

Wilderness Wandering

A number of you asked for the source of the poem I used at Holy Trinity on Sunday morning during my sermon. I must confess that I had not come across the poem or the poet before, but that it came to me via Facebook from my former colleague Joe Moore who is leading our Quiet Day on Saturday 2nd March (you can still book).

I thought I would share it with you all as my contribution to the newsletter this week. It's called *The Wilderness is the place where we are brave* and it is by a poet called Sarah Are, a Presbyterian Minister in New York.

*First, we have to name it -
The heartbreak,
The addiction,
The shame,
The grief.*

*Whatever your wilderness is,
First we have to name it.*

*And once we've said those words out loud,
We let that truth hang in the air.
And we let ourselves feel what we feel,
For in this moment,
we are close to the surface.*

*And after a few deep breaths,
We begin the removing.
Piece by piece, we take our armour off,
For truth-telling days
are Soft skin kind of days.*

*And once we are armour-free,
Hearts on our sleeves
And tears in our throats,
We stand toe-to-toe
With the very hurt that wrecked us.
And we don't try to swallow that pain away.*

*And there,
In all our beautiful God-given honesty,
We say to that monster,
"I have love on my side,
And her name is God,
And no wilderness can separate me
From that north star."*

*And I believe
It will be the bravest thing you ever do.
And your knees might shake,
And you might lose your way,
But our God is a God of second chances,
So take my hand.
You are close to the surface.
Let's be brave together.*

Poems are often spoiled by being explained, especially by preachers, so I will resist that temptation (it's Lent, after all!). For me it prompts questions: what is it that I dare not name, and who is it that I can be brave with? What questions does it prompt in you?

Lent is a time where, if we can find it within ourselves to be a little bit brave, we can learn to let some of our own wilderness be exposed to the God who goes into the wilderness in Jesus Christ.

Simon Butler

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@holytrinityguildford.org.uk

Events this week

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Thursday 22nd February | Morning Prayer in St Mary's at 8.30am Coffee & Cake at St Mary's from 10.30am Lent Reflection in St Mary's at 12.30pm |
| Friday 23rd February | Remembering Ukraine service at St Mary's from 8pm followed by the Vigil for Peace at St Mary's from 9pm |
| Saturday 24th February | Saturday Coffee at St Mary's from 10am |
| Monday 26th February | Morning Prayer at St Mary's at 8.30am |
| Tuesday 27th February | 8.30 Morning Prayer in Holy Trinity Trinity Club 10.30am - 12 noon at St Mary's Church |
| Wednesday 28th February | Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity at 8.30am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity 10am Chit Chat at St Mary's at 9.30am |
| Thursday 29th February | Morning Prayer at St Mary's at 8.30am Pam Palmer's Funeral at St Mary's from 12pm |

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

Notices

Holy Communion during Lent - there's a celebration of Holy Communion for the parish on Wednesdays in Lent at 10am at Holy Trinity.

Daily Prayer in Lent: You are welcome to join us for **Morning Prayer**, either in person or online, Monday – Thursday at 8.30am. You can login via the Parish Website. From Monday 26th February the pattern will be Morning Prayer at St Mary's on Mondays & Thursdays, at Holy Trinity on Tuesday and Wednesdays

Electoral Roll 2024: The Electoral Roll for this parish is being revised in preparation for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on the 14th of April 2024. If you would like to be added to the Electoral Roll, please either visit our website or contact Helen Parkinson directly.

Preparation for First Communion: Simon and Pippa will be running a course to prepare for First Communion on Saturday 27 April from 9-1pm in Holy Trinity, with the children being admitted to their First Communion the following morning in the 10am service. At Holy Trinity we prepare children from age 7 up for their First Communion, a step in their spiritual journey when they learn about the Eucharist and

what it means to us as Christians. If your child would like to take their First Communion this spring, or you have any questions, please email Pippa at youth@holymtrinityguildford.org.uk

Mothering Sunday: The 10am Service at Holy Trinity on 10th March will be a non-Eucharistic service for Mothering Sunday: the Church keeps this day as ‘Mothering Sunday’ and not the secular equivalent (‘Mothers’ Day’). It will be a lively service of gratitude in the middle of Lent. For those who find this moment difficult, the Evening Service will be a celebration of the Eucharist for Refreshment Sunday.

Lent 1-2-1s: Simon is almost fully booked for the 1-2-1s but will 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.

The funeral of **Pam Palmer** will take place at St Mary’s on Thursday 29 February at 12.00.

This week’s services

| Lent 2 • 25 th February 2024 | |
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| <p>HOLY TRINITY</p> <p>10am Sung Eucharist <u>Sermon by Brian Roberts</u> Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16 Romans 4.13-end Mark 8.31-end</p> <p>6pm Choral Evensong <u>Sermon by Simon Butler</u> Genesis 12.1-9 Hebrews 11.1-3, 8-16</p> | <p>ST MARY’S</p> <p><u>8am BCP Holy Communion</u> <u>Led by Jonathan Hedgecock</u> Romans 4.13-end Mark 8.31-end</p> <p>10.30am Morning Worship Led by Rosemary Lee</p> <p><u>Daily Morning Prayer</u> <u>(Monday - Thursday)</u> <u>8.30am - click to join online</u></p> |