

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

<b>Sun</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Morning Worship
	Reading	God's Pursuit of Us 1 – Friendship – John 15: 12-17
	11.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	No Service
<b>Mon</b>	9.30am – noon	Coffee Morning at SJ's
	8pm	No Prayer meeting at SJ's
<b>Tue</b>	6.15pm	Journey (CRU2) (Yrs 3-5) CH Baptist
	7.30pm	Explore (Club 2000) (Yrs 6-9) at CH Baptist
	7.30pm	Discover (14+) at CH Baptist
<b>Wed</b>	1pm – 4pm	CareerCafé
<b>Thur</b>	7.30pm	Parenting For Faith Course
<b>Fri</b>	10am	Craft Club at SJ's

### NEXT SUNDAY – 1<sup>st</sup> March

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Church Parade - All Together Service (NB Refreshments from 09:45am)
6.30pm	No service

Amber will be on annual leave from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> February inclusive.

### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION



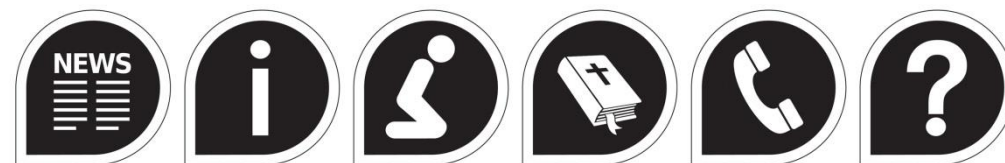
The Israelites set out from the dessert of Sin and travelled from place to place as the Lord commanded. When they camped at another place where there was no water to drink, they grumbled at Moses. How did the Lord provide water for them?  
Read Exodus 17: 5 - 6

### MONDAY EVENING PRAYER MEETINGS @ SJ's at 8pm

No more meetings in February. Meetings in March on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>. All welcome.



23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020  
Sunday next before Lent



## LENT DILEMMA

Dan writes:

At this time of year, I have a dilemma. Not being raised in a church tradition that “did Lent” the thought of giving something up still seems... odd; and I struggle to participate.

I see the biblical merits and good intentions. Sacrificing something of value to try and identify with Jesus in the desert. However, Luke 4 says “Jesus returned... in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.”

My dilemma lies in our method, not the intention. Often, we go for a minor-substitution approach. A pseudo New Year's resolution. Sugar for sweetener. Chocolate for fruit. Caffeine for decaff. TV for books. Smoking for vaping. Swearing for “Dag-nam-it!”

All great ideas, but do these types of substitution help draw us closer to God? Do we finish 40 days full of the Spirit? Does news about Jesus spread as a consequence?

This year, as we pursue God together, consider making a swap that answers with a resounding “Yes. Amen and Hallelujah!”.

———— [WWW.STJOHNSWW.COM](http://WWW.STJOHNSWW.COM) ————

## WELCOME

If you are joining us for the first time today and wish to find out more about what goes on then introduce yourself to one of our leadership team or **fill in one of our Connect Cards**.



## THE LENT LOCKER

The season of lent can offer a great storehouse of opportunities to ready ourselves for Easter. Here are a few things in the Lenten pipeline:

### Ash Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> February, 8pm @ St John's

'Jesus Christ has died; Jesus Christ is risen; Jesus Christ will come again.' The Prayer and Worship Teams invite you to mark the start of Lent with an evening of prayer and worship. If you can't make this time, there is a Communion Service with ashing at St Francis at 10:45am.

### Quiet Day, 7 March, 10:30am-3:30pm @ St John's

Organised jointly by St Francis, St Mary's and St John's. It will focus on the "I am" sayings of Jesus. Please join us when you can.

### New Teaching Series

Building on our 'Pursuit of God' series, we'll flip the focus and start a new series called 'God's Pursuit of Us', thinking about the extraordinary lengths to which God goes to bring us back to himself.



## FUNERAL FOR GEOFF BATTEN

A service to mark Geoff's life will be held at St John's on **Monday**

**24 February, 2pm**, followed by refreshments at the New Inn, Hayes. Geoff's committal will take place the following day at 2pm at Worting Road Cemetery, Basingstoke, RG21 8YZ. Everyone is welcome to both services.



## NEW WINE!

A few members of the church family have already booked onto New Wine (2nd- 8th

August). It is set to be a great week of fun, worship and teaching for ALL the family! Check out the website <https://www.new-wine.org/events/united-20-week-2> Any questions do contact Amber Stockdale.



## VOCATIONS EXPLORATIONS

Southwark Diocese are increasingly inviting people to explore different expressions of 'lay ministry'. In March, there are a couple of opportunities to consider this in more detail:

i) Vocations Fair – 19 March, 6:30-8:30pm at St Mary's Church, Lewisham High Street, SE13 6NX; and

ii) Vocations to Lay Ministry: Residential Conference – Friday 6 March – Sunday 8 March, Wychcroft Retreat Centre, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 4NE.

You can register for both of these at [southwarkvocations.eventbrite.com](http://southwarkvocations.eventbrite.com)



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:

**10.30am on Friday 6th March @ St Mark's Church, West**

**Wickham.** Rise! Take up your mat and walk. Praying with Zimbabwe. All welcome.



## SAFEGUARDING

If you have any concerns regarding a child or vulnerable adult; or you have any queries about safeguarding, please speak to Michele or Sarah.



## TIME TO SIGN FOR TEAMS

Hopefully, you've had plenty of chance to think about which team you want to get stuck in with. Don't forget, you can dip your toe and test the waters without making any long-term commitment, but if you could express your interest to Team Leaders

in the coming week that will help us move on to the next stage of development.



## WEDDING

Susannah Davis and Asif Mohammed will be married at St John's on Saturday 29th February at 2pm. Everyone is welcome to the wedding service.



## AMBER CPC EVENT

Don't forget to book onto 'How to talk with your kids about sex.' Workshop.

It's on **Tuesday 10 March at 7:30pm**. Places can be booked online at [www.amberpregnancy.com/events](http://www.amberpregnancy.com/events)



## PRAYERS

Please pray for:

- Loraine Pinder-Browne working with Operation Mobilisation; our mission focus this month;
- The Parenting for Faith Course and all those attending;
- Dorothy Batten and her family, as they prepare for Geoff's funeral;
- The development of our joint mission and fellowship across the churches in West Wickham;