

This week's diary

Sunday 19th

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

8.00am Eucharist
9.15am Choir Practice
10.00am Sung Eucharist, with Spectrum
on Sunday

Monday 20th

No services today

5.00pm Beaver Scouts
6.30pm Cub Scouts

Tuesday 21st

7.00pm Scouts
7.15pm Eucharist

Wednesday 22nd

5.30pm Eucharist
7.00pm Youth Group

Thursday 23rd

10.00am Eucharist
7.45pm Lent Group

Friday 24th

8.30am Eucharist
6.30pm Evening Prayer

Saturday 25th

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE BVM

9.30am Eucharist

Sunday 26th

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MOTHERING SUNDAY**

8.00am Eucharist
9.15am Choir Practice
10.00am Sung Eucharist, with Spectrum
on Sunday



THE ORBIT

WELCOME

to St. Edmund's

Sunday 19th March 2017

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Today's Services

8.00am Eucharist

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Prelude: Aria – Flor Peeters

Setting: Batten

Anthem: Lead me Lord – S.S. Wesley

Hymns: 205, 379, 368, 76, 474

Postlude: Processional – W. Matthias

*Please join us for refreshments
after the 10am Eucharist in the Hall*

Vicar: Father Michael Miller
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**Please take this home with you
for your reference and prayers this week**

orbit@saintedmundschurch.org.uk

Today's Readings

Exodus 17.1-7; Romans 5.1-11; John 4.5-42

God gives us fresh spiritual water, even though our hardened hearts sometimes leave a bitter taste in his mouth.

In Israel's wilderness wanderings in Exodus, they came to Rephidim and found no water. Their demands to Moses for water are understood to be putting God to the test – forcing him to show his power and kindness. Here, despite Israel's testing ('Massah') and quarrelling ('Meribah'), God did for them what is in his nature – bringing vitality out of deadness, life out of non-life. This scene is also referred to by today's psalm.

In Romans, Paul makes it clear that on human standards, we are not really worth dying for. God's love is so selfless that he sacrificed what was most precious to him, his Son, for his creatures that did not show favour or respect for him.

The story of Jesus talking with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well in John 4 is a famous one, where he starts a conversation with someone that Jews did not associate with. Nevertheless, Jesus converses with her and offers her 'living water'. Her confusion could have come from the fact that this term was used for 'running water', which would make sense in the context. But Jesus is, of course, referring to a kind of vitality and empowerment that God would give in the last days. Though Jesus questions the woman about her past, he wants to give her (and would have given her upon request) this kind of life-transforming water to refresh her soul.

For your prayers this week...

The sick: Amy Austin, Julie Bent, Suzanne Cooper, Barbara Fairclough, Bernard Fairclough, Kay Fletcher, Ollie Gardiner, Betty Glass, Iris Golding, Darren Hale, Margaret Messenger, Suzanne Nicholls, John Peters, Joan Rix, Ros Shirran, Charlie Shirran, Fred Webb, Allan Whalley, Julie Windsor, Rachel Windsor, Nora Wood

Anniversaries of death: Ann Ronald Field, Peggy Rawlinson, Joan Brown, Stephen Dring, Arthur Chippington, Alan Kotchie, Vic Curtis

Notices

LENT COURSE This year's Lent Course – *Christ and the Chocolaterie* – continues on Thursday at 7.45pm in the Hall.

BISHOP OF LONDON Today is the deadline for returning the feedback booklets to the churchwardens regarding the appointment of a new Bishop.

LENT ENVELOPES are available at the back of the Church for your Lent Savings.

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT Fr Michael is available during Lent to hear confessions and there will be set times during Holy Week. If you wish to make an appointment please speak to him.

SAINSBURY'S VOUCHERS 2nd Northwood Scout Group are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers. Please place them in the box in the foyer.

THE PARISH PRAYER

O eternal Father,
help us to build up the Church in this parish
to the glory of your name,
in honour of St Edmund,
and for the hope and inspiration of all your people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen