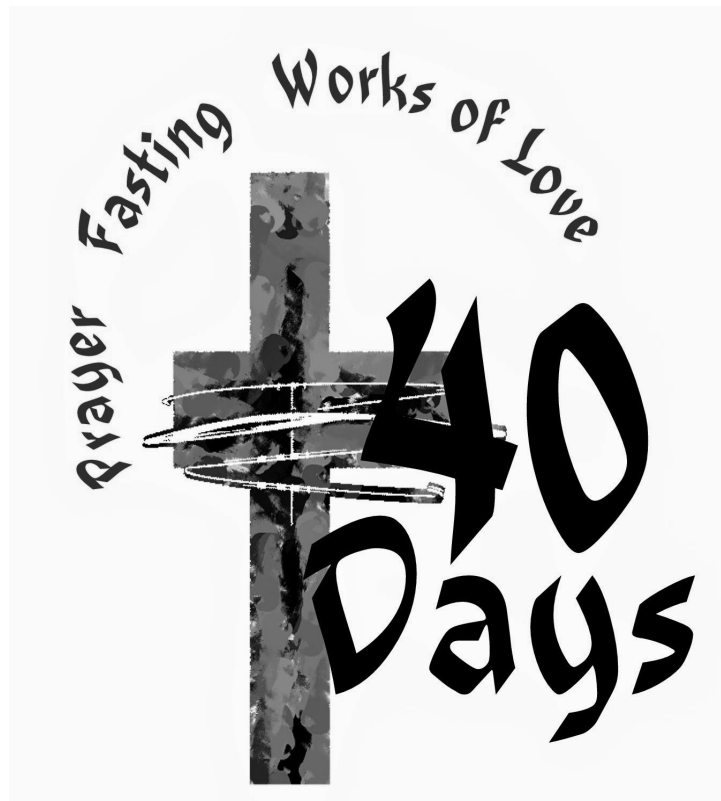




MARCH 2021

## South Leicestershire Group URC



SOUTH LEICESTERSHIRE GROUP UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
Saffron Lane-Wigston Magna-South Wigston  
Oadby-Whetstone

<http://southleicsgroupurc.org.uk>

## Contact us:

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Reverend Richard Eastman</b>                      | <b>0116 2714751</b> |
| South Leicestershire Group Minister                  |                     |
| <b>Mrs Eileen Williams</b>                           | <b>0116 2478929</b> |
| Local Church Leader                                  |                     |
| <b>Revd Martin Ferris</b>                            | <b>0116 2419357</b> |
| Resource Minister South and East Leicestershire Area |                     |

### **South Wigston**

|                    |           |              |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Di Statham         | Secretary | 0116 2810053 |
| Noel Oldershaw     | Treasurer | 0116 2813398 |
| Marion Bartholomew | Magazine  | 0116 2717755 |

### **Wigston Magna**

|                           |                  |                                |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Eileen Williams           | Secretary        | 0116 2478929                   |
| Ray Green                 | Acting Treasurer | 0116 2887774                   |
| Ray Green                 | Room Lettings    | 0116 2887774 /<br>07518 214144 |
| Mary Childs               | Brigades Contact | 07946093786                    |
| Sheila Stephens           | Magazine         | 0116 4315206                   |
| Church Office answerphone |                  | 0116 2882666                   |

### **Saffron Lane**

|                      |                            |              |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Sandra Clay          | Secretary/Finance/Magazine | 0116 2835375 |
| Elizabeth Richardson | Treasurer                  | 0116 2993176 |

### **Oadby**

|                |           |              |
|----------------|-----------|--------------|
| Pauline Hudson | Secretary | 0116 2712913 |
| Tony Hudson    | Treasurer | 0116 2712913 |

### **Whetstone**

|                |                          |              |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Janet Statham  | Correspondence Secretary | 0116 2863335 |
| Glenis Chapman | Treasurer                |              |
| Jean Warner    | Room Lettings            | 0116 2752405 |
| Kevin West     | Magazine                 | 0116 2779402 |

## LENT - A TIME OF REFLECTION, RENEWAL AND ACTION

The time during Lent should be spent reflecting and reviewing our effectiveness as disciples in the cause of spreading the Good News. We should start with a positive attitude towards changing our ways, too often I hear the phrase 'well, we can't do that because...' . I'm sure if we put our minds and wills behind any project we would be able to change the way we do things, and some things that might have been classed as 'not-do-able' suddenly become achievable. I'm certain that we have many talented people with the South Leicestershire Group (SLG) and that we can find ways and means of generating new life into our church communities. Jesus came on an agenda of change, and we must adopt that same agenda if we are to grow the church, so that generations of new Christians can come and worship God. As I approach the end of my time with the SLG, I have had a chance to reflect upon the highs and lows, things that were achieved, and things that didn't work out, sometimes it doesn't do to analyse the past and decisions made at the time, because you are doing it in hindsight and with 20/20 vision. The challenge still remains for all of the churches 'How are we going to spread the Gospel News'? The challenge is clear, we need to be open to spread the Good News even if that means new people will come and take up the challenge, it might mean some standing down and handing on the responsibility to others.

The challenge for each of us through this Lenten time is to seriously reflect upon our discipleship, on how we can live up to the Gospel imperative 'Go and make disciples'. This reflection should be done in prayer and reading the scriptures and then praying again then taking action. Our Eldership teams will be expected to take the lead, my hopes and prayers are that enough people will be moved to form project teams with the aim of reviving the church before we get to the point of no return, hopefully we can attract new folks to meet, to worship God and to keep our churches open so that more people can experience God's love in their lives.

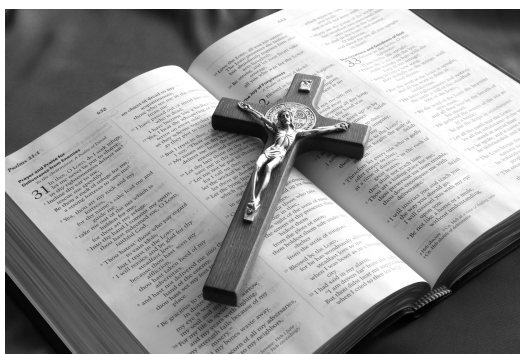
Keep safe, stay well.

Richard

## NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Whetstone URC     | 10.00 am |
| Oadby URC         | 10.15 am |
| South Wigston URC | 10.30 am |
| Wigston Magna     | 10.30 am |
| Saffron Lane      | 11.00 am |

**Please check with the relevant Church Secretaries to confirm if and when services are taking place at any of the Group Churches.**



### **Your Giving is Still Needed**

Please remember that the expenses of the church continue even if the building is closed. While we are unable to attend worship please put your weekly offering to one side and then bring it along when we start to meet again.

If you would like to set up a weekly payment arrangement direct to your church account please speak to the Church Treasurer.

## Regular Group Church Events

### MEETINGS / EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

For any more information / advice please contact the Church Secretary

#### **South Wigston**

|            |           |              |
|------------|-----------|--------------|
| Di Statham | Secretary | 0116 2810053 |
|------------|-----------|--------------|

#### **Wigston Magna**

|                 |           |              |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------|
| Eileen Williams | Secretary | 0116 2478929 |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------|

#### **Saffron Lane**

|             |           |              |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| Sandra Clay | Secretary | 0116 2835375 |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|

#### **Oadby**

|                |           |              |
|----------------|-----------|--------------|
| Pauline Hudson | Secretary | 0116 2712913 |
|----------------|-----------|--------------|

#### **Whetstone**

|               |                          |              |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Janet Statham | Correspondence Secretary | 0116 2863335 |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------|

|             |               |              |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Jean Warner | Room Lettings | 0116 2752405 |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|

### **DEADLINE FOR APRIL 2021 MAGAZINE**

**Sunday 21 March 2021**

**Send your items to your church representative or direct to  
[di.statham@btinternet.com](mailto:di.statham@btinternet.com)**

If you do not have a computer a hand written copy can be accepted.  
Contact Di Statham 0116 2810053 for information

# **South Leicestershire Group**

## **United Reformed Church**

(Whetstone URC-Wigston Magna URC-Saffron Lane URC

South Wigston URC-Oadby URC)

Part of the South and East Leicestershire Area With Abbot's Road URC



### **GROUP BIBLE STUDY**

### **FIRST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH**

### **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW**

### **2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH, 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 4<sup>TH</sup> May**

(please read Chapters 3 and 4 prior to 2<sup>nd</sup> March meeting)

**CONTACT RICHARD FOR ZOOM MEETING LOGIN DETAILS**

[richard.eastman163@gmail.com](mailto:richard.eastman163@gmail.com)

# **GROUP SERVICE SUNDAY 14 MARCH 2021**

**VIA ZOOM**

**10.30 am**

For those unable to connect to the Zoom Service below is the outline of the order of service so that you can still "join in" with the service.

**Call to Worship**

**R&S 96 (MP 200) Great is thy Faithfulness**

Prayers of Approach

Psalm 25:1-11, 20-21

**R&S 586 All my hope on God is founded**

John 2:1-11

**R&S 603 (MP 428) Lord for the years**

1 Samuel 1:9-18

**R&S 531 (MP 882) Lord of all hopefulness Lord of all joy**

1 Kings 3:16-28

Comment on the readings from Richard

Musical Reflection

**CMP 619 Such Love**

Prayers of Intercession

**R&S 373 (MP435) Lord Jesus Christ you have come to us**

The Grace

## DIARY DATES

All services and events are cancelled for the foreseeable future.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

|    |                              |
|----|------------------------------|
| 6  | Debra Chauhan                |
| 13 | Grace Fisher<br>Duncan Lucas |
| 15 | Malcolm Briggs               |
| 18 | Julie Barnes                 |
| 31 | Hetty Bason                  |





### **RECIPE – March: Cherry Walnut Biscuits (Makes 20)**

50g margarine

50g caster sugar

100g self raising flour

10g walnuts

25g glace cherries (chopped)

2 teaspoons desiccated coconut

4 teaspoons beaten egg

Pinch of salt

Preheat oven to Gas Mark 4, 350 F, 180 C.

1. Cream margarine and sugar until light and fluffy.
2. Sift the flour and salt and mix with the nuts and coconut.
3. Gradually add, together with the cherries, to the creamed mixture, and bind together with the egg.
4. Roll on a floured board and cut into shapes.
5. Place on greased or lined baking trays and bake for 15 - 20 minutes.
6. Cool on a wire rack.

### **GARDENING TIPS – MARCH**

- 1) Sow annuals like nasturtium, poppies and marigold.
- 2) Plant shallots, herbs and early potatoes.
- 3) Top dress your pots and containers with new compost.
- 4) Feed the birds - they are busy nesting.
- 5) Complete routine pruning of established roses.
- 6) Fertilise perennial beds and apply a mulch of organic matter.

**DIARY - MARCH**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 7.00pm - Bible Study Group (on Zoom).

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> - United Group Service on Zoom, 10.30am.

Throughout March, Richard will lead our Lent Groups every Tuesday at 2.30pm, the session to be repeated every Thursday at 7.00pm. (subject to sufficient interest) These to take place on Zoom. Please contact Richard if you are interested in joining in.

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS:**

24<sup>th</sup> Marion Bartholomew.

**A Thought for the month ahead.**

I must govern the clock, not be governed by it.

*Golda Meir*

*Talking of time, don't forget -  
British Summertime  
begins on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March.  
Hooray!!*

## PRAYER LIST

Please pray for:

- 1 The people of Wales on this, St David's Day.
- 2 Our Minister Richard as he leads our Lent Course this month.
- 3 Those taking part in our Lent Course and Bible Study Groups.
- 4 Resolve to use the time of Lent as a spiritual preparation for Easter.
- 5 The people of the world on this World Day of Prayer.
- 6 "Starlight" the foundation that grants wishes to very sick children.
- 7 All who are broadcasting services online today.
- 8 All who are working so hard to make the difficulties of Covid easier to bear.
- 9 The Royal Star and Garter homes, caring for war veterans.
- 10 All the staff and patients in our hospitals.
- 11 People involved in providing help in the home.
- 12 The homeless.
- 13 All who are suffering from depression.
- 14 Mothers everywhere, especially those who are struggling with the present difficult conditions.
- 15 All who are involved in family conflict.
- 16 The residents and staff of the Care homes in our localities.
- 17 The people of Ireland on this, St Patrick's Day.
- 18 All those going through the pain of divorce.
- 19 The Bible Society and the work it does.
- 20 Give thanks for the beauty of Springtime.
- 21 All who are listening and joining in with online services today.
- 22 Our Emergency Services, struggling to cope in these difficult times.
- 23 All who are lonely.
- 24 Give thanks for Christian Aid and all agencies of international relief.
- 25 All who are bereaved.
- 26 Those who serve in Foodbanks - may our society always provide for the hungry and poor.
- 27 All who are waiting for hospital appointments.
- 28 As we go into Holy Week, thank God for the precious gift of His Son.
- 29 People who have lost their jobs because of the Pandemic.
- 30 Take time to bring a problem to God.
- 31 Give thanks for some blessing in your life.

## Mothers

(Some thoughts as we approach Mothering Sunday)

God couldn't be everywhere at once and therefore He made mothers.

*Jewish Proverb*

The Joy of Motherhood - what a woman experiences when the children are finally in bed.

The most important thing a father can do for his children, is to love their mother.

*Walter Trobisch*

Motherhood. A bond that forms before birth, endures beyond death and shapes us for life even in its absence.

"All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel mother".

*Abraham Lincoln*

"The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom".

*Henry Ward Beecher*



## Saffron Lane News

### Preachers and Readers list for March / April 2021

If the Church is back open

|                      | OT | NT | SERV | COLL | Preacher     | If the Church is open             |
|----------------------|----|----|------|------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mar 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 36 | 35 | 36   | 13   | S Eastman    | Communion                         |
| Mar 14 <sup>th</sup> | 3  | 4  | 3    | 13   | L Gill       | Communion<br>/Mothering<br>Sunday |
| Mar 21 <sup>st</sup> | 5  | 6  | 5    | 13   | R Green      | Communion                         |
| Mar 28 <sup>th</sup> | 7  | 8  | #    | 13   | R Eastman    | Family Service                    |
|                      |    |    |      |      |              |                                   |
| Apr 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 12 | 30 | 12   | 13   | E Williams   | Communion<br>Easter Sunday        |
| Apr 11 <sup>th</sup> | 35 | 36 | 35   | 13   | J Slatford   | Communion                         |
| Apr 18 <sup>th</sup> | 4  | 3  | 4    | 13   | K Drinkwater | <b>Communion</b>                  |
| Apr 25 <sup>th</sup> | 6  | 5  | #    | 14   | M Ferris     | Family Service                    |

|              |               |                 |             |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 3 Kath T     | 7. Angela S   | 12. Elizabeth R | # no server |
| 4. Maureen F | 8. Brian S    | 13. Darren C    | 30 Sandra   |
| 5. Sue B     | 10. Molly B   | 14. Mackenzie   | 35 Anne     |
| 6. Pat S     | 11. Richard B |                 | 36 Dec B    |



## Saffron Lane News

### What's happened in the last lock down?

During December and January 8 of our members have had one or two of their Jobs, so that is good news, but they are still staying in and looking after themselves.

The man has been to put the 8 smashed windows back in the Church. We hope that they stay that way now.



### Birthdays March

19<sup>th</sup> Angela Slater

### Birthdays April

16<sup>th</sup> Pete Clay

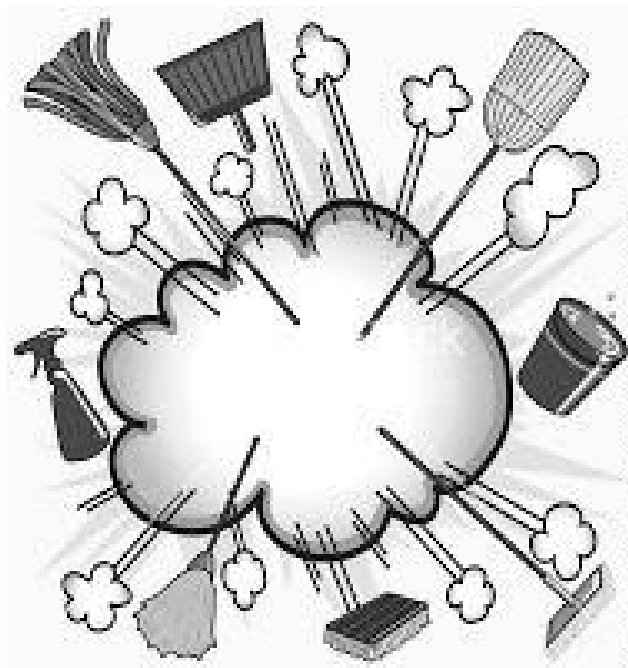
25<sup>th</sup> Mally Benham



## Saffron Lane News

### Spring Cleaning Time by Doreen Storton

Spring will soon be here again,  
I know it, I can tell: for there are buds on every tree in meadow and  
in dell.  
And as the sunshine filters through each separate window pane  
realise the time has come to Spring - clean once again.  
So upside - down I'll turn each room, I'll scrub and polish too,  
Till everything is shining bright, just as it was when new.  
A coat of paint will brighten up the woodwork and the doors,  
And then I'll clean the carpets that are covering the floors.  
The curtains must be washed and ironed, and cupboards sorted out:  
For weeks I shall be busy, morning noon and night no doubt.  
Then one day I shall look around, find no more to be done:  
All will then be spick and span.  
Spring- cleaning can be fun.



## **Saffron Lane News**

I want to dedicate the thoughts of this next poem to the LOCKDOWN 2020

### **Hidden Treasures by Doreen Storton**

I've a hundred and one things hidden away in boxes, standing in tiers:  
They are all at the back of the cupboard upstairs,  
Mementoes I've saved through the years.  
Last week I decided to fetch them all out,  
(I was really supposed to be cleaning).  
There were things there I'd almost forgotten about,  
Each one had a special meaning.  
An old bridal head - dress, discoloured and drab,  
Once long ago it was white:  
Horseshoes and ribbons, and cake decorations  
Are now pushed away out of sight,  
Dozens of school books, maths, English and French,  
Reminders of childhood days:  
Sunday school prizes, one for learning a psalm.  
So the inscription says,  
A pile of drawings on a shelf,  
Too big to pack in a box:  
School reports, a bag of shells,  
Fragments of coloured rocks.  
Collections of coins very dirty with age,  
In packets right at the back:  
Jigsaw puzzles and ornaments,  
Even a union jack!  
Pantomime clothes, and birthday cards  
Letters tied up with string.  
Pictures of the royal family  
Great grandma's wedding ring  
A pretty embroidered tablecloth,  
A jam dish never used,  
Seaside postcards, photograph albums,  
They keep the children amused.  
There are treasures untold in my cupboard upstairs:  
I put them all back as I found them:  
I expect I shall hoard them for many more years.  
As memories are woven around them.



## Whetstone News

After so much bad news, recent headlines have brought some much needed and very welcome positivity. The UK vaccination programme is progressing well and the "R" rate is decreasing, due to both lockdown and the number of people having received their first vaccine. Latest government targets aim to offer first vaccinations to all adults by the end of July. There is light at the end of the tunnel!

Nevertheless, there is still a need to be cautious. We may feel weary of all the restrictions we've faced over the last year but now we're so close to a return to some kind of "normality", we mustn't risk undoing all that good work.

With that in mind, and in line with the other Churches of the group, we have decided to wait until April to re-open. What an especially glorious Easter Sunday that will be!

We miss our collective worship and seeing all our friends at Church. We are grateful to Richard for the services he sends each week but the act of coming together to worship the Lord is a wonderful experience and one which we long to return to!

At Whetstone, we also miss our Thursday Coffee Mornings and the opportunity to welcome people into the church to enjoy friendship and fellowship.

Across the group, we miss our social events: the cream teas, the cooked breakfasts, the film and other clubs, the quiz nights and beetle drives and all the other events we share with our congregations and our communities. However, we need to be patient just a little while longer. As God taught us: this too shall pass.

So we pray for every one, both within and without our Churches, and we ask that God blesses us all and keeps us safe in His loving care.

## Whetstone News

### **If you are doing a job do it right !!!!**

The church was badly in need of a coat of paint so the minister decided to do the job himself. However, he only had one tub of paint.

He got some buckets and some water and he thinned the paint enough to cover the entire church. Then he spent all day painting.

That night it rained very hard and washed all the paint off. The minister was quite discouraged and asked God, "Why...why God, did you let it rain and wash off all my hard work?"

God thundered his reply: "Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

### **Giving it up for Lent**

At the end of the service, Jenny and Eileen decided that they would both give up cakes for Lent.

At the Coffee Morning the following week, Eileen was surprised to see Jenny tucking in to a large cream-filled chocolate éclair.

"I thought we agreed to give up cake for Lent!" Eileen complained. "So why are you eating that éclair?"

"Well," said Jenny, "I decided to put the matter into God's hands. I prayed and asked, if it is God's will that I should have a cake, please let there be a parking space outside the bakery."

"And guess what... on the sixth time round the block, there WAS a space!"

## Whetstone News

### Lent Word Scramble

Can you unscramble these words to find things that people give up for Lent? (Answers next month)

COOLCHEAT

ISFEELS

LOCALOH

KAEC

AMOSACIDLE

TEAM

FEOFEC

SINGOPIGS

AMINCINGLOP

SEWAGRIN

ADOTOFFS

GOMINKS

**World Day of Prayer Service 5 March 2021**

As you are aware the Church services for World Day of Prayer planned for 5 March 2021 have all been cancelled.

For those of you who were looking forward to the service alternative arrangements are available.

The World Day of Prayer National Committee are releasing a video of the service which will be available to view on the WDPIC YouTube channel and on social media. Full details will be available on the World Day of Prayer website <https://www.wwdp.org.uk>.

As the services are virtually the only means of income for the World Day of Prayer Organisation any donations in lieu of the offering you would make at the service will be greatly appreciated. These can be made :-

- a. By cheque, made payable to WDP & sent to WDP, Commercial Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2RR
- b. By online donation via the WDP website - [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk) - minimum £10
- c. By TEXT message from your mobile phone. TEXT 2021WDP 5 to 70085 to donate £5. (Any amount can be donated up to £40 just amend the 5 after 2021WDP to the amount you want to donate. Your text will cost that amount plus one standard rate message.

Anne Craighead (Oadby URC)

# LENT CHALLENGE

## Twin a Tap



Every time you wash your hands put aside some pennies  
At the end of LENT combine your pennies with others from your church and "Twin a Tap elsewhere in the World".

3 billion people do not have access to handwashing facilities.

Our aim is One Tap per Church in the South Leicestershire Group

£60 per tap + £3 towards postage.

Individuals may also want to "Twin" their own tap

For further details contact Revd Richard Eastman

The Toilet and Tap Twinning Organisations works within TEARFUND

**CAN YOU AND YOUR CHURCH RAISE TO THE CHALLENGE**

**Services at Abbots Road on Zoom**  
**(unless Lockdown situation alters)**

Every Sunday morning at 10.45 am

**Easter Services**

Maundy Thursday Communion at 6pm

Good Friday morning at 10.45am

Easter Sunday Family Worship 10.45am

Please feel free to join us at any of these services. Details are available on our website

**<https://www.abbotsroadurc.com/services-via-zoom>**



# Abbots Road News

## Messy Church March 2021

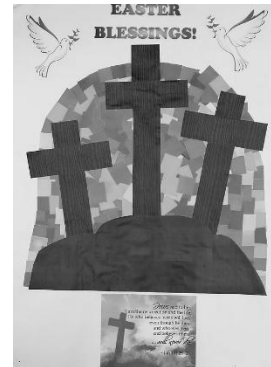
Normally Messy Church families would meet at Abbots Road Church on the second Sunday of each month at 4pm. Unfortunately, we are unable to do this during the pandemic.

For Easter 2021 we are encouraging our Messy Church families to be as creative as they wish on the topic of Easter. This is similar to what we did in lockdown Easter 2020 and examples can be found at :-

<https://www.abbotsroadurc.com/latest-news>

Please feel free to join us and send us photos of anything you have created for Easter, these can be Poems, drawings, collage, Easter garden, baking, palm branch, Easter cross, decorated egg etc. We will show your photo on our website under the Easter 2021 banner.

Please send photos to email [guswebbe@gmail.com](mailto:guswebbe@gmail.com) or whatsapp 07732473114.



A Tribute to Sir Captain Tom by Dorothy Russell

Ground control to Captain Tom.  
Your history place has now been won.  
Your fine example earned our praise  
And made us want to change our ways

Your garden walk each day became  
A chance for us to learn your name.  
For you inspired folk far and wide  
To gently walk or take a stride.

You made this great commitment to the N.H.S  
who cared for you.  
And media kept us all in touch  
How your fundraising grew so much.

With glass half full you never moaned.  
You said we'd never walk alone.  
And so you sang with Michael Ball  
That moving song to cheer us all.

You met the Queen, she honoured you.  
With just the best thing she could do!  
Our Lockdown hero,  
Number one.  
Our shining Knight, Sir Captain Tom.

Your contribution to this nation  
carries on through your foundation.  
Your legacy will now live on.  
From earth to heaven,  
Thank you Sir Tom.



## Abbots Road News

Acrostics written during a Prayer and Praise service led by Irene Wren on the theme of **HOPE**

Having the  
Opportunity to bring  
Prayer for  
Everything to God

Heaven or Hope  
Offers  
Permanent  
Excitement

Hold  
On  
Pain will  
Exit

Having faith and  
Optimism  
Putting your trust  
Everyday in God

Healing  
O.K.  
Power  
Eternal

### Acrostics continued....

H Healing hands  
O Helping Others  
P Helping People  
E Eventually

Harmony, help  
Optimism, opportunity  
Promise  
Encouragement

Help  
Opportunity  
Purpose  
Expectation



## Abbots Road News

A recipe for Saucy Pudding contributed by Gill Gilbert.

### Ingredients

2 oz margarine

6 oz caster sugar

2 eggs, separated

2 oz self raising flour

1 oz cocoa

1 teasp instant coffee, dissolved in a little hot water

$\frac{1}{2}$  pint milk

Cream margarine and sugar,

Add egg yolks.

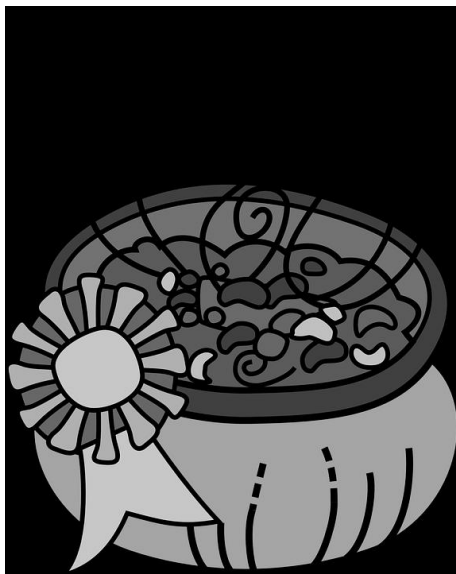
Then add dry ingredients, then coffee and milk.

Whisk egg whites till stiff and fold into mixture.

Bake in slow oven for 40 - 45 mins, then moderate oven for 15 mins.

Keep an eye on it - don't let it overbake!

The amount of milk can be adjusted to make more, or less, sauce.



## Lectionary Readings

### **March 7<sup>th</sup>**

Exodus 20: 1-17

Psalms 19

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

John 2: 13-22

### **March 14<sup>th</sup>**

Numbers 21:4-9;

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22;

Ephesians 2:1-10;

John 3:14-21

### **March 21<sup>st</sup>**

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Psalms 51: 1-12 or Psalm 119: 9-16

Hebrews 5: 5-10

John 12: 20-33

### **March 28<sup>th</sup>**

Psalms 118: 1-2, 19-29

Mark 11: 1-11

John 12: 12-16