

Introduction to the Creation Season

The Jewish and Christian Scriptures give eloquent expression to the creative power and wisdom of God. It is therefore a natural instinct for worshipping communities to develop patterns of worship and prayer around the agricultural year. Of course, there were dangers, and the same Scriptures bear witness to concerns about the idolatry of fertility cults and the worship of created things rather than the creator. Nevertheless, ancient society lived close to the land, and it is no surprise that the ancient Jewish festivals of Passover and Unleavened Bread, Weeks and Tabernacles all have agrarian roots. The Christian tradition, too, has assimilated, but with differing emphases and in different times and places, particular agricultural festivals. Much of this is bound up with the need to provide food to sustain human life, and the accompanying sense of a proper humility before God as source of all things, gratitude for his goodness, and responsibility in stewarding the resources of the earth. In more recent years, urban congregations have explored ways of adapting traditional creation-based festivals for their own contexts. This provision is not intended to limit such adaptation.

The themes of the season include Creation, Plough Sunday, Rogationtide, Lammastide and **Harvest Thanksgiving which we celebrate today.**

A prayer in times of Agricultural Crisis

*God of compassion, we rejoice in the unity that is at the heart of your creation; look upon our land and heal it, and from all that affects good crops, **good Lord, deliver us.** As we stand before you in prayer for all who are suffering, grant that your light may shine in their darkness, and that we may bear one another's burdens and so fulfil your law of love. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

A prayer for favourable weather in time of need

*O God, heavenly Father, who by your Son Jesus Christ have promised to all those who seek your kingdom and its righteousness all things necessary to sustain their life: send us, we entreat you, in this time of need, such moderate rain and showers such favourable weather that we may receive the fruits of the earth, to our comfort and to your honour; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

During this month, St. Mark continues to celebrate 170 years of its dedication - 13th October 1852. Next Sunday 16th October, Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon (recently retired from his role as Secretary General of the Anglican Communion) will be presiding and preaching for us.

Items for sale on this anniversary will by next week be displayed in our cabinet – the include key rings, tote bags, notebooks, pencils, etc.

A Souvenir edition of the Parish magazine will also be available soon; as will be the display of historical documents relating to St. Mark's Church.

We're still working on those intergenerational stories in order to capture the experiences of members of this parish church over the years. **Watch this space!**

Welcome to the United Benefice of Holy Innocents & St. Mark, South Norwood

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



9th October 2022

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Roxanne Eversley
Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley
Lay Reader: Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds

HARVEST FESTIVAL AND TRINITY 17

8am and 10am Parish Mass

President and Preacher, Mother Roxanne

*2Kings 5.1-3,7-15 * Psalm 111 * 2Timothy 2.8-15 * Luke 17.11-19*

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

CHURCH NOTICES

Pastoral Care: Mother Roxanne is available (except on Mondays) on Tel. 020 8916 1830 or 07723 038215 or mtrroxanne@gmail.com
Mother Susan and Fred will be on holiday next Sunday until the end of the month.

To hire the Church Halls, please call:

Jan on 020 8653 0447 for St Mark; and Annette on 020 8771 5779 for Holy Innocents.

We pray: for Archbishops Justin and Stephen.

For the Bishops in this Diocese, Christopher, Karowei, Rosemarie and Richard. **For the bishops in our link Dioceses of Zimbabwe, their clergy and people.**

For all to be Admitted and Licensed as Readers. For Southwark Cathedral, Church of St Saviour and St Mary Overie.

O Lord, giver of all grace, have mercy on the work of our Cathedral. Inspire its ministers, renew its life; sanctify its life; empower its witness and make it a fit instrument for the furtherance of your kingdom, to the glory of your great name. Amen.

Andrew Nunn (Dean); Michael Rawson (Sub-Dean & Canon Pastor); Andrew Zihni (Precentor); Thomas Sharp (Succentor); Wendy Robins (Canon Chancellor & Director of Discipleship, Lay Ministry and Continuing Ministerial Education); Jay Colwill (Canon Missioner & Director of Mission and Evangelism); Caroline Gifford (Reader) (PTO); Heather Smith (SPA). Cathedral School of St Saviour and St Mary Overie (JM&I&N).

For the team of volunteers who serve the Cathedral daily as chaplains, stewards and welcomers.

For the Bishops, priests & people of the Church of the Province of Central Africa.

For the sick – Claude & Richard, Helen, Jennifer & Reuben, Marie-Gabrielle, Rose, Caroline, Sigi, Anecka, Lynn, Ronald, Tommy, Ena, Rudolph, Pamela, Barry, Dennis, Linda, David, Adrian, Jacqueline, Colin (Castle), Carmen, Annetta, Fay, Marina, Pauline (Riches).

The bereaved – The recently departed –Years Mind