

Stations of the Cross—Sunday 25th March at 5 pm in the chapel
APCM—This is the annual congregational meeting and will take place on the 18th March after our morning service. Please plan to attend. If you are not on the electoral roll, please also ensure you complete a form.

Fairtrade Event—7.30pm Monday 26th February here in the Rotunda from 7.30pm with speakers from the Palestine Fairtrade Association.



For our Prayers— Roger, Stephen Yaa, Floret, John Q, Trish, Cleo, Marguerite and Ruth **For those who have died recently** including John Gordon and Ofelia **and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time** including George Faul, Florence Hicks and Henry Russell.

Services during the week 25 February 2017

Monday	8.30am Morning Prayer in Trinity Chapel
Tuesday	8.30am Said Mass in Trinity Chapel 6pm Evening Prayer in Trinity Chapel
Wednesday	8.30am Morning Prayer in Trinity Chapel 7pm The Rosary is Said 7.30pm Sung Mass with imposition of Ashes
Thursday	8.30am Morning Prayer in Trinity Chapel 6pm No Evening Prayer this evening
Friday	8.30am Morning Prayer in Trinity Chapel 10am My Move 2.30pm Tea and Chat
Saturday	8.30am Morning Prayer in Trinity Chapel
Sunday 4th	8.30am Morning Prayer in Trinity Chapel
Lent 3	9.30am Sung Mass with Sunday School

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St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

Sunday 25th February 2018

Lent 2

HYMNS TODAY - 706 , 347, 52 (tune 2) and 689

President Mo Christine **Preacher** Fr Laurence

Welcome to worship today—it is great to have you with us. We hope that you will feel welcome in our worship today. If you are new, please do say hello—we would love to get to know you. If you are unsure where to find something, or about what is going on, please do ask and we will be happy to help. Our worship style is quite formal- but we hope relaxed-as we come to worship God in our midst. Please do join us for refreshments after the service.

Last week's Old Testament reading featured God's covenant with Noah and "all flesh." This week's reading looks at another iteration of covenant, this time God's covenant with Abraham . At first glance, God seems to establish this covenant with Abraham alone -- "between me and you (singular)" (17:2). It becomes clear again, however, that God's relationship with the one becomes a blessing for the many.

1st Reading— Genesis 17: 1-7,15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

Our Second reading : Paul uses Abraham's story in Romans 4 to exemplify God's initiative to set people in right relationship with God, and the appropriate human response being one of faith.

2nd Reading— Romans 4: 13-end

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Our Gospel reading today is Mark 8: 31-end. We know that the ways of God are different from the ways of the world. The disciples learned this in what must have been for them the most shocking thing Jesus had ever told them up until now.

We are so accustomed to the message of Jesus' crucifixion that it is easy to overlook how jarring that prospect would have been for the disciples. The great hope of the Israelite people at that time was freedom from the Roman overlords. Everything they had seen Jesus do and heard him say until this time had been impressive and had no doubt spurred within them big hopes for the future.

But now this. Jesus astonished and dismayed them with the news that -- contrary to all their hopes and expectations -- he would undergo

suffering, be rejected by the religious leaders and killed.

It was the worst possible thing Jesus could have said. Jesus does give hope in this message in hinting at the resurrection—but the disciples are unlikely to have heard this. How often is this the case for us also that we do not hear the hope in God's message to us, or we do not see the purpose in what is happening?

Our Community Life Together /Dates for your Diary

Finance—St Anne's

Our current monthly target for congregational giving is **£2180**. At present our average congregational giving is £2150 —this means we a little short each month. If you are new to St Anne's, or have not previously thought about it, please consider setting up a Standing Order to manage your giving. Forms and information are available in the entrance, or you can speak with Michael .

Laurence's Larder and Food Bank

The Larder is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 10am-1.30pm. Volunteers are also to help with preparation between 10– 1pm on Wednesdays. We are still asked to bring in a can a week. We have also been asked to consider if we could choose one type of food. We have been asked if we might be the **'tinned fish'** church! Having said this any non perishable; easily edible food would be very welcome at this point! We are also in need of a couple of replacement drivers for Monday pick of items from Bakery on Kilburn High Road. We have a rota and it takes about 30mins at around 7pm to collect left over bread etc and deliver to Christ Church.

Ambassadors for Christ

We are looking forward to hearing more stories this year in the 2 minute slot. Once again we are looking for people to share some of their experiences outside of Sunday morning. We invite you to reflect on how you spend your week, and how this informs your faith. We are looking for volunteers to share during the coming month.

News from LIFC

An Evening with Rumi in Words and Music, presented by Esbe Esbe and Kiril Boshikyov. Feb 27 @ 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Lent

Rosary Prayers —7pm Wednesdays before Mass

Lent Retreat—Saturday 3rd March from 9.30— 3.30pm here. There will be focused meditation and reflection as well as much silence. A simple lunch will be provided. Please sign up in church. Cost £5