

Notices

A warm welcome

To the Revd Nicki McNelly, Rector of St Cuthbert's, Colinton, who is presiding and preaching today.

Evening service at St Michael's today

There is a shared evening service at St Michael's this evening. The service begins at 6.30pm, and Stuart Montgomery will be offering a musical introduction from 6.10pm. Hymns, prayers and short reflections on *Romans* Chapter 12. All are welcome.

Lent study sessions

In Church after Celebrating Communion on the following Sundays: 4 March, 11 March, 18 March. Discussions based on Bible passages and sections of *God's Green Book* which we have not previously used. See the Newsletter for more details.

Ladies' Tea Party 2018

Saturday 26th May, 3pm – 5pm. Please keep this date free in your diaries and invite family and friends. More information nearer the time.

The March-April Newsletter

Is out today. Please collect your copy from the table in the vestibule.

The St Cuthbert's Lecture

Tuesday 6th March 2018, 7pm at St Cuthbert's, Colinton. A chance to hear Prof. Paul Foster, Head of the School of Divinity at the University of Edinburgh, speaking about The Apocryphal Gospels. Refreshments will be served after the lecture.

Fair Trade Fortnight

Is being marked here over the next two weeks. Donations at the weekly Toddler Martians sessions will go to the Fair Trade Foundation.

Bishop John's Lent Appeal

This year's appeal supports two charities which, in their contrasting ways, offer healing and wholeness. **EMMS International** is well known for its outstanding work in bringing hope and love to people in the world's poorest countries who cannot afford medical care. **Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre** aims to 'be there' in the immediate aftermath of rape or abuse and to help victims and their families rebuild their lives.

If you would like to give money, please place it an envelope marked "Bishop's Lent Appeal" and put it in the collection plate.

The Second Sunday of Lent

Sunday 25 February 2018

President: Nicki McNelly

Preacher: Nicki McNelly



*Living out faith in our community
through prayer, reflection and action*

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Read by: Penny Allen

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

The Epistle: Romans 4.13-25

Read by: Penny Allen

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father

of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) - in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The Gospel: Mark 8.31-38

Read by: Frank Alexander

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Collect

God of patience and humility, in your love you gave your Son to be rejected and raised up on a cross. Gather us under its shadow and open our eyes to its mystery, that we may share even now in the life that is from above; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

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The next **Quiet Space** gathering, an opportunity for silent prayer, is on Saturday 3rd March at 9:45am. Bill and Jenny Brockie have kindly offered to host it. Speak to Bill, Jenny or Liz Moir (Ms) if you are interested.

Sunday 4 March 2018 Third Sunday of Lent

10.30am Celebrating Communion

President: Sarah Kilbey

Preacher: David Warnes

Readings: Exodus 20:1-17

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2: 13-22

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Rector: Vacant

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