

Notices

Lent Course

If you are interested in attending the Lent Study Group this year, please speak to Revd. David. The course we are following is one from 'Embrace the Middle East', a Christian charity with over 160 years' experience helping people of all faiths, and none, to free themselves from a life of poverty and injustice. Together with local Christian communities they are bringing lasting change to the Middle East through healthcare, education and community development projects.

The Lent Course is called "Journey to the cross".

There will be six sessions on Monday evenings during Lent. (Not March 9th as there is a PCC meeting then) The next one is on March 16th, then 23rd, 30th, and then both Monday 6th April and Wednesday 8th April in Holy Week. The sessions look at the people Jesus met during his ministry, the stories of those who live in the Middle East today and the challenges they face, and our own lives and the people we encounter. It will probably be held at the vicarage (but that is still to be decided) and the sessions will run from 7 - 9pm.

Dates for Your Diary

Sat 14th March	4pm	Messy Church
Mon 16th March	7pm	Lent Course at The Vicarage
Sun 22nd March		Mothering Sunday
Mon 23rd March	7pm	Lent Course at The Vicarage
Mon 30th March	7pm	Lent Course at The Vicarage
Fri 3rd April	7.30pm	APCM, Church Hall
Sat. 4th April	7.30pm	Easter Beetle Drive
Mon 6th April	7pm	Lent Course at The Vicarage
Weds 8th April	7pm	Lent Course at The Vicarage
Friday 10th April		Good Friday
Sunday 12th April		Easter Sunday
Saturday 25th April		Church Yard Tidy Up Day
Wed 6th May	6pm	Carnival Concert in church
Sat 9th May	2-4pm	Church Open with Stewards
Sat 9th May		May Carnival
Sun 10th May	10am	Carnival Service

Lent Boxes

Where does our Lent Box money go?

Drs Steve and Catriona Bennett, working in Gahini Hospital, Rwanda, write (in the current issue of of the CMS newsletter, 'The Call'): "In order to move forward you sometimes have to trust that God will supply your needs and guide your steps. If you want to "walk on water" you have to get out of the boat! At the same time you have to consider the potential cost and while it is all very well to say that God will provide, sometimes His means of providing involves you doing the work to gain that provision. For us, that has meant "stepping out of the boat" that is the NHS and moving to work for CMS in a Rwandan hospital ... and we are incredibly grateful to all the Churches and individuals who continue support us financially ... so that we keep trying to "walk on water".

Please read the full article posted on the notice board at the back of Church and take a Lent Box to fill for Easter in order to bolster our support. Thank you.

Notices

Open The Book

Some more people are required to help take 'Open The Book' into Mary Dean School on a few Wednesdays each term. It gives the children a dramatised reading of a Bible story which they really enjoy. The next one is on 18th March. A rehearsal is always arranged beforehand at a convenient time for everyone. All are welcome. Please speak to Revd. David Gill or Jo Parker if you are interested. Thank you.

Spectacles Wanted

Ray Shipton is organising a collection of any unwanted spectacles on behalf of the Plymouth Lions Club. There is a box on the table at the back of Church, near the font, in which you can place any spectacles you no longer need. They will be sent off to be used abroad where they will be very welcome.

Revision of Electoral Roll 2020

The annual revision of the Electoral Roll is now taking place. No new applications can be made until after the APCM on 3rd April. The revision will be completed and the roll displayed on 15th March. During the period 23rd February to 15th March corrections may be made, but no names may be added or removed between the time the roll is completed and the close of the APCM.

Thank you. Pat Brooks Electoral Roll Officer

Our Fundraising Projects

We are currently working on the addition of a toilet in Church to save the long trek to the Church Hall.

You may be interested to know that over the past year, the profits from the Sunday refreshments have contributed £447 to the St Mary's projects and, since we started in 2017, the total contribution has been £1478. Sincere thanks are due to the kind volunteers who help to run the scheme and who very generously provide many of the high-quality consumables. Without their generous support the costs would be much higher.

You may also like to know that the Flush Fund donation box at the back of the Church raised £353 last year.

Lone Working

If you have to do any work on your own in the Church or Church Hall, please notify someone that you are going and how long you expect to be. Then notify them when you have finished. If possible have a mobile phone with you. This applies to everyone, even volunteers, whether cleaning, flower arranging or climbing ladders! A Lone Working Policy will soon be included within a Health & Safety section in our Safeguarding Policy which will be available at the back of Church or on our Church website at www.saintmarys.org.uk.

Church Hall Lighting

We are currently working to replace the Church Hall lighting at a cost of just over £1000. Any donations towards the cost would be most welcome.