

Do try to be good, dear

'Do try to be good, dear.' You can hear in that forlorn cry the weary tones of Joyce Grenfell reciting one of her monologues on the radio. As the long-suffering nursery school assistant, surrounded by an invisible, but horribly real, class of unruly four-year olds, she would plead with her little charges: 'Johnny, put Lucy down ... No Julia dear, not the scissors ... George, don't do that ... *George*, what don't we do? ... Well, don't'.

She conveyed a picture of the beleaguered teacher, engulfed by a rising tide of mayhem. Eventually, and in the nick of time, she is rescued by the arrival of a more competent colleague. 'You know,' she admits sorrowfully as she looks at the struggling, tumbling little heap of humanity, 'There are times when I don't think love is really enough.'

Isn't it? Well, no, not really. Love is not enough. We need our rules. Without a structure of control we fall into all sorts of trouble. Those dark powers, latent in our childhood, threaten our adult lives: faction, malice, selfishness, envy, pride - the dismal result of our 'unruly wills and affections'.

Lent is a time to take stock of our self-imposed rules – that private code by which we try to stop our lives slipping into mayhem. The rules in themselves may not matter. What does is the freedom they bring - freedom from those obstacles which stop us from becoming the sort of people we would wish to be.

What sort of people would that be? Kind? Brave? Honest? Good humoured? Wise? More spiritually aware? More Christlike? The list of qualities could be endless, but it is never complete; there is always

something more. Our yearning for a better self remains unsatisfied and the sense of lost innocence persists. The Bible describes this yearning as our search for godliness – the image of God in which each of us is made, and which through our own fault we have smudged beyond recognition.

On Ash Wednesday the priest marks our foreheads with ash, and says,

*Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.*

Gloomy? Not really. The dust from which God created Adam, and that means you and me, he moulded into his own image. And that's the image which he reveals in Christ, to whom he bids us turn, so that, in the words of St Paul, *We beholding the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory.*

He has promised glory for us – for you and me, and for Johnny and Lucy and Julia - and for George, too. For each of us his love is enough. Ours may not suffice, but his makes up the deficit.

Adrian Leak

If you would like to subscribe to our newsletter, please do so by visiting our website and www.htsmguildford/newsletter or contact Chloe at comms@holyltrinityguildford.org.uk

Events this week

Thursday 15th February	Morning Prayer at St Mary's at 8.30am Lent Reflection in St Mary's at 12.30pm Parish Office Closed
Friday 16th February	Parish Office Closed Vigil for Peace at St Mary's from 9pm
Saturday 17th February	Saturday Coffee with Hear Here Clinic at St Mary's from 10am Folk Inspiration : Peter Knight & John Spiers workshop 14:00 & concert 19:30 in St Mary's

Monday 19th February	Morning Prayer at St Mary's at 8.30am Words, Music, Stillness at 12pm in St Mary's
Tuesday 20th February	8.30 Morning Prayer in St Mary's Holy Trinity Church CLOSED
Wednesday 21st February	Morning Prayer at St Mary's at 8.30am 10am Holy Communion for Lent at Abbot's Hospital Chit Chat 9.30 in St Mary's
Thursday 22nd February	Coffee and Cake at St Mary's from 10.30am Lent Reflections (Based on Love Divine all Loves Excelling – Led by Paul Glass) at St Mary's 12.30pm

Please visit www.htsmguildford.org/calendar for more events

Notices

Lent Brochure/1-2-1s: Do take a copy of the purple Lent Brochure, giving details of key elements of this year's Lent journey. Please note: Simon has received a most encouraging number of requests for a 'get to know you' 1-2-1 meeting, but that means there are limited slots available this side of Easter. He is more than happy to fit some more in before Holy Week but delighted to be able to continue having these meetings well beyond Easter Day. Just drop him an email or have a word.


Quiet Day in Lent: Experiencing God's Love. Saturday 2nd March, 10am to 4pm at St Mary's, led by Canon Simon Butler and Reverend Joe Moore, Team Vicar, Richmond Team Ministry. Book for the day via the Office. Bring a lunch.

Trinity Club on Tuesday 27th February 10.30am - 12 noon at St Mary's Church
Find out more about **The Philps Family of Perry Hill, Worplesdon** as Peter Wilkinson reflects on the life of a village through one ordinary local family. Coffee from 10.30 to give people time to arrive, the talk and discussion begins at 10.45. The meeting will finish at 12.00.

Words, Stillness and Music. The next session of Words, Music & Stillness, will be on Monday 19th February at 12.00 noon at St Mary's church, Quarry Street. Tea and coffee will be available at 11.45 a.m. The chosen Word for the day will be - **LIFE**.

**Fresh Eyes on the
Back of Holy Trinity:**

Simon is keen to use his new pair of eyes to help the back of Holy Trinity offer a clearer welcome to the church. We will be meeting on Monday 4th March at 11.30am in Holy Trinity. If you might still like to work with him on a small task group to do this, please email either him or Chloe our Communications Manager.



UNBOUNDED LOVE God's love doesn't stay in the lines ...

A series of Lent Reflections inspired by
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
St Mary's Quarry St GUI 3UP
12.30 – 13.30

... it bursts from heaven into darkness	February 15	Paul Glass
... we try to insulate ourselves from it	February 22	Lilli Jones
... corporate religion tries to limit it	March 7	Simon Butler
... it extends to ALL Creation	March 14	Nick Edwards
... even death is no barrier	March 21	Sam Funnell

with a bread and soup lunch

This week's services

Lent 1 • 18 th February 2024	
<p style="text-align: center;">HOLY TRINITY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10am Sung Eucharist <u>Sermon by Simon Butler</u> Genesis 9.8-17 1 Peter 3.18-end Mark 1.9-15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6pm Choral Evensong <u>Sermon by Ben Cahill-Nicholls</u> Genesis 2.15-17, 3.1-7 Romans 5.12-19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Daily Morning Prayer at St Mary's (Monday - Thursday) 8.30am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ST MARY'S</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>8am BCP Holy Communion</u> <u>Led by Ben Cahill-Nicholls</u> 1 Peter 3.18-end Mark 1.9-15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10.30am Morning Worship Led by Corinne Jones 1 Peter 3.18-end Mark 1.9-15</p>

Contact Us

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