



LEADER

Peter Vannozzi

God values us, so what do we value to give up for Lent?

As a child I remember one thing about Lent - 'self-denial boxes.' These were small, flattened boxes with a slot in for coins. The idea was to fill them up during Lent and then return them to church to pass them on to a particular charity.

I recall being quite enthusiastic about them, though whether the box was actually filled up by me from my pocket money, which I gave away rather than bought sweets with, I cannot recall. I suspect that my parents were the principal givers!

The idea of 'self-denial' is one part of Lent, a season of the Christian Year beginning on Ash Wednesday, 6 February. Traditionally there were certain spiritual disciplines associated with Lent - self-denial went along with prayer and 'works of mercy' or 'almsgiving' - doing something for someone else. Why?

'We live in a society in which consumption is often king. Not to consume what we do not need, but simply want, can be a positive choice spiritually.'

Lent is a time of preparation for Easter - the Church's principal celebration during its year. As with any special occasion, it does not just happen. Easter needs to be given its proper status by people taking trouble to get ready for it.

Partly in imitation of Jesus spending forty days in the wilderness before his public ministry began, forty days (excluding Sundays) are spent reflecting, pondering, praying, in readiness for the joy of the resurrection at Easter. How can this be done? Back to the three ancient disciplines mentioned above.

'Self-denial' may not sound terribly positive. After all, denial of one's self can be quite catastrophic for some people's mental health. For some, to be told 'deny yourself' when they feel dreadful about themselves to begin with, is not very helpful and may be downright unkind. Surely, we should encourage people to befriend their 'self' and to bloom as fully human people.

I think, though, that there can be a place for self-denial. The purpose of it, and the practice of fasting as part of it, is so that we can begin to see what matters to us most of all.

We live in a society in which consumption is often king. Not to consume what we do not need, but simply want, can be a positive choice spiritually. So at the simplest and most practical level, a person may give up chocolate or alcohol and set aside the money they would have spent to give to a good cause.

At St. James's our 'good cause' will be the Lent appeal of ALMA - the Angola London Mozambique Association which spearheads the work and links between the diocese of London, and those in Angola and Mozambique.

The goal is to finance the building and equipping of a school in each of our link dioceses - Angola, Lebombo (Southern Mozambique) and Niassa (Northern Mozambique). A simple school with three classrooms and an administration block costs about £25,000.

'Self-denial' can positively aid our brothers and sisters who seek to develop their 'self' through education. It can lead into 'works of mercy.' Very simply, it is doing something for someone else following the example of Jesus.

Prayer is also important in Lent. I will be offering a Lent course at St. James's on different aspects of prayer. In prayer we seek to be in touch with God and to deepen our relationship with God. If this happens, we get to know better the God whose love is seen on the cross on Good Friday and at the empty tomb on Easter Day.

God gives us a true perspective about our self. God's view is that we are of infinite worth though we must acknowledge our need of God, and where we have gone far from God.

This is not a reason for despair, but rather joy. I know who I really am, and then I can know who others are. It makes clear why a 'work of mercy' should be important.

I wish you all a very happy Lent. The Collect for Ash Wednesday sums up for me the spirit of Lent and the nature and purposes of God whose great love in the death and resurrection of Jesus we are preparing to celebrate:

*Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are
penitent:*

*create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.*

AROUND THE SPIRE

The monthly column of news and events from Hampton Hill and beyond

Grant Clifford and his daughter **Georgia** were confirmed at All Saints Church on 2 December. Please remember them in your prayers.

The collection for the Children's Society at the **Christingle** service totalled £317.25, which became £356.03 after the addition of Gift Aid. The candle **collecting boxes** are still coming in; please return yours to Pip Rowett if you have not yet done so.

Congratulations to **Geoffrey Nunn** and **Tiffany Henry** who have recently announced their **engagement**. The wedding will be at St. James's on 19 July.

There was a very large congregation at the funeral on 27 December of **Marion Nevill's husband Jim**, who died at the age of 80 after 4 months in hospital.

He had a long and very distinguished career in the police force, becoming head of the anti-terrorist squad and overseeing the Balkan Street siege and the Markov case among many others. He was awarded the Queen's Police Medal and the freedom of the City of London. We send our sympathy to Marion, their children Anthony and Judith, and six grandchildren.

Freda Evans, currently vicar of Kingshurst, has been appointed team rector of St. Barnabas's in the Erdington Team Ministry (Birmingham).

The **annual church spring clean** will start on Thursday evening, 13 March, and continue on Friday and Saturday 14 and 15 March. As always, volunteers will be needed! More details next month.

*Do you have any news to share?
Contributions always welcome.*

Registers

For November:

Baptisms

- 4 Toby Alexander Reid,
Teddington;
Luke Paul Bradbury,
Hampton.
25 Aidan Kai Seymour,
Teddington;
Phoebe Elaine Coles,
Hampton Hill.

For December:

Baptisms

- 8 Erica May Richardson,
Ashford.

Funerals

- 27 James Francis Nevill,
Hampton Hill.

Like a well-oiled machine

Our work as members of the parish is primarily that of mission. This is summarised in our Mission Action Plan, and is perhaps most obvious in our formal worship. If a Sunday morning service were all that happened in our church, the vicar could run the parish single-handed, but there is a great deal more to mission than that. Day by day, a wide range of people come to the church and the church hall - to worship, for advice, to arrange or attend a baptism, a wedding or a funeral; or perhaps to join the nursery school sessions, classes or evening meetings. All of them assume that they will find the buildings in good repair, the services as timetabled and the hall appropriately equipped. They expect to find an organisation running smoothly.



THE CHURCH AT WORK
BEHIND THE SCENES PART 4

RunningSmoothly

Responsibility for this smooth running rests with the Vicar and the Churchwardens, supported by the Parochial Church Council (PCC). The churchwardens are elected by the parishioners, normally for a five-year period of office. Parishioners on the electoral roll also elect the 12 ordinary members of the PCC, who normally serve for three years. The PCC consists of the vicar, who chairs the meetings, the churchwardens, four members of the Deanery Synod, and the 12 ordinary members. Emergency decisions may be taken by a small Standing Committee, but these must be reported to the next PCC meeting.

The Churchwardens, Liz Butler and Liz Wilmot, are responsible directly to the Diocese for the protection and upkeep of all the property of the church, its buildings and all their contents. They also advise and assist the vicar in his work. They are ex-officio members of the Standing Committee.

The PCC advises on, and authorises, the major decisions taken by the vicar and churchwardens. They normally meet ten times a year and elect a Secretary and Treasurer from the membership.

The Secretary, Janet Nunn, is responsible for circulating the PCC agendas, keeping the minutes, and organising the PCC business. Janet also organises the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held each April, when elections take place, the accounts are approved and reports from sections of the church are presented. Janet also ensures that the Child Protection Policy is annually updated, and liaises with Jane Newman, our Children's Advocate.

The Treasurer, Anne Cowlin, is responsible for keeping the parish accounts and preparing financial statements for the PCC and the independent external audit required by the Diocese. She deals with the Sunday collections with the help of Carol Bailey who organises the rota for counting the money. Anne is a member of the Standing Committee.

Other committees are given some authority of their own, but must get approval for major decisions and report regularly to the PCC.

The Finance Committee, chaired by the Treasurer, discusses the financial situation and how major items should be funded. In particular the Treasurer is concerned with the planned giving income and the decision of the amount of the Common Fund allocation to the Diocese and the allocation to charities. The committee also discusses where to invest PCC funds.

The Planned Giving Committee, chaired by Gwynneth Lloyd, is responsible for the running and development of the scheme. The Recorder, Rodney Taylor, keeps confidential records and reclaims the tax on Gift Aid donations.

The Charities and Links Committee, chaired by Ann Peterken, recommends to the PCC the allocation of our giving to local, national and international charities. Our total giving each year is at least one tenth of our income. The committee also considers any special needs, in particular disaster funds.

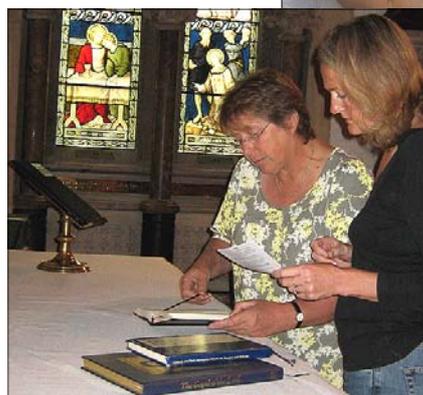
The Properties Committee, chaired by Bryan Basdell, is responsible for the upkeep of the church, church hall and churchyard. Much of our maintenance is done by committee members, but when specialist workers are used members try to ensure that the work is done properly.

The Hall Committee, chaired by Betty Rainbow, supervises the maintenance and letting of the hall. Bookings for the hall are dealt with in the Parish Office, and there is also an online booking diary which hirers can consult.

The other committees which meet regularly and report to the PCC are: Music and Worship, Ecological, Social and Magazine and Communications. Contacts for committees can be found on page two.

The Church Administrator, Kirstie Hird, works in the church office on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9am-12pm. Responsible to the vicar, she takes incoming phone, email and personal enquiries, and types pew sheets, service sheets and other notices. Kirstie is responsible for the administration and fees for baptisms, weddings and funerals. The Electoral Roll lists nearly 300 people who have registered as church members, and this is kept up to date in the office.

■ We hope this gives you some insight into the day-to-day working of St James's Church. For more information go to our website: www.stjames-hamptonhill.org.uk



Lent, Holy Week and Easter at St James's



Ash Wednesday 6 February

7am Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes.
8am Parish Communion with Imposition of Ashes.

Sundays in Lent at 8am and 9.30am

Each Sunday we will look at a particular prayer to give us food for thought and prayer in Lent. 10, 17 and 24 February; 2 and 9 March.

Sundays in Lent at 8pm

Compline (Night Prayer) will be said on these dates: 10, 17 and 24 February; 2 and 9 March.

A Course for Lent: 'Exploring Prayer'

Mondays in church at 7.30pm.
11 February: *What is prayer?*
18 February: *Praying with words.*
25 February: *Praying with silence.*
3 March: *Praying with music.*

10 March: *Prayer and me.*

Thursdays at 2pm at 4 Byron Close, Hampton, courtesy of Jean Wilson (please telephone 020 8941 2949 if you wish to come)

14 February: *What is prayer?.*

21 February: *Praying with words.*

28 February: *Praying with silence.*

13 March: *Praying with music.*

Quiet Day for Lent

Saturday 16 February from 10am-4pm at St. Michael's Convent, Ham Common.

A Quiet Day gives the opportunity to take time for thought and reflection. There will be addresses, a eucharist, and space for silence. To go or for more information please contact Peter. There is no set charge, but donations on the day will be welcome. If you can provide transport, please tell Peter.

Sunday 16 March: Palm Sunday

8am Holy Communion.
9.30am Procession of Palms/Parish Communion.
8pm Compline.

Monday 17 March: Monday in Holy Week

8pm Compline with Holy Communion.

Tuesday 18 March: Tuesday in Holy Week

9.30 am Holy Communion.
8pm Compline.

Wednesday 19 March: Wednesday in Holy Week

7am Holy Communion.
8pm Compline.

Thursday 20 March: Maundy Thursday

8pm Liturgy of Maundy Thursday, followed by Watch of Prayer for one hour.

Friday 21 March: Good Friday

10.30am All-age Service, followed by hot cross buns.
2pm Liturgy of Good Friday.

Saturday 22 March: Holy Saturday

8pm Easter Liturgy.

Sunday 23 March: Easter Day

8am Holy Communion.
9.30am Parish Communion.



YOURS FAITHFULLY

Kirstie Hird



Kirstie tried a variety of careers before settling to motherhood. She helps at school, Guides and Cubs, and runs her own catering business. She serves, intercesses and reads at St James's, and is the Parish Administrator. She and her husband are planning to swap a house for a boat, and sail around the world!

I guess I had a pretty firm foundation for my faith, as I was almost baptised twice: at Great Ormond Street hospital, and later a church blessing during my younger brother's baptism. We didn't go to church regularly until we moved to rural North Wales when I was eight. Hoping to integrate into village life, we joined Sunday School, weekly services and often Evensong as well - something of a baptism of fire! When we first came to Teddington I attended my parish church, Saints Michael and George, Fulwell. When it closed, it was time to try St James's, of whom I'd heard good things! Immediately I felt a sense of belonging. People are friendly, and I remain impressed by the size and diversity of the congregation.

The services and styles of worship are familiar, and I have gradually taken on different roles in Church life.

Rather than any blinding flash or Damascene moment, I am constantly inspired by God's presence in my life and in the world around me. He is always there, especially when I need him. My faith is a fundamental part of me, and I cannot imagine life without it. I don't challenge it, or shout it from the rooftops! I'm not remotely evangelical: it's just right for me. I believe my path is mapped out, and all I have to do is trust God, and let Him lead me.

The one experience that defined God's love for me was a second chance at a happy marriage. Blessed with a loving husband, two beautiful children and a comfortable life, I have no doubt that I followed the guidance I prayed for.

Lessons learned? Give thanks, never take anything for granted, and have the courage to grasp an opportunity and run with it: that way, you keep learning and never need regret!

Drawing closer to God

Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. (James 4/8)

Take these words into silence, asking the Spirit to use scripture as a 'two-edged sword' to cut through your habitual thought patterns and reveal the ways in which you are preventing God from getting close. Just let them sound gently until the truth is revealed.

■ Search me O God and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts and see if there be any harmful way in me and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139)

■ Whoever would draw near to God must believe He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him. (Heb 11/6)

■ You will seek the Lord your God and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and with all your soul. (Deut 4/29)

■ For thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place and also with him who is of a contrite and humble spirit.' (Is 57/15)

■ Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. (Matt 5/8)

When you see your fault, do not resolve to do better. Simply admit the truth and ask God for forgiveness. This is more than just pardoning the offence; it is healing the very springs of the attitude or behaviour which has been keeping you apart.



YOUNG SPIRE

PrillHinckley

Lent

Lent is the time each year when we think about what it really means to be a follower of Jesus.

Another name for Shrove Tuesday is

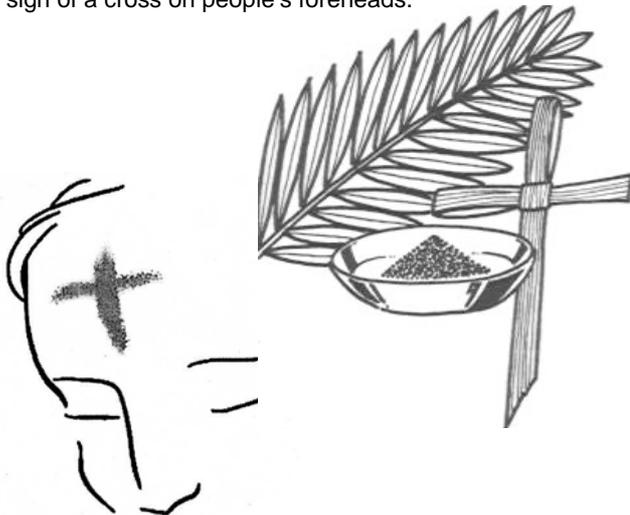
_____ day.

Find out what happens on this day and why.

Lent begins the day after Shrove Tuesday.

This day is called _____.

In some churches, including St. James's, the palm crosses that have been kept from the last Palm Sunday are burned and the ash that is left is used to make the sign of a cross on people's foreheads.



At the Ash Wednesday service, what words does the priest say to each person?

Lent is an old English word meaning _____ and happens in Spring when the days begin to get longer. The season of Lent begins during late February or early March and is the period of forty days before _____, from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week.

Why are Sundays not counted in the forty days?

Why is Lent a serious and thoughtful season?

What were Christians taught in the early years of Christianity?

What do many Christians do during Lent?

If you need help, look at our website section Young St. James's > Worship and Services > The Church Year and other Special Days > Lent .

Jesus in the Wilderness



Jesus was alone in the wilderness being tempted by the Devil.

He used this time to prepare for His work by fasting and praying.

How many days did Jesus stay in the wilderness? Colour the squares with the numbers 6, 8 and 10. What number is left?

6	10	8	6
10	4	0	8
6	10	8	6

The Word LENT

Fill in the 4 letters of the word LENT in the gaps to make 4 six-letter words.

		S	C				
		H	A				
P	L				T	Y	
H	A				E	R	
		L	E				
		S	R				

Lent Wordsearch

Have a look at this word search. There are 14 words connected with this part of Lent. Can you find them all? If you need help, look at our website section Young St. James's > Worship and Services > The Church Year and other Special Days > Lent . All the words are there.

A	B	P	M	X	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N	E	S	S
C	V	I	P	J	A	Q	H	L	O	K	K	G	O	B	H
M	H	L	A	S	F	A	S	T	G	I	A	Y	X	Z	R
W	Y	D	S	P	O	Z	Z	B	N	R	K	L	I	P	O
C	X	B	T	Z	R	H	J	F	K	S	K	S	L	C	V
G	O	L	E	N	T	X	P	V	O	Z	N	S	C	Z	E
H	G	E	S	I	Y	U	T	C	D	U	U	O	F	P	T
K	L	N	P	C	I	G	X	H	X	Z	M	R	X	P	U
N	I	G	C	X	I	S	D	R	L	P	U	R	P	L	E
L	A	T	C	C	V	I	V	I	G	R	J	Y	H	J	S
A	S	H	W	E	D	N	E	S	D	A	Y	L	S	O	D
F	Q	E	F	W	H	X	Z	T	H	Y	S	O	M	V	A
B	C	N	Z	G	L	H	F	I	C	Y	I	G	H	G	Y
B	F	H	G	L	O	I	H	A	R	W	O	I	N	K	B
T	L	W	I	L	D	E	R	N	E	S	S	V	K	C	Q



CHARITIES & LINKS COMMITTEE

Ann Peterken



Help to give these children the education they deserve



Diocese of London Lent Appeal 2008 Education for All – Build Three Schools

'Education, education, education' has been the chief political mantra in the UK in the last decade, despite our being a highly developed country - 18th in the list of 177 countries in the Human Development Index.

Imagine then, how much more important education is to countries like Angola (161st) and Mozambique (168th), which are struggling to develop and release their people from endemic poverty.

The internationally agreed Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education by 2015 is not on track to be reached.

Mozambique and Angola each have a million children without primary school places. Our link dioceses regard education as one of their chief priorities.

The Angola London Mozambique Association (ALMA) has already helped to build several schools - in Nacala, Milange and Zove, in Mozambique; and St Stephen's in Luanda, Angola.

These schools are intensively used. In St Stephen's, which opens this month, there will be three school sessions a day - morning, afternoon and evening. However, many more schools are needed to address the



chronic shortfall.

This Lent, the first of five focussed on London Challenge 2012, we begin with the modest and achievable goal of building a school in each of our three link dioceses -

Angola, Lebombo (southern Mozambique) and Niassa (northern Mozambique).

Approximately £25,000 is needed to build a simple school, with basic facilities and a teacher's house.

The cappuccino challenge

At last November's Diocesan Synod, Bishop Michael Colclough made the observation that if one half of London's electoral roll of 34,000 people gave the cost of one cappuccino a week for one year (£104) we would raise £1.7 million. By working together, London parishes can transform the life opportunities of many children.

Appeal leaflets in church

Lent Appeal leaflets will be handed out during Lent and will be available in church, together with gift aid envelopes. Please read the leaflet carefully and think about your own response.

■ For more information about ALMA go to: www.almalink.org



ECO-GROUP

News Updates

Concern for Our World: Exploring Fairtrade Sunday 9 March, 3pm in the Church Hall

Come and hear David and Avril Brown, the Twickenham area representatives for Traidcraft and Tearcraft, speak about their visits to producer cooperatives and how Fairtrade helps these communities.

Tea and cakes will be served. Fairly traded craft items will be available for purchase.

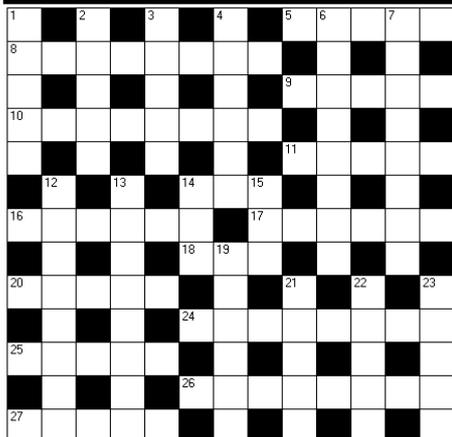
Donations for the Diocese of London Lent Appeal.

Fairtrade Fortnight: 25 February - 9 March

Change Today. Choose Fairtrade.

What can I do?

- Support the parish Fairtrade stall on the first Sunday of each month
- Buy food and cotton goods with the Fairtrade Mark
- Take part in Richmond's Fairtrade Town Trail (flyers in church from mid-Feb)
- Learn something new from: www.fairtrade.org.uk
- Go along to *Concern for Our World: Exploring Fairtrade* on 9 March



Crossword No 2008002

Across

- 5 Regal, like the bride in Psalm 45 (5)
- 8 ..not _____, but in secret (John 7.10) (8)
- 9 The two in Isaiah ch. 7 are described as smouldering (5)
- 10 As cruel as the bible without its eighth book? (8)
- 11 Scottish river (5)
- 14 A woman in Matthew ch. 26 had an alabaster one (3)
- 16 For which the Philistines gathered at Pas Dammim in 2 Samuel ch. 23 (6)
- 17 Older of two prostitutes in Ezekiel ch. 23 (6)
- 18 Marry (3)

- 20 Person of great holiness (5)
- 24 All Israel, aliens and _____ alike (Jos 8.33) (8)
- 25 Joshua had such a turban put on his head in Zechariah ch. 3 (5)
- 26 Mark ch. 16 describes Jesus as such a person (8)
- 27 Stage whisper (5)

Down

- 1 Pointed top to a church tower (5)
- 2 Diminish (5)
- 3 Stringed instrument (5)
- 4 Son of Shaphat in 1 Kings ch. 19 (6)
- 6 Pertaining to the Eastern church (8)

- 7 Belonging to an abbey (8)
- 12 Stories told by Jesus (8)
- 13 ..using the cubit of the old _____ (2 Chr 3.3) (8)
- 14 e.g. Aquila in Acts ch. 18 (3)
- 15 He who spares it hates his son, according to Proverbs ch. 13 (3)
- 19 Tishbite prophet in 1 Kings ch. 17 (6)
- 21 ..transfer of property to become _____ (Ruth 4.7) (5)
- 22 Precious stone, to which Isaiah ch. 13 compares Babylon (5)
- 23 Second son of Jacob and Zilpah in Genesis ch. 30 (5)

Answers to December/January Crossword (200712): Across 5 Admit 8 Deranged 9 Smart 10 Eastward 11 Water 14 Ash 16 Strong 17 Inlaid 18 End 20 Kneel 24 Splendid 25 Hippo 26 Reappear 27 Agree. Down 1 Edrei 2 Cross 3 Gnaws 4 Hearts 6 Damnable 7 Israelis 12 Standing 13 Collapse 14 Age 15 Hid 19 Nephew 21 Leapt 22 Adder 23 Adore.