

St Mary and All Saints, Dunsfold,  
Sunday, March 21st, 2021

# ePEWS NEWS

Fifth Sunday of Lent



**10am Live Holy Communion service from St Mary and All Saints, Dunsfold via Zoom.  
Celebrant: Reverend Ian Maslin**

**Click on the link below to join our service.**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2746581498?  
pwd=WjllcHBydjdOOEEzZ2tBVdNyMFBaZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2746581498?pwd=WjllcHBydjdOOEEzZ2tBVdNyMFBaZz09)

**Readings and collect for Mothering Sunday.**

**OT: Jeremiah 31: 31-34  
NT: Hebrews 5: 5-10  
GOSPEL: John 12: 20-33**

Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Lent: Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## HOW WE CAN TRULY STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH IN ACTION THIS LENT

Our Lent Appeal for the Bishop of Guildford's Communities Fund continues and with another fortnight to go our running total stands at £2137.50 including the Gift Aid contributions we've been able to claim.

That's a very healthy total but we hope we can raise even more for a very deserving cause. There are three video clips online at our church website, [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/8124](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/8124) where you can hear Bishop Andrew Watson speak to some of the recipients of grants from his fund.

One of the larger donations of £5,000 last year went to the Molesey Churches' night shelter. Reverend Alex Munro, the pioneer curate at St Peter's Molesey, explained: "A couple of winters ago we found that we had rough sleepers in the bike shelter outside St Peter's Church. Having spoken to colleagues at other local churches they were also finding that homeless people were coming for support from the church.

"So we thought let's invite them in to a safe space inside our church buildings, let's provide them with a hot meal, a warm welcome and a safe space to sleep.

"The pandemic has been a challenging time financially for so many people. Those who've found themselves with nowhere to sleep, with all the challenges around communal spaces, means we've had to find alternative solutions. Working with the local councils we've found individual pods where they can sleep, be provided with their meals and have bathroom facilities.

"At the moment we have seven different (individual) pods for homeless people within our facility."

Alex added: "It's been really important to provide a Covid-secure environment. Volunteers are providing incredible hot meals and the help our guests need."

If you want to make a donation you can send a cheque to our treasurer John Gray. Please make your cheque payable to Dunsfold PCC and write on the back Lent Appeal. John's address is The Old Reading Room, The Common, Dunsfold, GU8 4LL. Or you can make a direct bank transfer to our church account with the reference: Lent Appeal.

The details are: Dunsfold PCC. Sort code: 30-94-41.  
Account number: 01828639

## DEAD SEA SCROLLS? MIND YOUR NUTS

The discovery of 20 biblical fragments in the Judean Desert was rightly acclaimed in The Times this week. And it prompted a recollection of an article filed by the late Times journalist Philip Howard.

Howard dictated his copy from a phone box. It was a bad line and, perhaps, followed a good lunch so some of his words were misheard by the copy-taker. Next day readers discovered the stunning news about something called the "Dead Sea Squirrels."



## REVEREND IAN MASLIN ON HOW JESUS GUIDES US TO OUR BELIEF IN ETERNAL LIFE

**Rather surprisingly in the passage we see that Jesus had no time for sentimental notions about human life. He knew all its reality. According to the Gospel writers, He was aware that His own life was going to be cut short.**

The stance He took, the things He did, the people He met and talked to, His outspoken attacks on the religious and political authorities alike, all these things combined to make it certain that He would not be allowed to live into old age.

In John's Gospel in particular, we find Him trying to break through the disciple's denial and misunderstanding, to prepare them for His death and what it will mean.

If we look around us now, we can see the signs of spring all around us; Creation's way of introducing us to rebirth and resurrection. Jesus and the disciples lived close to nature; some were farmers, some were fishermen. They knew the cycles of nature; they knew how powerless humans can be in the face of nature's insistence.

So, Jesus turns to Nature for a metaphor to try and help them understand.

He speaks of a single grain. Held in the hand it is useless; it needs to be put into the ground where it breaks down as if it were dead.

From that death, life grows, a plant with many grains that can be used for food. Jesus is trying to explain that this is what His death is all about.

His affect on the world will be limited while He remains alive. But from His death will come new life for all the world.

This is why He is not trying to avoid death. He knows that true life, for Him and for those who come after Him, only comes on the other side of death.

Jesus is not just speaking of Himself. He talks, too, about His followers needing to be ready to lose their lives in order to gain life.

Being afraid of death, trying to delay it at all costs, trying to defeat the signs of ageing, all these things preoccupy people.

The obsession with preserving our lives, as they are, prevents us from focusing on the kind of life that really matters, life that is full and generous and truthful.

We, understandably, mostly take the road of avoidance, we try to forget about death until we can no longer avoid it.

We cling on to youth and beauty and a hope that cures will be found for anything that might kill us.

It is hard to face up to death, both our own and those we love, and our society does not help us.

We live with a nagging fear, buried deep inside us, which we push away rather than face up to.

But facing up to it, Jesus suggests, is the way to real life, in which we know our limitations and can be honest about them, and not be afraid to take risks for the sake of love and truth.

The result, according to our Gospel reading, is worth it. The result is eternal life.

Amen.

## SAFEGUARDING IN YOUR CHURCH

We take safeguarding seriously in Dunsfold Church. If you have any concerns or information you wish to pass on please contact our safeguarding officer, Hazel Wiltshire on 01403 753847 or email her at [hazelwiltshire@talktalk.net](mailto:hazelwiltshire@talktalk.net)

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**CHURCH:** We pray for The Cathedral Church of the Holy Spirit, Guildford, the clergy, staff and the thousands of visitors who attend every year.

**WORLD:** Christians in Iraq that their faith and right to worship may be respected following the recent visit by the Pope.

**THE SICK:** Amanda and Hugh, Tim Bailey, Michael Burt, Sarah Godwin, Jan and Mark Knott, Sally Rivett, Sue Simper, Jacky Williams, Alli, Judy Bolt, Sue and Dennis Evans, Sami Bennewith, Lizzy Lavery.

**THE DEPARTED:** John Davies

## DUNSFOLD CHURCH IN ACTION

**Our commitment to Dunsfold Church in Action has never wavered and while life has become a little easier than in the first lockdown members of the church community are still helping the less mobile around the parish.**

**But we have been asked to reproduce the list of first responders you can call on for assistance. It might be for shopping or to help you fulfil a medical appointment. It may even be that someone feels lonely and isolated. We are here to help.**

**If you need help don't hesitate to call:  
Rev Ian Maslin (priest in charge) 200048  
Susie Maslin 200048  
Sheila Jones (churchwarden) 200204  
Jan Richardson (churchwarden) 200519  
Pam and David Walker 201140**

## THE LAST WORD...

**WILLIAM BLAKE (1757-1827): Poet, painter and printmaker**

"To see a world in a grain of sand  
And a heaven in a wild flower,  
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand  
And eternity in an hour."



From Auguries of Innocence

