

St John the Evangelist

Lent 2018

(14 February - 28 March)



Lent is the period of 6 weeks when we prepare to remember Jesus' death on the cross on Good Friday and his resurrection at Easter. The 40 days remind us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness before he began his ministry of teaching, preaching and healing.

Lent is a 'penitential season'. It's a time to focus on our need of God and to seek that deeper, richer way of living that Jesus offers.

"Our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you." Augustine of Hippo (354–430). We are encouraged to live simply, to pray, to read the Bible and to focus on others. This leaflet gives information and ideas about what to do in lent.

Ash Wednesday – 14th February

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of lent. At services on this day we are invited to be marked in ash with the sign of the cross on our forehead. This is a sign of penitence and our mortality. We are given a fresh start and invited to use the 6 weeks of lent wisely and joyfully, appreciating the gift of life God has given us.

6.30pm Holy Communion with the imposition of Ashes in the high altar chapel at St John's

Lent Course

This year our lent course will be the York course 'On the third Day' written by Bishop John Pritchard.

The resurrection is the Big Story that turned a little Jewish protest movement into a world-transforming religion. And yet by Easter Monday we've almost forgotten about it and are planning our summer holidays. How can we re-capture the explosive power of the resurrection that ricocheted around the world? How can we live in the glow of resurrection and be an Easter people? How can 'there and then' become 'here and now'?

Two groups will run each week.

- A Wednesday evening group at the United Reformed Church in Eden Street starting on Wednesday 21st Feb at 7.30pm for 5 weeks. These sessions will be run by Leslie Charlton and Karl Rutlidge of Kingston Methodist Church.
- A Friday morning group at Vicky's house, 30 Bloomfield Road, KT1 2SE starting on Friday 23rd Feb at 10am. These sessions will be run by Vicky, David Bell and Isobel.

This is a lent course for the 3 churches in our team and the URC. The booklet for the course will be available at the first session.

LIVE LENT 'Let your light shine'

This little booklet gives you a thought for the day, a short Bible reading, a question to ponder, a prayer and an action to do for every day of lent to help you let your light shine! Pick up yours from the welcome table in church. Donations welcome. Written by our Archdeacon, John Kiddle.

Team Quiet Day ‘Sitting by the Well’

An opportunity for a day of quietness and prayer led by Sister Melanie of the House of Prayer. Saturday 3rd March 2018 10am to 4pm at the House of Prayer, 35 Seymour Road, East Molesey, KT8 0PB. 25 places available. £15 donation. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church or book your place with Vicky vicar@stjohnskingston.co.uk or 020 8546 9882. Sister Melanie will give three short reflections during the day and provide suggested readings and questions to ponder in the quiet time. The house has many rooms, quiet places and restful gardens to relax, rest, reflect and pray in during the day. This is a precious space to switch off from the busyness of work, home and family, to slow down, and to find rest and refreshment in God.

Lent Lunchtime Talks ‘What is the Church for?’

Thursdays 1.10-2pm at All Saints Church, Marketplace, Kingston, KT1 1JP

22nd Feb: The Church as a place of faith

Rt Revd Martin Wharton, former Bishop of Kingston

1st March: The Church as a cultivator of community

Ann Morisy, Community Theologian

8th March: ‘The Church as a product of history

Dr David Robinson, Honorary Borough Archivist

15th March: The Church as an engine of culture

Simon Toyne, Executive Director of Music, David Ross Education Trust

22nd March: The Church as a stumbling block for the world

Rev’d Dr Stan brown, Superintendent, Kingston Methodist Circuit

The talks are free and un-ticketed. All welcome.

Lent Appeal

This year we are supporting Kingston Refugee Action and Fazil Kawani, the Director of the Charity, will be speaking to us about their work in the Sunday service on 26th February.

<http://www.refugeeactionkingston.org.uk/>

Special Services during Lent and Holy Week

- 18th February 9am Holy Communion
10am Sacred Space – The Lenten Journey
- 11th March 10am Mothering Sunday Parish Communion with the distribution of flower posies to all women at the service
- 18th March 9am Holy Communion
10am Sacred Space – Stations of the Cross
- 25th March 10am Palm Sunday Joint Service. Starting at Kingston Methodist Church on the Fairfield with procession to St John's
- 29th March 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Service and Meal
- 30th March 10.30am Children's Good Friday Workshop
12 noon All Age Good Friday Service
2pm Good Friday Service - Reflections at the cross
- 1st April 10am Easter Day Parish Communion with Easter Ceremonies and egg hunt for the children

Everyone is welcome at St John's.
We are a member of Inclusive Church.
<https://inclusive-church.org.uk/>