



# Newsletter of St John's Johnstone

## February 2020

[www.StJohnsJohnstone.org.uk](http://www.StJohnsJohnstone.org.uk)



## Getting ready to enjoy Lent 2020

On Sunday 2 February we celebrate together the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple. This is commonly called "Candlemas" and it falls 40 days after our celebration of our Lord's Incarnation at Christmas.

It seems to me that this month sums up what this celebration is all about, for it begins with us still glancing back to Christmas, and yet it will close with us turning to begin our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday.

Candlemas is a pivotal festival, at the end of which we finally put the Christmas Crib away; turning from what is past and forward to the future.

All through life we, as human beings must do this. Change is part of life's experience bringing with it the challenge to let go of the past and to adapt to meet the new realities that

emerge. This is a process in which we have no choice. We can either do so unwillingly, clinging to what no longer is and fearing what has come to be; or we, can embrace the new with open hearts and the excitement that comes from all that may yet be experienced and achieved.

As I write this our College of Bishops have recently elected the Rt Revd Kevin Pearson as our new Diocesan Bishop. May we welcome him as the one called to lead our Church in mission in this new beginning both for him and for us.

Central to all of this is prayer, for it is the means by which we can commune with, and be guided by, the Lord himself. May this new year and this new decade be one in which our faith is deepened and our mission renewed; that the world may come to be blessed through us..

Rev Reuben Preston - Rector





**Canon35 application – the Diocesan Property Committee** meets on 10 February to consider our St Johns submission for the renovation plans which we voted on last summer. The architect

has put together the specification and the DPC will decide if we can go ahead or if they have further questions for us to consider. Thank you to Gill who has been heading this up for the Vestry along with Reuben as they have continually met with our architect to get everything ready for the meeting on 10 Feb. Please pray that a good outcome may come about. *Lord hear us.*

***The next HYMN rota starts on Sunday 2 March please give your suggests in by Sunday 16 Feb. The rota will last until Pentecost so you can select your favourite Lent and Eastertide hymns and songs***



**Next Vestry meeting is on Fri 6 Mar at 1030am in church.**



**Gifts for the Gala Stalls** – bottles and gifts are needed for the tombola. A chance to pass on unwanted or needed toiletries and ornaments along with bottles and other such gifts as you can think of..... Please bring your offerings to church and place in the box at the back. Any questions to Olive!

**Dates to keep in your diary:-** Lillias Day Saturday 6 June at Kilbarchan and Lochwinnock Gala Sat 13 June

*These are important events for our outreach to the villages we serve do come along and enjoy both representing St Johns and bringing friends along to join in as well.*

# Lent 2020 - **JOURNEY INTO FREEDOM**

Following the success of last year's Lent Course we are following the resources supplied by the Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow again.

This year the Lent Course is a 52 day retreat in our ordinary lives. Each day we are asked to spend at least 15mins with the materials given each day. As before there is scripture readings and images to use in our prayer time.

As a bit of background - the course this year is based around *the dynamic of the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius* as we consider prayerfully our relationship with Christ. It is a course that calls to our hearts as we consider how Christ is calling us today: where we are, with our life experience and commitments.

Through the course there is a weekly opportunity to spend time with others reflecting on how we have been touched, challenged and moved by the materials. Sharing in our life of faith is important as we understand how God is working through and among us.

There are copies of the course booklet in church – it is free and if you would like to give a donation towards the printing costs you can send it in yourself (details on page 116) or pass your donation of Reuben to pass on. The generosity of a donor F Szczuka has made the course possible.

**The course can be followed in the booklet  
or online at [www.iscglasgow.co.uk/lent2020.html](http://www.iscglasgow.co.uk/lent2020.html)**

**The Renfrewshire Region of the Scottish Episcopal Church are following this together** and will begin with a **Launch Service on Saturday 22 February** at 3pm at St Margaret's Church, Renfrew

Please come along to the service and join in the course at home and in church.

**St Johns Group is 3pm on Wednesdays**

from 4 March to 15 April (yes the Wednesday after Easter)

***May you have a Happy and Holy Lent***



# Sunday Worship Ministry Rota for February 2020

<b>Sunday 2 February</b>	<b>Presentation of Christ in the Temple</b>	Gold/White	Rector
Epistle	Heb 2.14-18		
Reader	David Roberts		
Gospel	Luke 2.22-40		
Intercessions	Gill Reynolds		
Eucharistic Assistant	Wilma		
<b>Sunday 9 February</b>	<b>Third Sunday before Lent</b>	Green	Rector
Epistle	1 Corinthians 2.1-12		
Reader	David Fowles		
Gospel	Matthew 5.13-20		
Intercessions	Kay Cherrie		
Eucharistic Assistant	David Fowles		
<b>Sunday 16 February</b>	<b>Second Sunday before Lent</b>	Green	Rector
Epistle	1 Corinthians 3.1-9		
Reader	Ann Lamont		
Gospel	Matthew 5.21-37		
Intercessions	Gill Reynolds		
Eucharistic Assistant	Ann Lamont		
<b>Saturday 22 February</b>	<b>Regional Lent Course Launch Service</b>		
	<b>3pm at St Margarets Renfrew with refreshments</b>		
<b>Sunday 23 February</b>	<b>Sunday before Lent</b>	Green	Rector
Epistle	1 Corinthians 3.10-11,16-23		
Reader	Agnes Fullerton		
Gospel	Matthew 5.38-48		
Intercessions	Kay Cherrie		
Eucharistic Assistant	David Fowles		
<b>Wed 26 February</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	Purple/Lent Array	
2pm Said Communion with Ashing at St Johns	7.30pm Sung Communion with Ashing at St Margarets		

If you are reading the Sunday Pewsheet is available on the website  
from midday on Saturday

**[www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk](http://www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk)**

**Contact:** Rector@SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk      **Mob:** 07971 895897

The next Newsletter will be produced for Sunday 23 February 2020 – please hand  
any items for inclusion to the Rector by the Sunday before.