of the congregation and meeting at different times and in different places. They will use the questions at the end of each chapter of our Lent Book as a springboard to reflect more generally on life and faith, and get to know other people better. There are four groups taking place (meeting 3/4 times but attendance every time isn't absolutely essential) Sign up on the sheets in church or email the Parish Office:

Thursday evenings: Led by Sue Pandit - *to take place at home in Ferry Road in Barnes.*

Friday mornings: Led by Eleanor Stanier *to take place at home in Coval Road - East Sheen.*

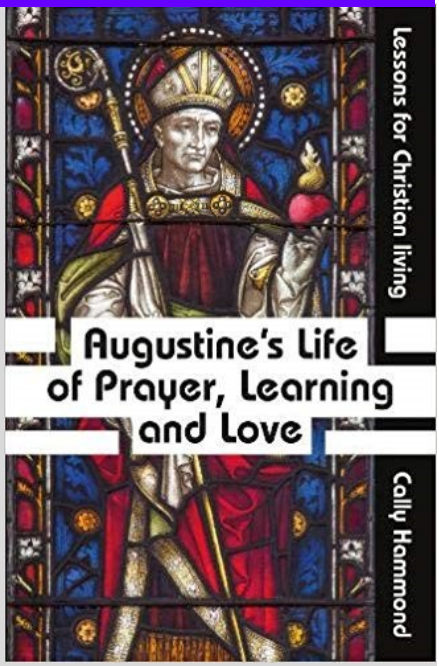
Saturday mornings: (women's home group) Led by Gemma Curran - *to take place either at home in Mortlake or in a local café in Barnes.*

Saturday afternoons: (men's home group) Led by Andy Puddifoot - *to take place at a café/pub in Barnes*

Lent Reading

Augustine's Life of Prayer, Learning and Love *by Cally Hammond*

This year's Lent book is by the Rev'd Cally Hammond, formerly a classicist and now Dean of Caius College Cambridge. It explores how Augustine became a Christian - the problems he faced, the doubts he struggled with. It is about how he made sense of his belief in God and shared it with other people. It is about how he learned to read the Bible and to pray. And it is about the word which is at the heart of his Christian life - love. Accessible but profound, each chapter concludes with some simple questions for reflection.



A limited number of copies of the book will be on sale after Mass on Sundays - otherwise please order a copy using the sign-up sheet in church or by contacting the Parish Office. Print outs of short sections of the book relating to each Sunday's sermon will also be available.

Lent Talk

Theology, Ethics and Environment

Thursday 27th February, 7.30 for 8.00pm

Hosted by St Osmund's RC Church at their Church Hall on Castelnau

Father Martin Poulson, latterly Head of Theology at Heythrop College, explores the theology and ethics behind the current environmental crisis and what we can do as individuals and communities to promote a better environment for future generations. *A Churches Together in Barnes event.*

Devotional Concert
B Minor Mass - J.S. Bach

Sunday 8th March, 7.00pm (doors open 6.30pm)

Tickets £40, £30, £20 and £15

The English Chamber Singers and St Michael's Choir join with the Barnes Period Instrumentalists for one of Bach's choral masterpieces that also takes us on a spiritual journey. 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 brochures in church. Tickets available in person from the Parish Office and Chesterton's in Barnes and East Sheen or *music@stmichaelbarnes.org*

Lent Confession and Spiritual Direction

Renewing your relationship with God

During Lent many Christians reflect on their spiritual lives in two distinct ways. First through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, commonly called Confession. Times will be advertised during Holy Week, but you can make an appointment with a priest at any time during Lent. Feel free to ask for help about how to prepare and make your confession if you have never done this before. Second, to arrange an informal conversation about your faith in what is known as Spiritual Direction - an opportunity to talk about any challenges, joys and issues you may be facing and receive some support and prayer.

The Parish Office

c/o St Michael's Vicarage
39 Elm Bank Gardens
London SW13 0NX
020 8876 5230 admin@stmichaelbarnes.org

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