



The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 142

April 2022

Holy Week and Easter

Please do join us for some of our services during Holy Week and Easter. You will find details of them on the second page. This year, perhaps for some of us as never before, we surely need to take hold of the promise of Easter and re-acquaint ourselves with its message for our war-torn world.

From the Registers

Funerals: (4th March) Darryl John Bradford; (18th) Jennifer Mitchell.

Coffee Morning/ Ukraine Appeal

Many thanks to those who came along and supported the coffee morning on 19th March. It was good to see you all. Hopefully there will be another coffee morning soon.

Together with kind donations for this appeal, we raised a total of £733.

Recital

by students from
Royal Holloway
Saturday 2nd April
4.00pm

St Jude's Church

Admission free

Refreshments available

Donations welcome

Recital

by the Barbican Trio
(violin, cello and piano)
Saturday 23rd April
4.00pm

St Jude's Church

Admission free

Refreshments available

Donations welcome

In these dark times

I am writing this article against the shocking backdrop of the War in Ukraine. Shocking because of its utterly devastating impact on Ukraine and its people; estimates today suggest that already ten million Ukrainian people have been displaced from their homes in one way or another. Shocking too because of the far wider impact this bitter conflict is having and will continue to have upon lands beyond Ukraine, including Russia herself.

Whilst Ukraine, rightly, continues to dominate our media channels at this present time, we remain conscious of the very many other parts of our world today where brutal conflict, dreadfully, has become the norm. Countless children across the globe have never known anything other than the trauma of war.

But, whilst war can bring into sharp relief the ruthlessness and heartlessness that can accompany the possession of power, it can also highlight the selflessness and compassion found so often at the heart of humanity. The response of so many to the vast humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, the latest in a long line of such crises, has been overwhelming, globally, nationally and locally. The sacrificial generosity of giving, in practical as well as financial ways, is enormous. The capacity of human beings to identify with one another in suffering is in huge contrast to the abuse of power that can seem so dominant in our world today.

Throughout his ministry the Lord Jesus Christ identified himself with the poor, the suffering and the persecuted. He challenges us to do the same. He kept company with the bereaved, the lonely, the marginalised and the forgotten. He challenges us to do the same. He reminded us that those who offer acts of compassion to those in need are offering that same compassion to him, for it is among those most in need that he is to be found.

And throughout his ministry Jesus confronted popular conceptions of status and kingship and overturned them. First century Palestine provides its own examples of the misappropriation and misuse of power. In contrast Jesus emphasised that true greatness is to be found in the willingness to serve one another and to give place to those less fortunate than ourselves. Where those things are happening Jesus is present still.

I recently quoted from an open letter about the war in Ukraine written by a group of Russian Orthodox priests and deacons. Courageously the letter held a reminder that even those who hold the greatest power in this life shall one day face God's judgment. But the letter did not end there. Instead it highlighted God's promise of reconciliation and peace. And as Christians across the world, in every country including Ukraine and Russia, prepare to mark the festival of Easter, it will be with that promise at the centre of our worship.

At the heart of Easter is the broken heart of God; breaking with the suffering of every innocent child and every one of the most vulnerable caught up in the relentless cruelty of war. On the cross Jesus identified himself uniquely with the unspeakable suffering of humanity. There he paid the price for the sin which lies behind every war that the world has ever known and will ever know.

Yet to know that God identifies himself with us in our pain is perhaps not enough. We need also to know that there is hope beyond that pain, even if at the moment there does not seem to be a way around it. The apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 15:19) said that it's not enough if our faith gives us hope for this life only. Easter speaks of resurrection to new life; of a new creation where swords will have at last been turned into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks (Isaiah 2:4)

The selfless generosity with which Jesus lived his earthly life sets an example of how we might choose to live in these dark times. The resurrection of Jesus lifts the curtain on eternity. The invitation of Jesus is to find our hope in him.

Judith Allford

Annual Meetings

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Vestry Meeting (where we elect churchwardens – currently Claudia Tubb and Mike Brooking) will take place on Sunday 8th May at 11.00am. You are warmly invited to attend.

The meeting will probably take place partly in Church and partly, digitally, via Zoom. To take part on Zoom, please ensure that we have your email address and an invitation, with a digital link, will be sent to you nearer the time. We shall also be able to invite those who prefer it, to join us in person in church. Again, please let us know if you would like to do that. Thank you all!

The APCM is where we receive the revised Electoral Roll and the Annual Report and Accounts and elect members of the Church Council.

If you would like your name to be added to the Church Electoral Roll, please email roll@stjudeschurch.info for an application form. Please note that this is nothing to do with the local authority Register of Electors.

Readings at Communion

3rd April (5th Sunday of Lent)	Isaiah 43. 16–21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3.4b–14 John 12. 1–8
10th April (Palm Sunday)	Isaiah 50. 4–9a Psalm 69. 1–3, 7–9, 21–23 Philippians 2. 5–11 The Passion of Our Lord
17th April (Easter Day)	Acts 10. 34–43 Easter Anthems 1 Corinthians 15. 19–26 John 20. 1–18
24th April (2nd Sunday of Easter)	Acts 5. 27–32 Psalm 118 14–end Revelation 1. 4–8 John 20. 19–end

Easyfundraising.org.uk

Please do remember that if you register with easyfundraising.org.uk and select St Jude's Church, Englefield Green as your chosen charity, you can then shop online with many organisations (including Amazon, John Lewis, etc) and make money for St Jude's at the same time without costing you a penny. So far we have raised over £1200 by this scheme.

The Village Centre

www.villagecentre.org.uk
01784 471110

There's lots of exciting news from the Village Centre this month. This is the latest from Ali Watts, our Centre Manager:

"We are deeply grateful for the generosity of so many people in response to the crisis in Ukraine. To date we have been able to send three van loads of donations to a nearby collection point and another load will be on its way this week. At the same time we continue to support the Afghan families in our area and we have another meeting at the beginning of April to see how we can strengthen that relationship further.

Our Contact Centre now has vacancies for new families. Sessions run on the first and third Saturday of each month and applications or referrals should be directed to coordinator@villagecentre.org.uk

We are very grateful to the New Egham Singers who have chosen the Child Contact Centre as the charity to support at their next concert. The concert will take place at St Mary's School in Ascot on 9th April at 7pm. Tickets can be purchased at www.neweghamsingers.org

We shall be providing refreshments at the concert in return for donations as well as running a raffle. A proportion of the ticket sales will also come to us.

The Village Centre Community Fridge & Kitchen is launching free cooking lessons to children aged 7–11years in conjunction with the Hub in Englefield Green. The first course starts on 7th April. If you'd like to book a place (or places!) please email denise@thejourney.org.uk

And please remember - the long awaited refurbishment of our Café begins on Monday 4th April! The café will be closed until Tuesday 3rd May when it will re-open with a brand new serving area and seating. Most of our lettings will continue as usual whilst the work on the café is happening. The Community Fridge and Kitchen will continue to open each Monday and Friday from 9am–11am and the Foodbank collection point each Wednesday from 1pm–4pm. Our Village Centre Staff Team will be contactable in the usual way".

Please pray for Ali and her team. This is a huge and exciting undertaking and we are grateful to them all for the enormous amount of hard work that has gone into it already.

Diary for April

- 2 Saturday 4.00pm Recital by students from Royal Holloway
- 3 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Informal Holy Communion
- 6 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 10 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Service of Celebration for Palm Sunday with Holy Communion
- 11 Monday 7.00pm Service of Compline (Zoom)
- 12 Tuesday 7.00pm Service of Compline (Zoom)
- 13 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion 7.00pm Service of Compline (Zoom)
- 14 Maundy Thursday 7.00pm Holy Communion
- 15 Good Friday 10.30am Ecumenical Walk of Witness in Egham Town Centre (meet at St John's Church) 12.00pm Liturgy for Good Friday 1.00pm–3.00pm Meditation, Reflection and Prayer
- 16 Holy Saturday 7.00pm Easter Vigil
- 17 EASTER DAY 7.00am Ecumenical Sunrise Service on Englefield Green 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Service of Celebration for Easter Day with Holy Communion
- 20 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 23 Saturday 4.00pm Recital by The Barbican Trio (violin, cello and piano)
- 24 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Holy Communion

Please note that there will always be either a live-streamed service or a pre-recorded reflection on our YouTube Channel each Sunday from 9.30am. If you are unable to join us in church we warmly invite you to tune in.

Birchlands

In the last month we have heard the devastating news that Birchlands Residential Care Home in Englefield Green will be closed by 2024. Surrey County Council's Cabinet meeting met at the end of February and considered information regarding eight care homes operated by the council.

Seven out of the eight care homes, including Birchlands, have been ear-marked for phased closure. The eighth will be closed as a Care Home but the building will probably be taken over by the NHS for other use. The decision regarding the outcome for Birchlands has been recorded as follows: *"To support residents to move to new care homes and close Birchlands; to investigate whether the site can be redeveloped for alternative adult social care services"*.

It was agreed by the Council's Cabinet that *"closures will be phased and completed by the end of 2024 and that the council will follow good practice principles and ensure comprehensive support is provided to residents, their families, advocates, and staff"*.

The council made these additional comments: *"please be assured that nothing will be rushed. Closure of the homes will be conducted on a phased basis and we aim for all homes to be closed by the end of 2024 in line with Cabinet recommendations. The wellbeing of each resident will be at the centre of everything we do and we will fully involve residents and their families in arranging moves sensitively and carefully. Our priority is making sure that residents get the very best care"*.

Please pray very much for Birchlands, its Manager, staff, residents and families as they wrestle with the distressing implications of this decision. Birchlands has itself become a family, offering a high standard of loving care to its residents, for most of them over a number of years. However carefully this decision is implemented it will undoubtedly cause major disruption to the lives of residents and their families who must now make heartbreaking choices as to where they move on. There will also be disruption for the staff team who have offered such loyal and supportive care, not least during the especial challenges presented by COVID during the last two years. This will be a difficult and painful time for everyone and heralds a significant change for our community in which Birchlands has long had a special place. Judith Allford

New Egham Singers are delighted to announce that tickets are now on sale for their much anticipated Spring concert. They return to the wonderful Rose Theatre at St Mary's School in Ascot for what promises to be a joyful evening of song. Expect favourites such as Build Me Up Buttercup, Something Inside So Strong, I'm Into Something Good and many more!

Profits from this concert will be donated to the Englefield Green Child Contact Centre, part of the National Association of Child Contact Centres (NACCC). NACCC was founded in Nottingham in 1991 with the establishment of the first Child Contact Centre. It is a registered charity, and an umbrella organisation which sets the National Standards to which Child Contact Centres must work.

Child Contact Centres are neutral places where children of separated families can enjoy contact with non-resident parents and sometimes other family members, in a comfortable and safe environment. Every year, this national organisation via its member centres, support families and children in their local community.

NACCC accredited child contact centres help parents and children in five main ways

- Provide a safe, neutral, welcoming space for children to spend time with parents (or other people important to them, such as grandparents).
- Support parents to help them prioritise the needs of their children post separation.
- Promote mediation so that long-term solutions can be found to keep children in touch with both parents.
- Offer resources, information and advice for families dealing with separation.
- Provide specialist supervised interventions where children may be exposed to a higher level of risk.

Tickets are £12, including booking fee, and can be purchased online by going to our website <http://www.neweghamsingers.org>



The poster features a central white box with a green border containing the text 'NEW EGHAM SINGERS' at the top, 'SPRING CONCERT' in large green letters in the middle, and '7:00pm, Saturday 9th April' at the bottom. To the right of the box is a circular logo with a blue background and a white swan, with the text 'NEW EGHAM SINGERS' below it. The background of the poster is light green with faint line drawings of flowers. At the bottom of the poster, there is a dark green banner with white text.

NEW EGHAM SINGERS

SPRING
CONCERT

7:00pm, Saturday 9th April

At the Rose Theatre
St Mary's School, Ascot, SL5 9JF

In aid of
ENGLEFIELD GREEN CHILD
CONTACT CENTRE

TICKETS:
www.neweghamsingers.org

Egham & District Choral Society Registered charity No. 277588