



St Paul's, Quarndon, Parish Newsletter

February/March 2020

From the Vicarage

February 2020 'Saying Yes to Life'

'...not all of us choose what we give up, the things we love are taken, or never ours at all. If we're lucky, life is defined, not by what we let go, but by what we let in. Friendship and kind words. Frailty, {love} and hope. To be human is to be imperfect, and to accept that is to thrive. No path is always strewn with flowers, but therein lies the power of each fragile, tender bloom...'

These were the words offered by the narrator at the conclusion of the BBC programme, 'Call the Midwife' (Series 9 Ep 2) and I as I type I can't quite believe that it's now in its 9th series. For the benefit of those who aren't watchers, the series revolves around a group of nurse midwives who live and work at the fictional convent of 'Nonnatus House' set in the East End of London in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The series was created by Heidi Thomas originally based on the memoirs of Jennifer Worth who worked with the Community of St John the Divine, an Anglican religious order of midwife trained nun which was founded as a nursing order in 1849. The show has extended beyond the memoirs to include new, historically sourced material. Watching the show on a Sunday evening, I have the sensation that watching 'Call the Midwife' is like pulling on a nice, warm comforting blanket which you then need later on to wipe the tears from your eyes. In the episode mentioned, the House and its occupants were seen in their mid-Lenten struggles; cigarettes were confiscated, a delicious looking Dundee cake hidden on a high shelf and flowers removed from the altar table.

The observance of Lent is for many Christians a season of spiritual spring-cleaning, a time of denial and austerity. For those of us who live in a society where anything and everything seems to be available at all times, a bit of delayed gratification is no bad thing. A growing body of academic literature has linked the ability to delay gratification to a host of other positive outcomes, including academic success, physical health, psychological health, and social competence. However, as the narrator remarks wisely, *'not of all us choose what we give up, the things we love are taken, or never ours at all.'* To have a choice is a precious gift indeed and one that not everyone has access to- a choice over where they live, what they eat and drink, where they work. Not everyone enjoys good health or can say where they are going to be from one day to the next. In a month when St Valentine is celebrated, there are those who lament not meeting the 'right one', who struggle with the unspoken expectations perhaps from work colleagues and families around settling down and having a family. One of our Lent groups this year will be looking at Ruth Valerio's book 'Saying Yes to Life' recommended by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Ruth writes much about communities across the world affected by climate change and environmental disorder, about places and people who have no choice about what they *'give up'*. As I write this letter I'm aware of the continuing bush fires in Australia, the volcanic eruption in the Philippines, and the avalanches and flooding that have hit homes in Pakistan and Afghanistan. These are just a few of the headlines.

The conclusion of Lent is of course Easter, when those things that may have been given up, are given back to us, often in abundance- chocolate eggs, the traditional Easter Day fare of a roast meat dinner and flowers in church. So what might an eco-Easter Day look like? Fairtrade chocolate eggs? Perhaps a roast dinner that is local, organically farmed, perhaps a vegetarian or vegan meal? Flowers cut from our gardens, rather than flown in from Africa?

If we're lucky, life is defined, not by what we let go, but by what we let in. Friendship and kind words. Frailty, {love} and hope. To be human is to be imperfect, and to accept that is to thrive.

Who or what will be let into our lives over the next few weeks of Lent? What might we change or alter, what might be taken from us and what might we be given back in return?

Yours in faith,
Becky Mathew

Vicar of St Nicholas' Allestree & St Paul's Quarndon

FAMILY OCCASIONS

In their bereavement our prayers are with the family and friends of Christine Garretty, Christine Lane and Margaret Brooksbank.

In Marriage we prayed for God's blessing on Mike Annable and Val Mallon.

ST PAUL'S CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR FEB/MARCH

Date	Time	Service/Event
February	2	10.00 am Holy Communion & SHINE
	9	10.00 am All Age Worship
	16	10.00 am Holy Communion & SHINE
	23	10.00 am Morning Praise
		7.00 pm Prayer & Praise at St Nick's
	26	12.30 pm Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday with Ashing at St Nick's – bring your packed lunch and stay for fellowship after the service.
March	1	10.00 am Holy Communion & SHINE
	7	12.30 pm Lent Lunch at Holy Family Church
	8	10.00 am All Age Worship
	14	12.30 pm Lent Lunch at St Nick's
	15	10.00 am Holy Communion & SHINE
	19	7.30 pm PCC
	21	12.30 pm Lent Lunch at St Paul's
	22	10.00 am Morning Praise for Mothering Sunday
		7.00 pm Prayer & Praise at St Nick's
	28	12.30 pm Lent Lunch at Broadway Baptist
29	10.00 am Joint service at St Paul's	

Morning Prayer is said in church every Wednesday and Thursday in term time at 9.05am. This short time of prayer and reflection is open to all.

SHINE (Sunday School) will in future meet twice a month, on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, in the lower church hall. Children can be dropped off from 9.50am and will re-join their parents in church towards the end of the service.

The next meeting of the **PCC** will be on Thursday 19th March at 7.30pm in church.

Mothering Sunday is on March 22nd this year and there will be flowers for every lady in church.

CHURCH NEWS



Our next **Mini-outings** will be to Meynell Langley Garden Centre Café, on Tuesday 11th February at 2.00pm. Then on 24th March we shall meet at Fairways Garden Centre in Ashbourne at 2.00pm. These are for anyone who would like to get together with others over a cup of tea or coffee (and often cake!) in pleasant surroundings. No age restrictions and you don't have to be a church member. All are welcome and lifts can usually be arranged if needed. Please telephone Mary on 01335 360422 by the day before the outing to arrange a lift. A list of dates for future outings is on the noticeboard in church.

The **Christian Aid Christmas Appeal** at our Carol Service and other Christmas services raised £341.50. This will be used to help mothers living in poverty to change their lives. Many thanks to everyone who contributed.



Thank you to everyone who supported our **Christmas Tree Festival** in December. The winning tree was 'Let it Snow' decorated by Alison MacGregor and the winners in our grand prize draw were:

Christmas Hamper – Linda Carter

Drinks Hampers – Jocelyne Cunningham and Mick (Park Farm Butchers)

Royal Crown Derby Bear – Emily

Morley Hayes Lunch voucher – Jean Lowe

Many of you visited over the 3 days and with the sales of cakes, marmalade and bottle lights, plus the prize draw, carol singing and donations, we raised **£2,700** towards the much needed repair work to the guttering. *There are more photos on our website.*

Repair-Restore-Redecorate: the Work Begins!

Finally! The church has now signed a contract to begin repairs on the gutters. The work will start on April 20th and last for approximately 8 weeks. It has taken since April 2018 to obtain the necessary permissions to do this, and along the way we have had to pay for a full asbestos survey and an ecology survey. In addition, we have had to completely replace the automatic time control system on the church clock. We had a very encouraging result from the Christmas Tree Festival and Prize Draw, but fund raising is still a very high priority for us in order to complete the various works needed to achieve our **Appeal 150** target. Can you help? Cheques payable to Quarndon PCC (and clearly marked Appeal 150) may be sent to our treasurer, John Waldron, at 3 Old Church Close, Quarndon, DE22 5JF, or you can donate online using the giving page on our website www.stpaulsquarndon.org.uk or at <https://www.give.net/20102501> We are very grateful for any help you can give.

Nagpur Link News

Representatives from churches in Allestree and Darley Abbey continue to meet to support projects in Nagpur, India via the Church of North India (CNI) Social Services Institute (SSI). At our recent meeting Suzanne and John, friends of a Nagpur Link church, reported on the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Church of North India. During their visit to Nagpur, Suzanne and John also had the opportunity to visit the CNI SSI training centre, opened in August 2019 and partly funded by our local churches in the Nagpur Link.

Lent Lunches 2020

During Lent our churches host a light lunch on Saturdays, where all are welcome to share in food and fellowship to raise funds for the Nagpur Institute.

Each lunch starts at 12.30pm.

March 7 th	Holy Family, Blenheim Parade
March 14 th	St Nicholas, Allestree
March 21 st	St Paul's, Quarndon
March 28 th	Broadway Baptist
April 4 th	St Edmund's, Allestree



Choice of soups, ham or cheese roll, fruit and tea/ coffee

£4.00 adults, £2 children, payable on the door

Cake stall and plant stall when possible

All welcome

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (26th February this year) and is the period of 40 days leading up to Easter. Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter and was traditionally observed with fasting and contemplation, recalling Jesus Christ's withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Many Christians today prefer to use the period of Lent to further their study of the faith or to do something extra which will benefit other people. We have the opportunity to do both at St Paul's: *continued overleaf...*

- Rev Becky will be organising a Lent Study group (please pick up a news bulletin from church for details)
- We are hosting a Lent Lunch on March 21st to raise funds for Nagpur
- We will be collecting food and toiletries for the Derby food banks (*these may be left in the box at the back of church at any time in March*).

COMMUNITY EVENTS/NOTICES

Quarndon Friendship Group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 2pm in Quarndon church hall.

Thursday 13th February we welcome back Paul Newsham with another of his interesting talks, this time "The Streets of London".

Thursday 27th February our meeting is cancelled as the hall is closed for the fitting of a very welcome new heating system.

Thursday 12th March we welcome back Bob Neill with another of his many boxes of "Bits and Bobs".

Thursday 26th March will be a "Social Afternoon".

Ecclesbourne Barn Dance Club meets fortnightly on Tuesdays at 7.30pm in Quarndon church hall. A fun and friendly way of keeping fit. New members, including beginners, assured of a warm welcome. Enquiries to Rene Dobson 558908 or Stephen Yates 606640.

Church Hall bookings

The church hall is available for private or group hire and this can now be done through our church website. Just visit www.stpaulsquarndon.org.uk and click on 'Hall Hire' to complete an online booking form. Alternatively you can telephone or email Pat Glover (see below).

ST PAUL'S, QUARNDON, DIRECTORY

<i>Priest-in-Charge:</i>	Revd Becky Mathew <i>Email:</i> vicarallestreequarndon@hotmail.com	550224
<i>Curate</i>	Revd Dawn Knight <i>Email:</i> revdawn68@gmail.com	
<i>Churchwarden:</i>	Mike Annable <i>Email:</i> mike@stpaulsquarndon.org.uk	
<i>Verger</i>	Dawn Price	556422
<i>Church Hall Bookings:</i>	Pat Glover, 129 Church Road, Quarndon <i>Email:</i> quarndonchall@aol.co.uk <i>(or see our website to book online)</i>	07780 830371
<i>Newsletter Editor:</i>	Mary Connell 20 Burland Green Lane, Weston Underwood, DE6 4PF <i>Email:</i> mary@dasilex.com	(01335) 360422
<i>Church Administrator: (temporary) Jo Peace</i>	<i>Email:</i> admin@stpaulsquarndon.org.uk	550431
<i>Parish Safeguarding Link:</i>	Alison MacGregor	07752 581043

Church website: www.stpaulsquarndon.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaulsquarndon

(Please 'like' our Facebook page!)

The deadline for copy for the newsletter is the 16th of the previous month, so copy for the April/May edition must be with the editor no later than **16th March**, please.