

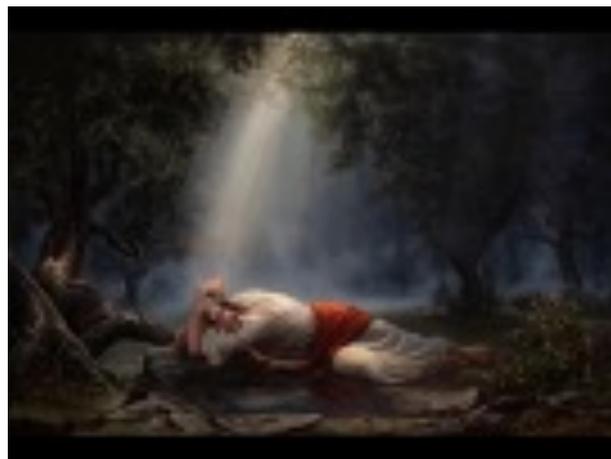
St Mildred's Church

Newsletter

April 2022



Living in love & faith Find our more about the resources available. Pages 4	Easter services Join us this Easter to celebrate our resurrected Christ. Pages 5-6	PCC Page Trevor provides an update on the February PCC meeting. Page 7
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'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith..'

The call of God on our lives at St Mildred's is to make and equip disciples of Jesus Christ locally and globally in the power of the Holy Spirit.

www.stmildreds.org.uk



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Newsletter Articles

Anyone who regularly attends St Mildred's can contribute articles to the newsletter.

Articles should be sent to the editors no later than Wednesday 20th April for the May 2022 edition, which will be available on Sunday 1st May.

Newsletter editor:

Elisabeth Harris

Email:

newsletter@stmildreds.org.uk

Tom writes



“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” (Hebrews 12:1-3)

The cross and resurrection are at the heart of our Christian faith. We remember Jesus' death for our sins and resurrection to new life all through the year, ever year! But Easter time is a particularly special opportunity to give thanks for all that God has done for us in Jesus.

In the verses above, we are reminded of one part of what we are celebrating at Easter time: Jesus who endured opposition from sinful men leading to his death on the cross. The word “endured” tells us that he remained or held his ground under this opposition; He didn't run away from it.

It would have been easy for Jesus to have avoided suffering if He had been self-centred and self-focused. He came from heaven voluntarily to do the will of his Father, and he could have chosen to leave when he began to experience the intense and terrible suffering that came to him. Or, knowing what it was to cost, Jesus could have stayed in heaven and never come into the world in the first place.

At Gethsemane, we are told that Jesus desired to avoid the intense suffering of the cross: He asked that the cup might pass from him. But, more even than his own desire to escape

suffering, he desired to do God's will.



The writer to the Hebrews reminds us that Jesus fixed his eyes on something in his terrible suffering. He reminded himself that God's will was not simply that he should suffer but also that he should rise. Jesus fixed his eyes on "the joy set before him" - the fruit that his suffering would bring - which ultimately led to him sitting "down at the right hand of the throne of God."

The Bible does not teach or commend masochism (the idea of taking pleasure in suffering). There is no sense in which the cross of Christ teaches that God delights in suffering, or that he considers suffering in itself to be a good thing. Not at all! Jesus suffered for us because he knew it would bring great joy and victory in the end and lead to many sons and daughters being brought to glory. He knew that our forgiveness and salvation depended on his suffering. He knew that, after his suffering, he

would rise and ascend back to the glory of heaven.

The verses above from the book of Hebrews are telling us that, in our own sufferings, we should remember this example of our Lord Jesus. We should remember not only that he suffered, but also that his suffering ultimately led to good. God does not let us suffer needlessly or without any purpose. Instead he uses all things - even our sufferings - for our good.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28).

This Easter time, as we experience our own trials and difficulties, let us fix our eyes on our Lord Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith, so that we will not grow weary and lose heart. And let us celebrate the victory of the resurrection because of what we know that "weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning." (Psalm 30:5). And may our great God and Father be praised. Happy Easter!





Living in Love and Faith

In March we completed a course responding to the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) initiative launched by the Church of England in 2020.

Whether or not you attended the course it would be good to consider responding to this because the Church of England is at a major moment of decision that could affect this denomination greatly.

Since as far back as 1952, the Church of England has been debating its understanding of sexual morality.

The LLF initiative began in 2017 after a latest round of debates showed the wide disagreement there exists in the General Synod (the highest governing body of the Church of England). The LLF initiative is a suite of resources that include a main book, articles, podcasts, and a five-week course.

This is an important moment for the Church of England because one of the outcomes of the LLF initiative could be that it changes its doctrine of marriage.

If you would like to engage with this, you could look at the resources the Church Society has produced: <https://www.churchsociety.org/resource/list-of-living-in-love-and-faith-resources/>.

The Church of England Evangelical Council video shown on the course I ran is available to watch in full here: <http://www.ceec.info/> (scroll to the bottom of the homepage where the video is included).

The Church of England Evangelical Council has also published advice on how to respond here: <http://www.ceec.info/living-in-love-and-faith.html>.

The main LLF hub is here: <https://llf.churchofengland.org/>.



Easter Services
@ St. Mildred's Church

Maundy Thursday

14th April | 8pm | Holy Communion

Good Friday

15th April | 2pm | An Hour at the Cross

Easter Sunday

17th April | 6am | Sunrise Service (details overleaf)
10am | All Age Holy Communion

Come and join us!

St Mildred's Church, St. Mildred's Road, Lee, London, SE12 0RA

Reg. Charity No. 1128995

Sunrise Service

*Come to me, all you who are weary
and burdened, and I will give you
rest. (Matthew 11:28)*

Easter Sunday @ 6am
in the carpark



followed by breakfast

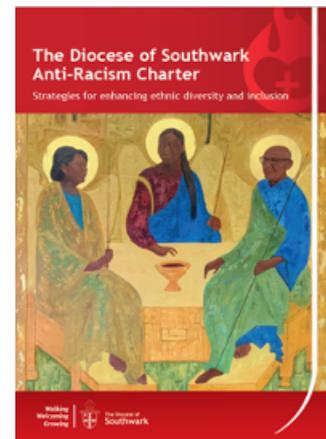
PCC Page

St Mildred's has a long standing policy to give away (tithe) 10% of our income to other causes. The majority is given each year to mission locally and overseas, and you will have seen reports here and in the church annual report of the organisations which we regularly support, and the work that they do. A small proportion of the tithe is kept back to support one-off requests or donations. At its meeting on 1st March, the PCC agreed to the proposal of the mission committee that the remaining part of the 2021 tithe, £598, should be given to XLP.

XLP is a Christian charity whose mission is to engage in long-term relationships that empower young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to complete their education, avoid anti-social behaviour and become independent and confident contributors within their communities. They operate across nine inner-city boroughs around London, having a strong presence and work in the boroughs of Lewisham and Greenwich. More information about XLP is available at <https://www.xlp.org.uk/our-vision.html>

The PCC also approved a number of steps to move forward the demolition of the church hall and the expenditure of £5160 on a study to examine options to improve sustainable energy use in the new building. This cost is mostly covered by a grant of £5000 which we have been successful in securing from the Greater London Authority.

We have only just begun a discussion on the Southwark Anti-Racism charter which will be continued. <https://southwark.anglican.org/anti-racism-charter/> We want to make sure that we don't just pay lip service to treating people equally, but to make sure we make changes where necessary. It was agreed that learning about the way we can all be influenced by unconscious bias would be helpful. Matthew Shimwell and Pauline Leslie have agreed to explore how to take this forward.



Every year the Archdeacon meets with the Churchwardens to ask a number of practical questions about the way our church is managed. PCCs have been specifically asked to address the questions about safeguarding that will need to be answered, and Laura Tewkesbury joined the meeting to talk us through these issues.

Finally, the PCC agreed to spend up to £1200 on bollards in the entrance to the car park that can be raised to deter unauthorised parking and make sure that the car park is available for those who need to use it.

Trevor Gill

Diary - April 2022

Sunday	3	10am Holy Communion 6pm Sunday@six
Monday	4	9.30am Prayer Meeting
Tuesday	5	8pm Home Groups
Wednesday	6	8pm Home Groups
Thursday	7	8pm Home Groups
Friday	8	11am-1pm Cuppa and Cake
Sunday	10	10am All Age Worship
Monday	11	9.30am Prayer Meeting
Wednesday	13	8pm Prayer Meeting
Thursday	14	8pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
Friday	15	2pm An Hour at the Cross
Sunday	17	6am Sunrise Service in the car park and Breakfast 10am Easter Day All Age Holy Communion
Tuesday	19	7.45pm Standing Committee
Wednesday	20	8pm Prayer Meeting
Sunday	24	10am Morning Worship 6pm Sunday@six
Monday	25	9.30am Prayer Meeting
Tuesday	26	Parent and Toddlers 8pm Home Groups
Wednesday	27	8pm Home Groups
Thursday	28	8pm Home Groups

May 2022

Sunday	1	10am Holy Communion 6pm Sunday@six
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Prayer Page

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:5

Holy and Gracious God

We pray for the people of Ukraine
and the people of Russia;
for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid; that your
everlasting arms hold them
in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power
over life and death; that they will choose for
all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they
will remember that you direct your people to
turn our swords into ploughshares and seek
for peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that
they are inspired by the wisdom and courage
of Christ. Above all, Lord, today we pray for
peace for Ukraine. And we ask this in the
name of your blessed Son.

Lord have mercy.

Amen

Please pray for Sue Harriman for relief
from pain and wisdom of professionals to
find the right path to take in order to allevi-
ate her suffering.

Building project:

The contract for the demolition of the old
church hall is out for tender; returns due 21
April. Please pray that we are able to appoint
the contractor of God's choice, at the right
price. Please pray too that we are able to get
pre-commencement planning conditions dis-
charged without any difficulty.

Please pray for Keiko's parents & sister in Japan

that in His grace and mercy, the Lord will set
His divine work on their path, bless them with
His church/people in their local area and
reveal Jesus to them.

Send Prayers to newsletter@stmildreds.org.uk

**Pray for our preparations for the Easter
weekend** in April; that God would be pre-
sent in all we do.

May you empower your church to serve You,
each other and our communities in all our
Easter activities.

Alpha:

Please pray that all those who are doing the
current course will be encouraged in their
faith. We also need to pray for wisdom to
know when and how to run another course.

Pray for the appointment process to find
two part time people to work in our youth
and children's ministry. May God give us
wisdom and direct us to the right people,
and them to us.

Pray for all students as they prepare for exams

That they are filled with hope for the future
and a desire to commit all
their ways to the Lord.

Loving God,

your Son told his disciples to become like
little children. Lead us to work for the welfare
and protection of all young people.

May we respect their dignity
that they may flourish in life,
following the example of the same
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Following news of a young lady being subjected to abusive treatment at least partially due to racism ...

Lord, search our hearts and the heart of our
nation's institutions. Shine light in the dark
places.

May the church be guided in it's reaction and
action when encountering injustices and al-
ways remembering we are all a part of the
body of Christ.

Bible Reading Plan

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Beginning						
4/04/22	Hosea 2:1-13	Hosea 2:14-3:5	Hosea 4:1-19	Hosea 5:1-15	Hosea 6:1-11	Hosea 7:1-16
11/04/22	Hosea 8:1-14	Hosea 9:1-17	Hosea 10:1-15	Hosea 11:1-11	Hosea 11:12-12:14	Hosea 13:1-16
18/04/22	Hosea 14:1-9	Hebrews 1	Hebrews 2:1-13	Hebrews 2:14-3:6	Hebrews 3:7-19	Hebrews 4:1-13
25/04/22	Hebrews 4:14-5:10	Hebrews 5:11-6:12	Hebrews 6:13-7:10	Hebrews 7:11-28	Hebrews 8:1-13	Hebrews 9:1-14
2/05/22	Hebrews 9:15-28	Hebrews 10:1-18	Hebrews 10:19-39	Hebrews 11:1-12	Hebrews 11:13-28	Hebrews 11:29-40



Friday 8th April
11am to 1pm
Cuppa & Cake

Tea & coffee. Chat. Homemade cakes.
Scrabble & Dominoes available

Everyone is welcome

The Back Page

**Hallelujah He is risen!
He is risen indeed. Hallelujah**

