

Littlehampton United Church



March 2025

Newsletter

Greetings to All

Yesterday was Pancake Day, or, if you prefer, Shrove Tuesday; which means we are now in the period of Lent . Traditionally a time within the church's year for self examination. It is based on the period of time that Jesus spent in the wilderness undergoing temptation (Luke 4, verses 1—13). The image is one of retreat from our everyday preoccupations in order to take stock of the direction of our lives. Lent has become associated with the idea of 'giving things up' for the good of our souls. Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday or Pancake day being the prelude to a sombre time of fasting, lasting until Holy week.

Retreating into some form of private piety might be a helpful experience in the development of our individual faith but I cannot do this in isolation of the problems facing the world today. At our services we regularly pray for the poor, the dispossessed, refugees, victims of crime..... the list goes on and on. We cannot ignore the disturbing challenges of the world.

So let us consider the period of Lent as an opportunity to explore what is the nature of the Kingdom of God on earth; and to try to discern, amid various tempting strategies, how we are called to work for it .

"Give us clear eyes to see the world as it is

And ourselves and all people as we are;

But give us hope to go on believing

In what you intend us all to be. "

Prayer by John de Gruchy, Text inspired by Janet Morley in "Bread of Tomorrow".



The Lenten Cross will be in our church on Friday mornings during Lent and in the foyer. On Maundy Thursday we plan to take it to St Andrew's ready for decorating on Easter Sunday.

Chris

Preachers and services in March

Sunday services will be led by Trinity Church under the leadership of Martin Garratt

Note: Meet in the coffee lounge from 10.00am for tea/coffee. Service commences at 10.30am

Friday services are mainly be taken by Chris Azzaro, Norman Croft or Nigel Stapley

The Friday morning service starts at 10.30am and will last for about 40minutes. Tea/Coffee is available before and after the service. Donations for the refreshments support the Feeding Programme at Unity School, Mombasa.

Friday 7th March	Chris Azzaro
Friday 14th March	Chris Azzaro
Friday 21st March	Nigel Stapley
Friday 28th March	Norman Croft
Friday 4th April	Chris Azzaro

Friday 11th April to be confirmed

Friday 18th April Good Friday Walk of Witness. 25th April Norman Croft

Sunday services at St Andrew's URC commence at 10.30am, refreshments follow the service.

Other Dates for your diary:

Church Meeting *To be confirmed.* Sunday 6th April following the morning service at St Andrew's.

Maundy Thursday 7.30pm Tenebrae service at St Andrew's.

Good Friday Walk of Witness; Meet at St Mary's Church and progress through the High Street, ending at No 1 High Street.

Friends of the Mombasa Children

Volunteers will be selling goods at the **Charity Market Stall** (Outside Sainsburys) on 28th March. Between 9.00am and 3.00pm Offers of help will be welcome, and if you are around at 8.00am, help setting up tables would be most welcome.

Sale of Everything at Rustington Methodist Church Saturday 5th April 10.00am—1.00pm

We will be serving Hot Cross Buns and refreshments at the end of the walk of witness on Good Friday 18th April.

Offers of help at any of these events will be welcome.