

Christ and St John, Isle of Dogs
'Building a healthy Community through our Christian Faith'
Sunday 31st March 2019
Mothering Sunday

10am Cafe Church, 11.00 am Mass: President Fr. Tom Pyke, Speaker Dolapo David from the Children's Society.

Opening Hymn: HOAN 173 For the beauty of the earth

Collect: God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading: Exodus 2.1-10 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

Gospel: Luke 15.1-3 Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he

squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. **30** But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' **31** Then the father[d] said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. **32** But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Offertory Hymn: HOAN 73 Brother, Sister, let me serve

Communion Hymn: HOAN 490 The Lord's my Shepherd

Closing Hymn: HOAN 321 Love divine, all love excelling

Please pray for: The sick: Samantha McTasney, Tina Barlow, Ben Mason, Jacqui Scott, Joy Watts, Donna, Alf Mansfield, Rene Smith, Kath Martin, George White, Chris Berwick, Iris Keith, Karen Moore, Hubert Chesshyre, Jill Skells, Jayashri Shirke, Mary Mansfield, Sue Kean.

Those who have died: Stephen Price, Brenda Graves, Judy Longbottom, Jean Henning, Carter Gravelot, Joana Auffret, Mary Awounou

This week's events.

Morning Prayer 8.30am each morning except Monday, Friday and Saturday

Evening Prayer 5.30 pm each evening except Wednesday and Saturday

Mon 1 April	9.15am School Mass at Christ Church 9.30am - 11.30am Toy Library 11am -1pm Bible Study, 87 Saunders Ness Rd 2pm Leaders' Diary Meeting 7.45pm London Docklands Singers rehearsal 8pm Alcoholics Anonymous
Tues 2 April	9.30-11.55 Church Office Open 10.30am Island Gardens Foodbank 4.30pm Fisher Folk & Hymn Practice (open to all) 5.30pm Funky Vibes children's dance class 5.30pm Protopopova Russian singing lesson 7.30pm St John Ambulance meeting
Weds 3 April	9.30 - 11.55am Church Office Open 9.30 - 11.30am Toy Library 9.30 - 12.30am Community Parents Exercise and Drop-in 5.30pm Expression with Arts class 7.15pm Said Mass 8.00pm PCC Standing Committee
Thurs 4 April	9.00-10.30am Ecumenical Prayers at Cafe Forever- Glengall Grove 9.30 - 11.50am Church Office Open 7.00pm Lent Study group 'The Power of Small Choices' - in the Parish Room
Fri 5 April	8.30am Leaders' Morning Prayer and breakfast 9.30 - 11.55am Church Office Open 8.30 - 9.30pm Cocaine Anonymous
Sun 7 April Sunday of Lent	8am Book of Common Prayer Service 11am Parish Mass and Sunday School 1.00pm Meeting of the Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 6.30pm Evening Prayer, St John's Chapel
F O R W A R D N O T I C E	
Sat 13 April	2pm Procession of Palms and family activities for Easter at Mudchute Farm
Sun 14 April	10.45 Palm Sunday procession, leaving from Island Gardens DLR
Mon 15, Tues 16	7.00pm Stations of the Cross and Mass to follow
Weds 17 April	5pm 'Walking with Jesus' - a new event for children, telling them the events of Good Friday through illustrations from the 'Kid's Bible'
Thurs 18 April	10.30am Chrism Mass at St Paul's Cathedral. For the clergy, but all are welcome

7.30pm Stripping of Altars, Footwashing and Mass of the Last Supper

There will be a booklet printed of the Holy Week and Easter Services



80 million Easter eggs are sold in this part of the world every year, but the Real Easter Egg is the only one which has an Easter story book in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and supports charitable projects. This year the Original and Dark eggs are plastic free. There is also a chance to win £200 worth of book vouchers, and free education resources to download.

You can order your Real Easter Egg by signing up on the list on the left hand side of the North Porch as you leave church. Felicity Legg is acting as our contact. Orders for eggs must be in by next Sunday.



Over 60s Tea Dance, run by EECF for the community. Thursday 18th April 2019, 1pm to 4pm George Green's School, E14 3DW. Cost just £3. All welcome.



GrowTH Night Shelter for the homeless We are supporting St Luke's from March to May. Please contact Rev Ed Dix on 07899075935



The Diocese of London Lent Appeal 2019 is focusing on Modern Day Slavery to increase awareness of MDS among parishes and equip people with the skills to spot the signs and take action. We are working with five charities who provide a service to or are working with those caught up in MDS in London: Tamar, Ella's Home (Kahaila Charity), Love 146, Rise Project (The Children's Society) and Kalayaan.



Christian Aid Week 12 - 18th May This year the focus is on how you can help the world's poorest mums and babies have fullness of life. Every day 10 women die from giving birth in Sierra Leone. Christian Aid believes (and so do we) that every life is worth fighting for. We will be collecting for Christian Aid in church and at the ASDA, and we will be learning what Christian Aid's mission partners are doing across the world to help vulnerable communities.



Shana Maloney will be joining us for Holy Week! Shana was an intern with us two years ago and is now at Westcott House preparing for ordination. Shana is a resourceful and talented preacher and we are looking forward to having her back with us.



Shakespeare Walks To celebrate Shakespeare's birthday, take a two-hour walk on the Easter Weekend through Shakespeare's London, brought alive by 22 actors. There is a choice of two walks: starting from Westminster Abbey or from the parish of Shoreditch where the original Theatre was built in 1576. Both walks finish at Shakespeare's Globe. Cost £23, book at <https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/whats-on-2018/the-shakespeare-walks>



Trinity Laban Conservatoire Musical Theatre Department would like to invite us to their next Concert and a Cuppa Pre-Concert talk on Thursday 4th April at 12.15pm – St Alphege Church Hall, Greenwich. The pre-concert talk will be led by a Masters students here at Trinity Laban. The programme will include songs from the musicals *Hairspray*, *Funny Girl*, *42nd Street*, *Oklahoma!*, *Anything Goes* and many more!



The Electoral Roll is now complete and ready for you to consult. Copies of the ER are pinned or blue-tacked in both entrances. If you are on the ER you can vote members onto the PCC.



Dawn Service Easter Day This is returning to its 5.30am slot on Easter Day, by popular request. At this service we celebrate what freedom means for each one of us as we listen to the account of the freeing of the Children of Israel from the oppression that they had suffered in the land of Egypt.

Social Capital - an insight from our Lent Book 'The Power of Small Choices' - Hilary Brand

This seems to me a very good summary of something that we instinctively know, that being 'church' and coming to church is a powerful force for change. Fr. Tom

...it seems that governments in the wealthy West and those that advise them have suddenly woken up to the fact that a nation's wealth does not lie only in its financial capital. Nor does it lie only in what is termed its 'intellectual capital' - education and earning power, nor just in industry or infrastructure. It lies in something much less tangible; something which is slipping away fast - by 50 per cent over the last four generations, in fact.

Social capital can loosely be described as anything that bonds people to work and interact together within a community. It is 'the glue which holds societies together'.

So the very ordinary things that happen in our new church hall - Saturday morning children's groups, Line Dancing, Over 60s' Keep Fit, Victim Support Group, Mothers and Toddlers, Choral Society, Brownies, Youth Group, Women's Breakfasts etc. - are prime examples of social capital and a vital contribution to the wealth of the nation.

But membership of voluntary groups and community activities have declined drastically in recent years. Generation by generation there is less. (It is true that membership of organisations like Amnesty or Greenpeace is up, but in these terms membership mainly means receiving a newsletter. There is no face-face meeting and that, in terms of social capital, is what really matters.)

But why does all this jolly joining up and getting together matter so much? Perhaps the most important word to sum it up is *trust*. Not the sort of deep trust that evolves within marriage or long-term friendships, but the general level of mutual trust which comes about when people belong to some organisation or other, when they regularly turn up, do their bit, learn to cooperate and work together and make things happen. Trust has been described as 'society's oil can'. The engine seizes up without it.

It is easy to see the effects of this erosion of trust....in the UK and the US, around 80 per cent of those over seventy believe that their neighbours can be trusted. When you ask 16-29 year olds, the figure drops to less than 40 per cent. As to the percentage who trusts politicians, priests or almost anyone else in authority, the numbers are almost sliding of the bottom of the scale.

'The key to reversing the decline in social capital,' says Bishop Graham Cray 'is people whose character makes them trustworthy'. And character like that is some that is grown. It is formed by the decisions we make in relationship with others. We can change - by the choices we make, by the small steps we take into community and commitment - into people who are worthy of trust.

The Church of Jesus Christ, far from being an outmoded anachronism, is a key resource in contemporary society. It is a guardian of social capital, a production plant in (for) faithfulness.

A prayer for Lent 2019

Lord God, you have made us in your image, to reflect your truth and light;
may we show your glory through our lives and lead others to an awareness of you.
Often we belittle ourselves, our making, and our Maker by our self-condemnation.
Help us to accept ourselves just the way we are, without such destructive judgement.
Loving ourselves, help us in our loving of others.
Through him who loved you and humanity so much, that he gave himself for us,
even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen