

# MAGAZINE FOR FEBRUARY 2022



BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY OF CHRISTIAN LOVE, FAITH, WITNESS AND ACTION

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The Vicar encourages us to make the most of "Ordinary Time"



Don't miss our Big Brew Event on 27<sup>th</sup>

Two concerts this month
Hampstead Collective
&
Joseph Shiner

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor"

Graham Dunn explores the start of Jesus' ministry

# Arts and Crafts for all

Come and share your skills or learn a new one

Anouk Dunn explains



### HAMPSTEAD PARISH CHURCH

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Instagram: @HampsteadPC

Youtube: youtube.com/c/hampsteadparishchurch

### **Sundays:**

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)10.30am Choral Holy Communion (Common Worship)

5.00pm Choral Evensong (BCP)

(All these services can be found on Facebook live and Zoom)

### Weekdays:

please check the weekly email—sometimes we have to make changes to this pattern\*

Wednesdays at 10.15am Holy Communion in church Mon – Fri 5.00pm Evening Prayer on Zoom Thursdays at 8.30am Rosary prayer on Zoom Saturday 9.00am Morning Prayer in church

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# February 2022

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# **Dairy for February**

Links to zoom meetings and details of morning and evening prayer will be circulated in the weekly emails. Most services are available on zoom and/or facebook live. If you don't get the emails and would like to please contact the parish office.

Tue I <sup>st</sup>	12.15pm 8.00pm	Inside Out Prayer Group on zoom Living in Love & Faith on zoom	
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.15am	Holy Communion	
,,,,,,	4.00pm	Arts & Crafts – I <sup>st</sup> session – in the Crypt Room. See page 10	
Thu 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8.30am	Rosary Prayer on zoom	
	5.30pm	Arts & Faith (same zoom link as Evening Prayer)	
	7.45pm	Community Choir	
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Gardening morning (weather permitting!)	
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent			
	8.00am	,	
	10.30am	Choral Holy Communion followed by Traidcraft Stall	
	5.00pm	Choral Evensong followed by the Friends of the Music AGM in church. Guest speaker Geoffrey Webber, Director of Music.	
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Hampstead Collective Concert – see page 16	
Tue 8 <sup>th</sup>	12.15pm	Inside Out Prayer Group on zoom	
	8.00pm	Living in Love & Faith – zoom	
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.15am	Holy Communion	
Thu 10 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Rosary Prayer on zoom	
	5.30pm	Arts & Faith (same zoom link as Evening Prayer)	
	7.45pm	Community Choir	
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Joseph Shiner concert – see page 16	

Sunday 13th 3rd Sunday before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Choral Holy Communion

5.00pm Choral Evensong

Tue 15<sup>th</sup> 12.15pm Inside Out Prayer Group on zoom

8.00pm Living in Love & Faith on zoom

Wed 16<sup>th</sup> 10.15am Holy Communion

Thu 17<sup>th</sup> 8.30am Rosary Prayer on zoom

5.30pm Arts & Faith (same zoom link as Evening

Prayer)

8.00pm Compline sung by the Church Choir and

Community Choir

Sunday 20th 2nd before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Choral Holy Communion

5.00pm Choral Evensong

Tue 22<sup>nd</sup> 12.15pm Inside Out Prayer Group on zoom

8.00pm Living in Love & Faith on zoom

Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.15am Holy Communion

7.30pm Bible Book Club – Corinthians

Thu 24<sup>th</sup> 8.30am Rosary Prayer on zoom

5.30pm Arts & Faith (same zoom link as Evening

Prayer)

7.45pm Community Choir

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Church cleaning (galleries)

Sunday 27th next before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am All Age Communion followed by Traidcraft Big

Brew - see page 6

5.00pm Choral Evensong

### The Vicar writes

In February the church calendar has a brief excursion into "ordinary" time. The liturgical colour changes from the white/gold of Christmas and Epiphany to green, and this year the whole month is 'ordinary' before Lent begins in March.

Those who like things neat and tidy have real problems in this period, because it can be as long as a month or as short as a day, depending on the date of Easter. A late Easter means more ordinary time before it. An early Easter means more ordinary time after it. I think of it like a concertina, expanding or contracting, with Christmas fixed and Easter moving about.

The church year orders time in a variety of ways. There are, of course, fixed dates (like our birthdays). Then there are seasons, where we are given the opportunity to reflect on aspects of the story of Christ over a number of weeks. These seasons enable us to reflect also on the life of discipleship, with the theme of penitence and forgiveness in Lent, and preparation and service in Advent, among others.

'Ordinary' time is, it must be said, not plain or boring. Rather it is 'ordered', with Sundays counted and a regular pattern of readings offered. In the green seasons we are offered the unfolding of one of the Gospels week by week (Matthew, Mark and Luke in order, and it's Luke this year. John is included each year in the other seasons). And every Sunday celebrates the resurrection, so all is special.

It is worth reflecting on the way the Sundays are numbered. Some are 'before', and in February we are looking towards Lent. Candlemas (which we will have celebrated on January 30<sup>th</sup>, though the official day is February 2<sup>nd</sup>) marks a turning point from looking back to Christmas to looking towards the passion, death and resurrection in Lent, Holy Week and Easter. In the Christian life there is preparation to be made, and things to look towards.

Some Sundays are 'in' or 'of' a season. In Epiphany we have been 'in' the season of revelation, and we will do the same in the season of Easter. That reminds me to take time in the present to receive and enjoy the love and power and presence of God here and now.

Some Sundays are 'after'. In the second period of ordinary time we will have Sundays 'after' Trinity. That reminds me to look to our foundations in faith: specifically our belief n God Father on and Holy Spirit. In Hebrews Jesus is describes as "the one who was and is and is to come". The church year, even in its 'ordinary' mode, speaks of that.

I pray that the ordinary will be extraordinary for us all this year, not least as we seek to put the traumas of the pandemic suitably in their place, live in the opportunities of the present, and look for the life of the world to come.

# Jeremy

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## **February**

Judy East

And in green underwood and cover
Blossom by blossom the spring begins

A C Swinburne

Or so we tell ourselves, even if it's colder now than at midwinter and bulbs that put on a spurt of growth in December could be forgiven for retreating under the soil for a while. This is the month for snowdrops in the churchyard and Additional Burial Ground – do look out for them.

It's heartening when little by little the evenings start getting lighter but alarming when the Sundays start counting down to Lent – suddenly the year is rushing on to Easter and if Easter Eggs aren't in the shops yet you can be sure they soon will be! Perhaps, as the vicar suggests, it's better to think of it as a few weeks of "ordinary time".

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> after Evensong the Friends of the Music are holding their AGM (in church rather than the Crypt this year) and on 7<sup>th</sup> there's the second in the Hampstead Collective's new season. This is followed less than a week later by a concert featuring clarinettist Joseph Shiner. There's more about both these in the Music Section.

The Arts and Faith group resumes after Evening Prayer on Thursdays – the week's subject can be found in the weekly email. This is not to be confused with the new Arts and Crafts Group which kicks off this month with an exploratory session on Wednesday 2nd and should satisfy all those fingers itching to get going again after last year's Craft Fair. Do come, or let us know if you're interested but can't make that time/day.

Fairtrade Fortnight this year (21st Feb to 6th March) focusses on climate change and its devastating effects with some starting facts. For instance

TRUE OR FALSE: the UK has produced 2.3% of the total CO2 emitted globally since 1750, despite having less than 1% of the world's population?<sup>1</sup>

TRUE OR FALSE: 46% of the UK's carbon emissions are not included in official government figures of our carbon footprint?<sup>2</sup>

More cheerfully facts about honey bees include that they sleep 5-8 hours a day and are much slower coming home from a honey collecting trip than they are going out. And that in Finland the nation drinks more coffee per person than any other country!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> FALSE – the UK has produced double that amount and is responsible for 4.61% of global CO2 emissions since 1750.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> TRUE - Consumption emissions are the greenhouse gases released from the manufacture of products we import from overseas. These emissions account for 46% of the UK's total but are usually not included in official figures.



# Big Brew Day, Sunday 27th 2022

Sue Kwok

Big Brew is back for 2022! This is the annual festival of Fairtrade when we raise money to send to **Traidcraft Exchange**, the charitable arm of the Traidcraft organisation.



For more than 30 years **Traidcraft Exchange** has been at the forefront of the fairtrade movement and it is only when we get trade right that we can end poverty. From supporting beekeepers in Tanzania to building climate resilience in Bangladesh, and campaigning for workers' rights in the

garment industry, the principles of justice in trade and fairness for all are at the core of what **Traidcraft** is about.

By gathering together on a Sunday morning we can raise money and help make a meaningful difference in the lives of producers, farmers and artisans who are now facing the dual crises of Covid-19 and climate change, all while enjoying a cup of coffee and a slice of cake!

Please come and join us after the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> February. As well as being an opportunity to chat with old friends, and maybe make some new ones, there will be plenty to do. While you are enjoying a cup of Fairtrade tea or coffee you can:

- buy homemade cakes and biscuits from the cake stall, many made with Traidcraft ingredients.
- visit the Traidcraft stall
- enter the raffle for a Traidcraft hamper
- guess the weight of the cake
- play the, "Find the Queen Bee" game
- guess the number of Jelly Beans in the jar





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# The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

A Sermon preached by Graham Dunn for Epiphany 3

When I was training for ministry, one of our New Testament tutors used to constantly talk about Firsts and Lasts.

I remember one tutorial right at the beginning of our training in which he asked a small group of us – what's the first thing Jesus says?

Cut to a group of panicking trainee vicars desperately seeing if they can sneak onto Wikipedia without him noticing.

His point was a broad one about reading scripture – it's interesting to pay attention to the first things that happen in scripture and also the last things that happen.

The first things people do and say often speak about their priorities.

Immediately before the passage from Luke which we've just heard, Jesus is out in the wilderness. As part of that period of time, the devil appears to him and tempts him.

In the midst of his desperate hunger, the devil tempts him to make stone into bread. He tempts him to take power and glory to himself.

Jesus responds to the Devil each time by quoting scripture to him to rebut his attempts to lure Jesus into his traps. The conversation between the Devil and Jesus is essentially a private one. What we have in today's passage is Luke's first record of the words Jesus used when standing up and teaching publicly.

I've always found it an electrifying moment.

Just imagine what it would have been like to have been in that synagogue and witnessed it. Jesus, the local boy now thirty years old comes in and starts to read from the scriptures. We are told that Jesus specifically finds a passage from the Prophet Isaiah.

He reads the prophecy and then he does something extraordinary. He rolls up the scroll, hands it back to the attendant and sits down. And then he says, 'today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing'.

Extraordinary stuff.

This is the adult Jesus bursting onto the public scene in a big way.

So, as my tutor would say, let's have a look at the first words Jesus chooses to read from scripture.

The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim the release of the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

Of all the things Jesus could have said, of all the scriptures he could have quoted, this is what he put first.

Good news to the poor

Release of the captives

Sight to the blind

Freedom for the oppressed

When I used to work in political communications, one of my teams jobs was to write briefings for politicians including Government ministers. We knew how important it was to quickly get to the point given how many other calls there were on ministers' time so we used to agonise over what went into the first paragraphs as we couldn't guarantee how much more of the briefing would get read. I would encourage my team to think 'if they only take one thing away from this document, what do we want it to be and then let's make sure we put it right up at the front.'

For many of the people sitting in that synagogue in Nazareth 2000 years ago, this would have been the only time they heard Jesus speak. We have the benefit of four gospel accounts filled with Jesus's teaching but they did not. If you asked them what it was that this Jesus figure was all about – they would have told you

Good news to the poor, release of the captives, sight to the blind, freedom for the oppressed

It's what he told them – it's what he proclaimed himself to be the very fulfilment of.

As so often with Jesus, it's transformative teaching and it's completely counter-cultural – powerfully so.

I wonder, if we went outside and stopped 20 people on Church Row, and asked them what the Christian Faith was all about what would they say?

It would be an interesting exercise, wouldn't it – I suspect we'd get a range of interesting answers – some of them quite challenging, some no doubt surprising. I wonder how many of them would talk about

alleviating poverty or bringing freedom to oppressed people? About lifting people up when they are struggling?

I would certainly hope that many who encounter us here in this place would hear about the work that goes on to contribute to foodbanks, to work with homeless people, to help refugee families.

It is undoubtedly the case though that there are many people for whom their experience of the Christian faith and the Christian church is very different. People whose engagement has left them feeling judged, excluded, marginalised, and hurt. The very opposite of what Jesus is putting at the forefront of his teaching.

After two years of a global pandemic which has wrought such havoc on people's financial, emotional, spiritual, and mental wellbeing, it strikes me that it has never been more important to let people know that God is on their side. To show them Jesus, whose first priority in public ministry was to proclaim good news for the poor and freedom for the oppressed.

As we begin this new year, let's be encouraged to continue to take **this** good news to the people we encounter and let's also remember that this good news is for us as well. Let's remember that the God we follow wants to release us from whatever holds us back from enjoying the true freedom in which he wants us to live. **Amen** 

Sermons are generally available on the parish website

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# Creative Community: an arts & crafts, upcycle & repair monthly workshop

Anouk Dunn

Unleash your creativity! Whether it's knitting your own scarf, having a go at painting a clay pot, upcycling corks into a cork board or doing a bit of essential darning on your favourite cardigan, come join our friendly arts and crafts workshop.

First Wednesday of the month from 4pm - 5.30pm starting on the  $2^{nd}$  February.

There will be tea, coffee and biscuits. You can bring your own craftwork to work on, or you can try your hand at something new. There will be some "give it a go" materials to try out.

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### **Music Section**

### Notes on the month's music

Geoffrey Webber

The world of church music has recently been saddened to hear of the death of Francis Jackson CBE at the impressive age of 104. We will mark his passing with a performance of his classic setting of the Communion Service from 1949, written not long after he took over the post of Organist at York Minster from Sir Edward Bairstow, and Richard Gowers will be playing two movements of his 5th Organ Sonata, composed "To the honour of Percy Whitlock" and first performed by the composer in 2003 in St Stephen's Church, Bournemouth, where Whitlock was Organist. In my work as General Editor of the Church Music Society I was pleased to be involved last year with publishing a revised anthem by Francis with an Easter theme, Most glorious Lord of life, so we will aim to perform that as well at Easter. Meanwhile, in February we perform another Mass setting by a highly distinguished organist from the North, Noel Rawsthorne, who died in 2019 aged 89, having been Organist of Liverpool Anglican Cathedral for many years. His Festive Eucharist dates from 1978, and will be sung by our combined choirs at the All-Age Communion service.

The music at Evensong on Sunday 6th February has a Celtic theme, following on from the first of the Arts & Faith series which begins on 3th February after Evening Prayer. The music will include some ancient chant and other music with Celtic links, and at the AGM of the Friends

of the Music following Evensong I will be talking about a project I was involved in which led to the CD 'In praise of St Columba' (Delphian Records). The text of the Introit in praise of the Blessed Virgin Mary, *Cantemus in omni die*, explicitly mentions the practice of singers performing in the traditional two-choir format, answering one another across the two sides of the quire.

The Evensongs on 13th and 20th February both have musical themes, the first being a collection of music from the Restoration period and the second featuring the music of George Dyson. Many of Henry Purcell's anthems have accompaniment for string orchestra in the genre known as the 'Symphony Anthem', but several fine anthems have accompaniment for organ alone. One of these, O God, thou art my God, will be partly familiar - the final Alleluia section was extracted to form the hymn tune known as 'Westminster Abbey'. His Evening Service in G minor has a strange history since the organist Roseingrave (either Thomas or his brother Ralph) decided to compose a new setting of the Gloria for the Nunc dimittis: Purcell had intended the Gloria from the Magnificat to be repeated, as was the typical practice at the time. It contains some potent outbursts from a bass soloist, and this will be sadly the last chance to hear one of our basses, Ben McKee, who is leaving us this month to become a lay-clerk at Westminster Cathedral. We wish him well in his new post.

George Dyson was appointed Director of the Royal College of Music just before the outbreak of the Second World War. A pupil of Stanford and Parry, his music is unsurprisingly traditional in nature, and of his work as a composer he said that "my reputation is that of a good technician ... not markedly original. I am familiar with modern idioms but they are outside the vocabulary of what I want to say". His three settings of the Evening Canticles are still frequently performed, but in addition to the F major service we are performing two less well known but highly attractive works, his *Confortare* and setting of the shorter form of the *Benedicite*, which fits well with the theme of creation that tends to appear at this point of the liturgical year.

The readings for the Sunday before Lent encourage us to look forwards towards the season of the Passion of Our Lord. One of the striking aspects of many medieval carol texts is their liking for examining the paradox of Christ's incarnation: why did the Word become flesh only to be rejected by those he had created? Thus many carol texts juxtapose Christmas with Good Friday, as we hear in the wonderful carol by John Browne, Jesu, mercy, how may this be?, the text of which continues "...that God himself for sole mankind would take on him humanity? My wit nor reason may it well find." Being a carol, the verses are interspersed with a refrain, though for this Browne only repeats the opening question. We have very little four-part vocal music in the English language pre-dating the Reformation, and this is one of a few examples found in the so-called Fayrfax carol book from the early sixteenth century. Little is known about Browne apart from an association with Eton College, and he is thought to have died c. 1500.

### **Music List for February**

Sunday 6th February – 4th Sunday before Lent 10.30 am. Holy Communion (Organist & Director - Timothy

Wakerell) Organ prelude Voluntary in A minor for Double Organ Christopher Gibbons

Opening Hymn 410

Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) Mass for Four Voices William Byrd

Gradual Psalm 138 Tone iii/2

Offertory Venite comedite William Byrd

Post-communion Hymn 377

Organ postlude A Fancie, for my Ladye Nevell (BK25) William Byrd

5 pm. Evensong (Organist - Timothy Wakerell)

Organ prelude Meditation on Brother James' Air Harold Darke

Introit Cantemus in omne die Anon., 13th-C.

Preces & Responses Humphrey Clucas

Psalm 2 Robert Ashfield

Canticles Magnificat on Old Scotch chant and Nunc dimittis
Charles Wood

Anthem Carne solutus pater Columba; Jubilate Deo Anon., Inchcolm Antiphoner

Hymn 361

Organ postlude Chorale Prelude on 'Dundee' C. Hubert Parry

# **Sunday 13th February – 3rd Sunday before Lent**

10.30 am. Holy Communion (Organist - Timothy Wakerell)

Organ prelude Chant donné Maurice Duruflé

Opening Hymn 333

Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) Communion Service in G Francis Jackson

Gradual Psalm I G. C. Martin

Offertory Tantum ergo sacramentum Maurice Duruflé

Post-communion Hymn 353

Organ postlude Fanfare John Cook

### 5 pm. Evensong (Organist - Timothy Wakerell)

Organ prelude Verse Thomas Tomkins

Introit Let thy hand be strengthened John Blow

Preces & Responses Humphrey Clucas

Psalm 6 Humphrey Clucas

Canticles Evening Service in G minor Henry Purcell

Anthem O God, thou art my God Henry Purcell

Hymn 467

Organ postlude Voluntary for Double Organ in D minor Henry Purcell

# Sunday 20th February – 2nd Sunday before Lent *10.30 am. Holy Communion*

Organ prelude Felix namque Philip ap Rhys

Opening Hymn 466

Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) Mass (for four voices) Thomas Tallis

Gradual Psalm 65 E. J. Hopkins

Offertory Verily, verily I say unto you Thomas Tallis

Post-communion Hymn 408 (ii)

Organ postlude [Felix] namque V Thomas Preston

### 5 pm. Evensong (Organist - Richard Gowers)

Organ prelude Sonata Op. 5: I. Moderato Francis Jackson IV. Allegro

Introit Confortare George Dyson

Preces & Responses Humphrey Clucas

Psalm 147 Charles Stanford

Canticles Evening Service in F George Dyson

Anthem Benedicite, omnia opera George Dyson

Hymn 393

Organ postlude Sonata Op. 5: IV. Allegro Francis Jackson

# Sunday 27th February – Sunday next before Lent 10.30 am. All-Age Holy Communion

Organ prelude Prelude on a theme of Orlando Gibbons (34)
Charles Stanford

Opening Hymn 494 (t. 413)

Mass setting (GI/S&B/AD) Festive Eucharist Noel Rawsthorne

Offertory God so loved the world John Stainer

Communion Mater ora filium Charles Wood

Post-communion Hymn 178

Organ postlude Postlude on a theme of Orlando Gibbons (22)
Charles Stanford

### 5 pm. Evensong

Organ prelude Prelude in F (Op. 101/i) Charles Stanford Introit Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake Richard Farrant

Preces & Responses Humphrey Clucas

Psalm 89.1-18 Edgar Day

Canticles The Short Service Richard Farrant

Anthem Jesu, mercy, how may this be? John Browne

Hymn 234 (ii)

Organ postlude Postlude in G minor (Op. 101/ii) Charles Stanford

Aidan Coburn Director of the Junior Choir Geoffrey Webber Director of Music

## The Hampstead Collective



## Mon 7<sup>th</sup> February 7.00pm

Richard Wagner's Wesendonck Lieder, Liederkreis Op. 39 by Robert Schumann, and duets by Felix Mendelssohn, Robert Schumann, and Johannes Brahms With

> Catherine Backhouse, soprano Malachy Frame, baritone Freddie Brown, piano

Mon 7<sup>th</sup> March 7.00pm Couperin Lecons de tènèbres

Tickets from Eventbrite hampsteadcollective.com

Saturday, February 12 at 7.30pm **Joseph Shiner** *Clarinet* 

Michael Dussek *Piano* 

Clarinettist Joseph Shiner and pianist Michael Dussek come together to share masterworks for clarinet and piano duo by Brahms, Weber, Lutosławski, Saint-Saëns and Poulenc.

Award-winning clarinettist **Joseph Shiner** regularly appears at venues and festivals around the United Kingdom and internationally. As a chamber musician Joseph has enjoyed collaborations with Maiastra, the Allegri and Endellion quartets, as well as with pianists Somi Kim, Keval Shah, Christopher Glynn, Michael Dussek, Ashley Fripp, James Baillieu, and Bengt Forsberg. In 2019, he released his first solo recording on Orchid Classics, surveying Brahms' works for clarinet with piano and 'cello with Somi Kim and Yoanna Prodanova, to critical acclaim. Joseph is also a founding member of the award-winning 'Magnard Ensemble', recording for the Orchid Classics and Toccata Classics labels.

Michael Dussek has been described as 'an outstanding artist' and a 'hugely respected pianist'. In January 2014 Fanfare Magazine, USA, described his playing as 'nothing short of amazing'. For more than thirty years he has been privileged to perform in the world's major concert halls with internationally acclaimed artists and chamber groups, and he has recorded extensively, including 23 CDs in Dutton Epoch's highly acclaimed series of recordings of 20th century British composers and four CDs with Ryu Goto (violin) for Deutsche Grammophon. Michael is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music, where he is also Head of Piano Accompaniment.

Brahms: Sonata in F minor op. 120 no. 1 Weber: Grand Duo Concertant in E flat major op. 48

#### Interval

Lutoslawski: Dance Preludes Saint-Saens: Sonata op. 167 Poulenc: Sonata

### Tickets:

<u>eventbrite.co.uk/e/music-for-clarinet-and-piano-joseph-shiner-and-michael-dussek-tickets-213801324517</u>

### **Books for Lent**

#### **SPCK PRESS RELEASE**

### **HEARING GOD IN POETRY**

# FIFTY POEMS FOR LENT AND EASTER RICHARD HARRIES

Richard Harries, one of our greatest Christian intellecuals, reflects in this lovely Lent book on how some of the best-loved poems in the English language communicate a sense of God's presence.

From Maya Angelou and W. H. Auden to Phyllis Wheatley and Walt Whitman, *Hearing God in Poetry* invites you to take a closer look at fifty great poems by some of the finest poets in the English language. Some are well known, some deserve to be better known, but all say something distinctive that will lift your spirit.

This beautiful Lent book for 2022 offers six poems for every week from Ash Wednesday, leading up to Holy Week, with ten poems specially chosen for Easter. A short reflection from Richard Harries accompanies each poet and the poem, drawing out their spiritual insights and how they communicate God's presence.

Hearing God in Poetry is an ideal Lent book for poetry lovers and anyone interested in how some of the world's finest poets have expressed faith in their work. Its daily readings will introduce you to some wonderful poetry for Lent and Easter, and give you a deeper understanding and appreciation of these brilliant works of literature. It will also help expand your spirituality to see God's presence in the world around you as you prepare for Easter.

Full of riches, Hearing God in Poetry is a book that you will want to turn to time and time again – whether during Lent or in any other season of the year.

RICHARD HARRIES is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and an Honorary Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences. Formerly Bishop of Oxford, he is now a Life Peer and remains active in the House of Lords on human rights issues. He is Emeritus Gresham Professor of Divinity and a Visiting Professor of Theology at King's College, London. His voice is well known to many through his regular contributions to the *Today* programme.

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## The White Stone – the art of letting go

By Esther De Waal, Canterbury Press, £12.99

Esther de Waal is one of today's most beloved spiritual writers. In *The White Stone*, she reflects on the changes and losses that come with growing older.

Esther reflects on solitude and, following a period of illness, saying goodbye to a family home and the Welsh border landscape she had known for decades which inspired some of her greatest writing, and adjusting to a new city environment. In her characteristic style, she sees everything as a portal into a deeper spiritual understanding. She draws on the wealth of the Christian tradition, especially scripture and the monastic and Celtic spiritualities she knows so well, to help her navigate her way through not only the inevitable sense of loss that accompanies such change, but also to embrace the new possibilities it brings.

The white stone of the title refers to a small pebble from the river that ran through her garden that she keeps in her pocket, but also strikes a note of hope referring to the new identity promised by God (Revelation 2.17). This is a book of simple, profound wisdom that will speak to many coping with change in their own lives.

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### **Bible Stories Every Child Should Know**

By Kenneth B Taylor and Jenny Brake, 10Publising, £16.99

Best-selling author Kenneth Taylor was well-known for his faithful retelling of Bible stories in a way which engaged young children. This newly illustrated collection of more than 120 Bible stories from his Classic Bible Storybook present the truths of the whole Bible in a language that is understandable for kids. Each story has 3-4 comprehension questions to help children easily grasp Biblical concepts.

Reading this book will help young ones aged four - seven to love the stories of the Bible.

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## **Readings for February**

Luke 9.28-36

10.30am Choral Holy Communion 5.00pm Choral Evensong Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> – 4 before Lent Isaiah 6.1-8 Hosea I Colossians 3.1-22 Luke 5.1-11 Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> - 3 before Lent Ieremiah 17.5-10 Hosea 10.1-8 Luke 6.17-26 Galatians 4. 8-20 Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> – 2 before Lent Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-end Genesis I.I-2.3 Luke 8.22-25 Matthew 6.25-end Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> – next before Lent Exodus 34.29-end Exodus 3.1-6

John 12.27-36a



Do you ever feel you really shouldn't be just throwing these away? They're mixed material so they can't go in the regular recycling but isn't there somewhere.....?

Well the answer is YES, there is a blister pack recycling scheme. At the moment it seems to centre mainly on Superdrug, and not all their branches, but it's better than nothing! The scheme is run by TerraCycle who have an

interactive map for checking your nearest participating branch. Or why not persuade your local pharmacy to join the scheme?

It's possible that some branches of Boots will take them too. In fact Boots have a scheme for recycling other hard to dispose of products – and if you have an advantage card you might even get reward points!

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The recent death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu was mourned around the world. Here are five of his more famous quotes, which show why he was so especially honoured for his justice and reconciliation work in South Africa.

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality."

"Don't raise your voice, improve your argument. Good sense does not always lie with the loudest shouters, nor can we say that a large, unruly crowd is always the best arbiter of what is right." "Forgiving is not forgetting; it's actually remembering – remembering and not using your right to hit back. It's a second chance for a new beginning. And the remembering part is particularly important. Especially if you don't want to repeat what happened."

"Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realise our need of one another."

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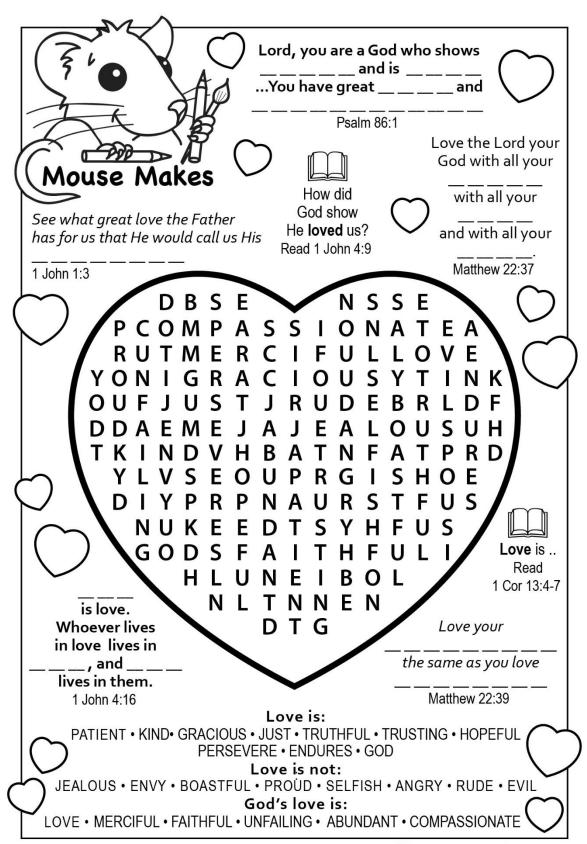
## **Road Safety**

Seventy years ago, on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1951, zebra crossings were introduced officially in the UK. The first one was in Slough, Berkshire. The crossings had been trialled over two years at 1000 experimental sites, but in 1951 the black and white striped pedestrian crossings were approved, with their flashing Belisha beacons, and all drivers were required by law to stop as soon as a pedestrian set foot on them.

The crossings were the brainchild of Yorkshireman and traffic engineer George 'Dr Zebra' Charlesworth, a physicist who had worked on the Barnes Wallis-designed bouncing bomb during the war. His zebra crossings were certainly responsible for saving many lives.

The Belisha beacons, an integral part of the crossing but used since 1934, were introduced by Leslie Hore-Belisha, who served as Minister of Transport at the time.

Zebra crossings were adopted throughout the world, from continental Europe to North America, Singapore and Australia. They have now been superseded to some extent in the UK by pelican crossings, which are controlled by lights. These were introduced in 1969. While zebras were named because of their appearance, a pelican crossing (originally pelicon) is so named as a contraction of the phrase 'pedestrian light controlled'.



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