



## Parish Mission Statement

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind...and your neighbour as yourself. Matthew 22:37-38

## Sunday Podcasts

of Sunday Morning Services are available on YouTube after the service.

## A time to speak

Parish Podcast on the YouTube channel.

## Quotes

Life is wasted if we do not grasp the glory of the cross, cherish it for the treasure that it is, and cleave to it as the highest price of every pleasure and the deepest comfort in every pain. What was once foolishness to us - a crucified God - must become our wisdom and our power and our only boast in this world.

*John Piper, Don't Waste Your Life*

Even on the cross He did not hide Himself from sight; rather, He made all creation witness to the presence of its Maker.

*St. Athanasius, On the Incarnation*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

First I would like to confirm that we will be resuming church services at 10.30am on Palm Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March with Morning Prayer. As I explained last year we will continue with that form of service until we are able once again to all meet as a Church family when we can share Holy Communion together.

With regards to Holy Week there will again be no Good Friday Service in Church but I will make sure that something will be available online so that we can think and meditate on Christ's death together.

Please note that If you wish to be present at this or future services, you will need to contact Leighton Francis **directly** in advance. Numbers must continue to be limited because of the need for social distancing. Leighton can be contacted on 07914526977 or by email at [leightonfrancis@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:leightonfrancis@yahoo.co.uk).

Please don't assume that because you regularly attended last year that you don't need to inform him as we are starting from scratch.

Secondly, although it is encouraging to see more and more people being vaccinated - Hazel and I have had our first jabs - this is not a time for complacency. We are not out of the woods yet and there is always, we are told, a danger of a third wave. And so we will continue to follow closely the Welsh Government and Church in Wales guidelines and be the good citizens the Bible teaches us to be. As St. Paul writes in one of his letters:

*"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves" (Romans 13:1-2).*

Meanwhile please continue to pray for Boris Johnson, Mark Drakeford and their respective governments for the wisdom and grace to continue to guide us through this. As we see on the news this is a virulent and persistent virus which is not going to go away easily. And so let us do what St. Paul again tells us to do in his first letter to Timothy:

*"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour" (1 Timothy 2:1-3).*

So let us do our duty as Christians and continue to do all we can to support the Government, the NHS and one another.

God bless and keep safe

Mark

## A true story

I heard the other day about a religious instruction class in one school where they were learning about the story of Goliath. The teacher asked the class who killed Goliath. And to help them she put up the letters I and D preceded by three blanks and asked the children what were the first three letters. One of the pupils, a boy aged eight, stuck up his hand and said the first three letters were COV.

This is a true story and just goes to demonstrate the impact of the pandemic is having on today's children.

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE ON THE PARISH WEBSITE:**

[www.stjameswanssea.org.uk](http://www.stjameswanssea.org.uk)

**St. James Sunday Services on YouTube are available here:**  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOnVea6r8mEr\\_KnOkSv6qQA/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOnVea6r8mEr_KnOkSv6qQA/)

**The Vicar's New blog can be found here: [sonofzebedee.blogspot.com](http://sonofzebedee.blogspot.com)**

## Passiontide

Traditionally the final two weeks of Lent are used as an immediate preparation for the sorrowful events of the Easter drama. It is a period of time to focus more and more on the Passion and death of Jesus and so accompany him on his way to Calvary.

For several centuries the Fifth Sunday of Lent (this coming Sunday) was known as Passion Sunday and marked the beginning of a special sub-season called Passiontide, which extended up until Holy Saturday. During this time the Church's liturgy became more sombre and a sorrowful mood is reflected in the various practices that occur in the liturgy.

The most obvious example of a more sombre mood in some churches is the veiling of statues and images, as well as crosses. Although the liturgical colour is purple, this changes to red for Palm Sunday and black on Good Friday. On the previous evening—Maundy Thursday—all objects are removed from the sanctuary leaving everything bare, including the altar. This 'absence' prepares us for the sense of absence that Christ experienced on the cross where he cries out: "My God why have you forsaken me". It also reflects the absence of the disciples as they all forsook him and fled. All these things together heighten the emotional sense so death, suffering and hopelessness all come together on 'Good' Friday.

## Five Questions

1. **What is your name?** Lili S'Tsoi
2. **Where were you born?** Harbin in China.
3. **What is your earliest memory of Church?**  
When Chung and I lived in London a friend invited us to go with her and her husband to St Stephen's Church. We liked it and carried on going.
4. **When did the Christian faith become important to you?** Later a couple who had been Christian mission workers in Taiwan and who had come to London to see their daughter was introduced to us by our friend. They shared their faith with us and I came to believe in Jesus because the Holy Spirit touched my heart.
5. **What is your favourite Bible verse/s and why?** **your favourite Bible verse/s and why?** Some of my favourite verses are from Psalm 139: *"13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, 17 How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! 18 Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand - when I awake, I am still with you."*  
This tells me that God created me and loves me.



## Prayer

The other day my wife and I were discussing formal and informal prayer. I said, "I do some of my best praying while I'm driving." And my wife agreed, saying, "I, too, do my best praying while you're driving."

### Contact information

For all contributions to the newsletter please email the Vicar, Mark, at [stjamesuplands1@googlemail.com](mailto:stjamesuplands1@googlemail.com)  
Home phone number: (01792) 470532  
The Parish Website can be found at: [www.stjameswansea.org.uk](http://www.stjameswansea.org.uk)

## Fifth Sunday in Lent - Passion Sunday

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. Amen.

## Readings

Jeremiah 31:31 - 34;  
Psalm 51:1 - 13;  
Hebrews 5:5 - 10;  
John 12:20 - 33

## Burial or cremation?

You really only have two choices for the final curtain. Burial or cremation.

If you're cremated, you will be making an ash of yourself. If you are buried, as petroleum comes from fossilised bones, you will be making a fuel of yourself!

## Mary and who?

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?" One child answered, "Mary". The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?" A little kid said, "Verge". Confused the teacher asked, "Where did you get that from?" The kid said, "Well you know how they are always talking about 'Verge and Mary.'"

## Grace

When a person works an eight-hour day and receives a fair day's pay for his time, that is a wage.

When a person competes with an opponent and receives a trophy for his performance, that is a prize.

When a person receives appropriate recognition for his long service or high achievements, that is an award.

But when a person is not capable of earning a wage, can win no prize, and deserves no award - yet receives such a gift anyway - that is a good picture of God's unmerited favour. This is what we mean when we talk about the grace of God.

G.W.Knight

**The purpose of Christianity** is not to avoid difficulty, but to produce a character adequate to meet it when it comes. It does not make life easy; rather it tries to make us great enough for life.

James L. Christenson