

What's On and Coming soon

Zoom course on Martin Luther King Jnr

Rev Jonathan is taking a five week course on Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Civil Rights Movement on Zoom on behalf of Adult Learning at St Albans Cathedral. It starts on Wednesday February 25th at 7.30pm. If you are interested the link to book is www.stalbanscathedral.org/Event/redeeming-the-soul-of-america

Wigginton History Society

Tuesday Mar 3rd - 8pm start
Village Hall, Wigginton

The White Lady

'The White Lady' is the true story of the most important SIS/MI6 intelligence networks behind enemy lines in Belgium in WW1 & WW2. Working on declassified files in archives in Belgium and London, Helen Fry's research uncovers the heroism within these networks and the ingenious ways in which they gathered intelligence for London and how that impacted on the outcome of two world wars.

St. Bart's Book Swap and Library

IS OPEN for swapping books. Please feel free to borrow books from the library or bring books in for others to share.

St. Barts Weekly News

Rector: Rev. Canon Jonathan Gordon 01442 871547

Priest: Rev. Michael Eggleton 0758 5600408

Readers: Peggy Sear and David White

Sunday 22nd February First Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion BCP
10am Parish Eucharist
Hymns: 522, 298, 484, 422

Readings

Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5: 12-19
Matthew 4; 1-11

6pm Evening Prayer
Psalm 50: 1-15
Deuteronomy 6: 4-9, 16-end
Luke 15: 1-10

Sunday 1st. March Second Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion BCP
10am Parish Eucharist
Hymns: 321, 327, 298, 212,

Readings:

Genesis 12: 1-4
Psalm 121
Romans 4; 1-5, 13-17
John 3; 1-17

6pm Evening Prayer
At St Mary's

LENT COURSE

in the Church Room on **THURSDAY 26th. February at 10.30am.**

We will be studying
"Draw near to Lent".

Each week a different contributor explores a different aspect of Christian discipleship – worshipping together, praying, exploring the Bible, sharing communion, offering service and sharing the good news with others.

Weekly Updates to the Notices and Newsletters

These are updated, emailed or printed out every Friday. If there is anything that you would like added to these notices, please get in touch either by email; revmike1@outlook.com or phone 0758 5600408

Please check out the new and updated website as readings and events change regularly www.stbartholomewschurch.org

Wigginton Preschool Craft activities for children

Hi all, we hope you are keeping well. Just wanted to let you know Wigginton Preschool & Little Stars are posting various craft activities on their Facebook pages. Lovely ideas to keep children busy.

The Origins of hymns: Amazing Grace

*Amazing grace! how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see.*

Its roots lie in the small market town of Olney, in rural Buckinghamshire, and with a former slave trader by the name of Captain - and later Reverend - John Newton.

Newton's story is a powerful tale of redemption and God's grace. As a young man, his life was spent at sea. He became part of the slave trade, rising to the rank of captain and transporting slaves from Sierra Leone to the West Indies.

But in 1748, on board *The Greyhound*, a fierce storm arose off Ireland. Newton, fearing for his life, cried out to a God he barely knew. He promised that, if his life was spared, he would devote the remainder of it to God's service. The ship survived – barely – and Newton miraculously made land.

In his gratitude, he never forgot his promise to God and committed his life to serving him. Due to his previous life experience and lack of education, it took more than seven years for him to be accepted into ministry in the Church of England.

His first post was as curate at St Peter and St Paul church, Olney - at that time a poor Buckinghamshire village consisting mainly of farm labourers and lace-makers.

Railings and Kneelers in church

With the liturgical reform of the last century, it is customary in many churches to stand to receive Holy Communion. Sitting and standing seem the norms now for worship, in spite of all the beautifully embroidered kneelers that many churches boast. But open the *Book of Common Prayer*, and there is a multitude of rubrics on kneeling, whenever people gather for services. It is a posture that takes us back to those vivid images of Jesus praying on His knees in St Luke's Gospel, Peter kneeling to pray in Lydda, and the people kneeling on the beach with Paul in Acts 21.

The Psalmist invites us to kneel before the Lord our Maker, and Paul wrote to the Philippians, 'At the name of Jesus every knee should bend.' As we kneel at the railing in St, Bartholomew's or in our own churches, we are heirs to that tradition.

Cranmer in the Prayer Book said that kneeling was a sign of gratitude for benefits received. But it is more than that. Buildings like St. Bartholomew's church bring us to our knees quite naturally as we gaze and wonder at the beauty and majesty of the building. Kneeling is a sign of reverence and adoration of the God who inspired such architecture of old and who feeds us now in the sacraments.

Prayers

In our prayers today we pray for our world, affected in so many places by wars, flooding, droughts. We pray too all who endure so much agony and pain. We pray for all who are ill or distressed in any way remembering in our hearts.....

We pray for our King and Government and all who work for the good of this country and around the world.

We pray for our armed forces wherever they are serving.

We pray for and remember all who have died.

We pray for ourselves that we will be guided by the holy spirit to help all who are suffering in any way.