



Newsletter of St John's Johnstone & St Margaret's Renfrew February & March 2021



www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

Dear friends of St John's & St Margaret's,

Here we are locked down again and looking ahead to all being vaccinated and freedom returning to us later in the year. It is a frustrating time and a wearying time as we miss seeing our friends and meeting together. As I write this it is the 25th day of the Christmas season and much as I try it is difficult to 'keep the feast' with so much illness, suffering and death in the news.

As we face the coming weeks it is a test to us all to keep ourselves safe by remaining at home as much as we can and not mingling with anyone. May God in Christ Jesus help us in our physical discipline and our spiritual discipline as we seek & hope to become the 'Church triumphant' at the end of this period of isolation. Keep in touch friends and do feel free to call if you fancy a chat.

Very Rev Reuben Preston – Rector



0945am Sunday Service each week
recorded in our buildings
6pm Zoom Service

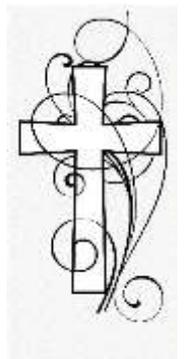


On the
telephone
& on Zoom



with one another

alone or
with others
as we do
our OoFs



Our Zoom & Telephone access remains

Tel: 0131 460 1196 Meeting ID: 832 4184 0407 Passcode: 076546
or use this link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83241840407?pwd=YnBqWkxEeW5NMIBuTDRmbDc0cFZhUT09>

Keeping together during the pandemic of 2020-2021...

*This Newsletter is on our website to download and all the links
are live to allow you to click on*

For LENT 2021

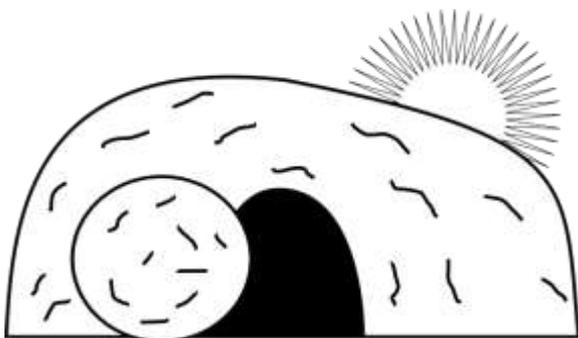
Our Lent Course this year is called

Stepping towards the Light

A Lent Pilgrimage

You have been told, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6.8



A course for our times...

We live in times of uncertainty. Lent 2021 may occur at a time of transition from lives restricted by coronavirus to the hope of life lived in greater freedom. As Christian disciples, how can we walk this path in a way that acknowledges the pain and griefs experienced and yet looks forward in hope for ourselves and for our world?

Why this course?

Stepping towards the Light is designed to enable individuals, groups and congregations to make Lent a time for considering their recent experiences in light of their lives as Christians and their longing for a better world. It will nurture participants to be Christian citizens in their homes, workplaces, local and global communities.

Who is this Lent Pilgrimage for?

The course is for anyone who sees themselves as part of the Scottish Episcopal Church in Renfrewshire. No experience in theology or formal Christian education is needed, just an open mind and heart! Participants will need to be able to access Zoom on a computer, tablet or phone. *(Help with connecting to Zoom can be provided as needed)*

Week One – 7.30pm 18th February

Trusting in God's mercy: finding God in the pandemic

Week Two - 7.30pm 25th February

Loving mercy 1: owning our individual losses and seeking forgiveness

Week Three - 7.30pm 4th March

Loving mercy 2: looking at our society: reasons to mourn and signs of renewal

Week Four - 7.30pm 11th March

Walking humbly: reflecting through the eyes of Christ (Scripture)

Week Five - 7.30pm 18th March

Discerning how to act justly

Holy Week - A reflection on the Passion story

Easter time - A reflection on the meaning of resurrection

Pentecost recall session: 7.30pm 27 May

How have we put this into practice?

Who is providing this course?

The course is jointly offered by the Craighead Institute for Life and Faith and St John's Johnstone & St Margaret's Renfrew. The Craighead Institute has over 30 years' experience of delivering Christian adult education to congregations and groups in Scotland and internationally. St John's & St Margaret's have been pioneering faith development for church members at home during lockdown. The lead course facilitators are Lisa Curtice, Anne Macdonald and the Very Rev'd Reuben Preston, all of whom are experienced in adult education, group facilitation and Ignatian Spirituality.

To join in let Lisa know and she will send you full details

Lisa Curtice SEIstudent@SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

Faith in a time of pandemic

Getting practical as we face these tough weeks together

I want to write about some very practical things we can share at home in our isolation to help us all through these coming months. Routine is important. Try and get up at the same time each day. Have a list of people you talk to on the phone/zoom during the week. Don't over do it – you will just feel exhausted. Make sure you eat a varied diet and make sure you read a good variety of writing too: some fact, some fiction, some fantasy, some gospel, some self help.....

Walking prayer

If you can get about you can do walking prayer in your yard, garden, street or around the park. Decide deliberately when you are going to start and use 10mins or so to talk to God "like a friend" about all that is on your mind. Ask God for help with the things that are a worry to you and tell God why these things are a worry to you. As you then walk pray the Lord's Prayer slowly thinking about the words (say it out loud if you are able to). Then look up and remember you are a unique part of creation along with everything else you can see. Take a deep breath and feel the air going in and out of your lungs and say The Grace. Oh and say thank you to God for being with you in your prayer time.

Some good things to look at Online

Here are some links to amazing Youtube pieces – enjoy them, and share them with someone else too. And do Sing along at home! And laugh out loud! And enjoy your tears.....

BBC Songs of Praise, The UK's Favourite Hymn

BBC One - 12/07/2020 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2BP9HSiuvk>

The Irish Blessing - over 300 churches from our island sing a blessing over Ireland and beyond ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TascswZPj8U>

The UK Blessing — Churches sing 'The Blessing' over the UK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUtl3mNj5U>

The Blessing | Aotearoa/New Zealand Churches join together to sing "The Blessing"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZQPifs2kjo>

50 Countries sing Amazing Grace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BA7pdABvpnc>

800 musicians from 55 countries combine to create a stunning virtual video - Nearer, My God, to Thee

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1trWhBvZTs>

"You'll Never Walk Alone" Virtual Choir/Orchestra 15 Countries: 300 People

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gpoJNv5dlQ>

Susan Boyle's First Audition 'I Dreamed a Dream' | Britain's Got Talent

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yE1Lxw5ZyXk>

Five hours of glorious Psalms (Anglican chant) - Guildford Cathedral Choir (Barry Rose)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9uHfqSnU94>

Christian Comedy | Thou Shalt Laugh 1 (BEST VERSION)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNT_Xct5yHc

Listen to King's College Choir, free, on their website: <http://bit.ly/kingslisten>

We Three Kings, Choir of King's College Cambridge, 2010

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lx35_DRIZ8g

Three Kings from Persian Lands Afar, From Carols From King's 2011

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIedUioo_Jk&t=1s

My Lord has come, Will Todd, sung by University of Johannesburg Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yjkmZyQoCc>

AND Remember to download our weekly Intercessions, Pewsheets & Gospel Reflection from

www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

February & March 2021

you are invited to the online & telephone Services
& events to join in with

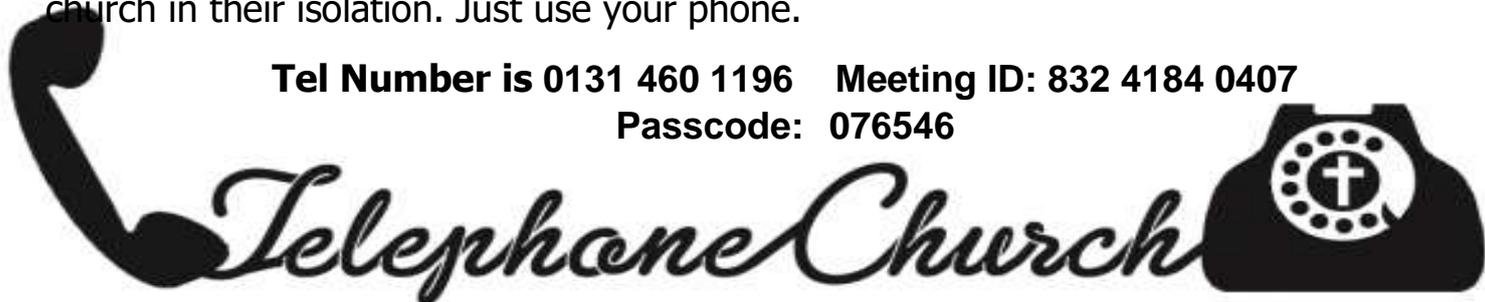
Date	Celebration	Readings
Wednesday 3 Feb 2pm Telephone Church 7pm Zoom Communion	Saints and Martyrs of Europe (red)	Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15 Psalm 103:1-2, 13-18 Mark 6:1-6
Sunday 7 Feb 0945am Service on YouTube & 6pm Zoom Evensong	Epiphany 5 (green)	Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39
Wednesday 10 Feb 2pm Telephone Church 7pm Zoom Communion	Scholastica, Religious, 543 (white)	Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17 Psalm 104:25, 28- 31 Mark 7:14-23
Sunday 14 Feb 0945am Service on YouTube & 6pm Zoom Evensong	Sunday before Lent (Green)	2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9
Wednesday 17 Feb 2pm Telephone Church 7pm Zoom Communion	ASH WEDNESDAY (violet/Lenten Array)	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 51:1-18 2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Thursday 18 Feb 7.30pm Lent Course - Trusting in God's mercy: finding God in the pandemic		
Sunday 21 Feb 0945am Service on YouTube & 6pm Zoom Evensong	Lent 1 (violet/Lenten Array)	Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15
Wednesday 24 Feb 2pm Telephone Church 7pm Zoom Communion	Wednesday after Lent 1 (violet/Lenten Array)	Jonah 3:1-10 Psalm 51:1-2, 11-13 Luke 11:29-32
Thursday 25 Feb 7.30pm Lent Course - Loving mercy 1: owning our individual losses and seeking forgiveness		
Sunday 28 Feb 0945am Service on YouTube & 6pm Zoom Evensong	Lent 2 (violet/Lenten Array)	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22:23-31 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9
Wednesday 3 Mar 2pm Telephone Church 7pm Zoom Communion	John and Charles Wesley, Priests, 1791 and 1788 (white)	Jeremiah 18:18-20 Psalm 31:1-5, 13-16 Matthew 20:17-28
Thursday 4 March 7.30pm Lent Course - Loving mercy 2: looking at our society: reasons to mourn and signs of renewal		
Sunday 7 Mar 0945am Service on YouTube & 6pm Zoom Evensong	Lent 3 (violet/Lenten Array)	Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22
Wednesday 10 Mar 2pm Telephone Church 7pm Zoom Communion	Kessog, Bishop, c.700 (red)	Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-10 Psalm 147:13-21 Matthew 5:17-20

Thursday 11 March 7.30pm Lent Course - Walking humbly: reflecting through the eyes of Christ (Scripture)		
Sunday 14 Mar 0945am Service on YouTube & 6pm Zoom Evensong	Lent 4 – Mothering Sunday (rose/violet/Lenten Array)	Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21
Wednesday 17 Mar 2pm Telephone Church 7pm Zoom Communion	Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland, c.461 (white)	Ezekiel 34:11-16 Psalm 96 1 Thessalonians 2:2-12 or 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 Matthew 28:16-20 or Luke 22:24-30
Thursday 18 March 7.30pm Lent Course: Discerning how to act justly		
Sunday 21 Mar 0945am Service on YouTube & 6pm Zoom Evensong	Lent 5 – Passiontide begins (violet/Lenten Array)	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33
Wednesday 24 Mar 2pm Telephone Church 7pm Zoom Communion	Paul Couturier, Priest, 1953 (white)	Daniel 3:13-28 Psalm 24:1-6 John 8:31-47
No gathering for Lent Course: independent Holy Week reflection work set		
Sunday 28 Mar 0945am Service on YouTube & 6pm Zoom Evensong	Lent 6 – PALM SUNDAY HOLY WEEK begins (violet/Lenten Array)	Liturgy of the Palms Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Liturgy of the Passion Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11
Monday 29 March 8pm Zoom/Telephone Compline	Monday in HOLY WEEK	Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 36:5-11 Hebrews 9:11-15 John 12:1-11
Tuesday 30 March 8pm Zoom/Telephone Compline	Tuesday in HOLY WEEK	Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 71:1-14 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36
Wednesday 31 Mar 2pm Telephone Church 7pm Zoom Communion	Wednesday in HOLY WEEK	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 70 Hebrews 12:1-3 John 13:21-32

Daily Prayer continues online Our YouTube channel is hosting our Live Streamed Offices of the Scottish Episcopal Church <http://bit.ly/SECStJohnStMargaret>
9am Morning Prayer & 5.30pm Evening Prayer - Monday to Friday

Telephone Church is open from 1.45pm to give you plenty of time to connect and type in the details as the **service starts at 2pm.** The service will end at 2.30pm. It is an excellent way for everyone to join in being church in their isolation. Just use your phone.

Tel Number is 0131 460 1196 Meeting ID: 832 4184 0407
Passcode: 076546



Continuing to worship together through Lockdown 2021

This challenging time is an opportunity to explore using the telephone and internet, to help us deepen our faith.

2pm Telephone Church is 20mins on a Wednesday afternoon for a short service hearing the readings for the day and using our Intercessions leaflet to help us in our prayer for the world and our churches. The service starts at 2pm so dial in around 155pm or so to get connected.

7pm Zoom Communion is each Wednesday and we hear the readings for the day and pray with each other for all that is happening in our lives. There is an opportunity to chat afterwards if you want to join in.

On Sundays – We are continuing our recorded Eucharist from each building from 0945am and links to the YouTube tracks used are on the website s you can join in at home by singing along.

Sunday 6pm Evensong – this service will continue as we meet together and hear the bible readings for the evening and pray for our Charges and the issues for the world. Hymns and musical settings are used from YouTube so that we can all sing at home too. At the end you can go or stay and chat to other people.

We do not know how long our church buildings will be closed for public worship – the website will issue updates as information becomes available.

In our Church Buildings: - Funerals limited to 20 people and Weddings limited to 5 people (priest, couple and 2 witnesses) can still take place in our church buildings – please contact the Rector as necessary. The Rector is allowed to conduct Funerals at the Crematoriums and Cemeteries.

Thank you for your donations towards the extra costs in keeping connected during the Advent, Christmas & Epiphany Seasons - £366 has been sent in that's great as it really helps towards ongoing costs



If you would like to make a donation towards the printing, postage and preparation costs of our OoFs and Newletters please send your donation to the Rector at 29 Gleniffer Road, Renfrew PA4 0RD or send it electronically to www.paypal.me/reubenjamespreston

A note from John Mitchell (Lay Representative, St Margaret's)

“First of all, this is to thank Rev Reuben and Lisa for the immense amounts of work that have gone into the various mailings that have been sent out over the last two months, and also to say thanks to everyone who contributed to the OoF (Observing our Faith) pages on our joint website and everyone who’s supported the online services and gatherings, which take many hours of preparation. We are richly served with these regular events compared with many other churches in the diocese, so please keep (or start!) trying to reward all the

work that goes into these gatherings by offering support in coming along, either on Zoom or by telephone –easy instructions are enclosed as usual! And don't forget the new regular Evensong service on Sunday evenings at 6pm, where it was lovely to see so many join in at the first one on 10th January.

Secondly, huge thanks to everyone who has continued to help our churches (and our Rector) with your financial support. The loss of income from regular collections at services has had quite a serious effect on our finances, but the situation is better than we had feared when the pandemic began, because so many of you have either continued to send regular contributions by cheque, or by asking for envelopes to be collected, or you've changed to making contributions by Standing Orders or electronic bank transfers. However you've done it, thank-you for doing it, because you've helped us to survive! If anyone wants envelopes or donations collected, please contact the Rector or me, or please consider taking out a standing order if you haven't already done so. Every piece of continued (or even increased!) support will help us to keep going.

Finally: to anyone who supports our two Compassion Children, Yhumar and Saray: Doreen's funds are running low again and will run out in February without further input. Again, I am happy to collect contributions from your door and deliver to Doreen if you usually pay her in cash. Alternatively, please send any cheques, payable to **St Margaret's Child Care Group**, to Doreen Ward, 5 Birkhall Avenue, Inchinnan PA4 9QA"



Thank you for your continued giving to our Churches

For Online & Telephone banking use these details for your giving:-

to St Johns the Evangelist Episcopal Church:

Bank of Scotland Sort Code: 80-16-53 Acct No. 00356544

to St Margarets Episcopal Church:

Royal Bank of Scotland Sort Code: 83-26-22 Acct No. 00196266

Or send your giving for St John's or St Margaret's to the Rector at his home 29 Gleniffer Road, Renfrew PA4 ORD and Reuben will ensure your cheques/cash are banked. If you would like to give directly please use these details above or you can give via PayPal at www.paypal.me/reubenjamespreston and put *St John's/Margaret's* in the message box.

Contact: Rector@SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

Tel: 07971 895897

You can join in the National Scottish Episcopal Church Services at
<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship/>

St Johns Development works in 2021

On Thursday 14 January the architect met with Gill and Reuben to plan for the coming year. With all the permissions we need in place with the diocese we 'just' need to organize it into happening!

This will involve a lot of work and planning and coordinating as well as some very structured fundraising over the coming two years.

Here are the stages which are being worked on at the moment:

1. Drawing the plans to go to tender for the loo, kitchen, vestries and new room
2. Arranging the relighting of the nave, and the chancel & the transepts – 2 separate activities
3. Relocation of the font
4. Relocation of the pews around the transepts
5. Seeking organ quotes for repair/removal to store

The next big meeting with the architect is the beginning of March when a plan for going to tender will be created to get quotes for the work.



The stonework, plasterwork, decorating and carpeting will follow on later of course.

We are hoping that a meeting to look at potential Grants we can apply for may help towards some of the costs but for now we are launching an Organ Appeal to look towards covering the costs of providing St Johns with a good working organ in the coming years. There is much wrong with the current organ and we are seeking quotes for its restoration which will be many tens of thousands of pounds.

More details on the further money we shall need to complete the works will come in March & April but for now we can begin looking to raise money for the Organ's repair/restoration/replacement as we are guided by the organ builders to make sure that we have a good instrument for the coming decades.

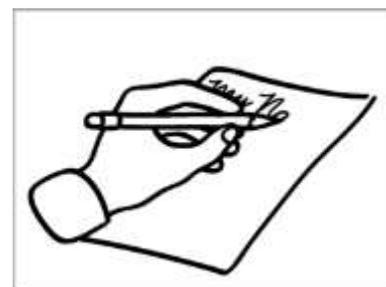


St Johns Organ Fund

If you would like to think about giving towards the work on the organ please do and send a Cheque to the Rector payable to "St Johns Episcopal Church" and write 'Organ' on the back. Or send a donation via BACs using the details earlier in the Newsletter with ORGAN as a reference. We shall keep you updated as to the amounts of funds we are needing to carry out the work as we receive the details.

Renewing St Johns for the Future – if you have left a bequest in your Will to St Johns, *Thank you very much*. If you are thinking about doing so, please do, as we plan for the next chapter of St John's ministry in and around Johnstone. If you would like to have a private conversation about it with the Rector please just call him on 07971 895897. Also a very helpful page on the

Province's website is at <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/vestry-resources/stewardship-gift-aid-and-legacies/leaving-a-legacy-in-your-will-to-the-church/>



Your Feedback is requested.....

? . ? . ? . ? . ? . ? . ? . ? . ? **How was it with the OoFs for you at home?**

The last OoF for *Candlemas* is sent with this newsletter on the theme of the *Presentation of Christ in the Temple*. Please use the OoF at home and when you have done the activity do send your contribution by *text, email, WhatsApp or by post* to Reuben and he will add it to our OoF webpages at www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk/oof/ and we will be able to share together how we are keeping our seasons in our homes.

Can you answer these questions about the OoF experience to help in further planning and development? Please send your answers by post, email, text, MMS, whatsapp or call and tell us your answers.

You can do the survey here online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9KDNVQY>

Or these are the questions...

Observing Our Faith - Feedback on our OoF leaflets

1. *Do you remember seeing any of the OoF leaflets?*

Yes No Not sure

2. *Did you look at any of the OoFs?*

Yes all Yes some Yes one No none Can't remember

3. *Did you try any of the activities?*

Yes No Can't remember

4. *If yes, which did you try?*

- All Saints - choosing a modern saint
- Advent - making a Nativity image for your window
- Christmas Eve - offering something of creation to the Christ child
- Christmas Day - inviting someone to crib
- New Year/Naming of Jesus - making appointments with God in your diary
- Epiphany - star, where is Christ drawing you this year
- Candlemas - making a candle and blessing someone
- None of these

5. *Did you look at the OoF pages on the website?*

Yes No Not sure

6. What did you like about the OoFs?

- Easy to read Interesting content
 Pictures Made me think
 Helped me remember Festivals
 Other Nothing

7. What didn't you like about the OoFs?

- Hard to read Boring content
 Pictures Didn't help me think
 Didn't help me remember Festivals
 Other Nothing

8. Did the OoFs help you celebrate your faith at home?

- Yes No Not sure

9. I have felt connected with the church during lockdown

- Agree Disagree

10. Which is your church?

- St John's St Margret's

11. Anything else you would like to say about the OoFs?

Please write on this sheet and let us know what you did and thought about the OoFs.

You don't need to include your name – it's anonymous!

Please send this sheet to:-

The Rector, 29 Gleniffer Road, Renfrew PA4 0RD

or send a photo of it on your camera by whatsapp, facebook, email or mms to

07971 895897 or Rector@SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk