

St James' Church, Uplands

NEWSLETTER - 27th March 2022

This Sunday - Mothering Sunday

Sarah and Ian will lead our worship this morning. As we think of mothers' care, we think of how God cares for us. We hear readings about mothering and family in crisis situations, and think of current crises too. Children will be involved in the first part of the service, and then there will be activities in the children's area after the talk.



'Life in the Spirit': Lent Sessions with Brunswick Methodist

We really enjoyed our session with Bishop John last Wednesday - lots of laughs and insights as he shared his journey with us. **This Wednesday at 7pm in the church** we welcome Mandy Bayton, Bishop's Officer for Outreach who is a lovely and inspiring speaker. Mandy previously led setting up foodbanks and night shelters in Swansea, and her talk is 'Community in the Spirit'.

Nicholaston House retreat - Saturday 21st May

We're looking forward to a day retreat to the beautiful Nicholaston House! Full price is £38 per person, which includes a hot dinner. If you're able to pay full price, please do - but we acknowledge the cost is steep. We're very keen for all possible to attend so will happily subsidise based on what you feel you can pay, and we will subsidise children's places. There will be excellent children's activities on the day led by Rachel Bunting and Sian Parkhouse, children's workers for the diocese. More details of theme for the day and leaders to be confirmed!

Electoral Roll and Vestry Meeting

If you haven't yet done so, please complete an electoral roll form at the back - many of our regulars have not yet done so. If you have made St James your spiritual home, even if you are likely to move away within a year or two, or if you don't come every week, please do complete a form. They need to be done by 11th April.

FAN - Friends and Neighbours group

FAN groups are a friendly and relaxed way for local people and those from around the world to meet, talk and listen to each other. One is going to be set up as part of Swansea Asylum Seeker Support drop in on Friday evenings at St James, and Philippa from the FAN group is very keen for people from the church to be involved in this. If you'd like to explore it, she will be running a taster session on Wednesday 6th April at 11.30 in the church hall. It sounds great!

Covid restrictions

Compulsory Covid restrictions have eased. It is not compulsory to wear a mask, but we acknowledge that many people will prefer to do so, especially with cases again on the rise. We have taken away tape in the central areas of the church, but left it up on the side aisles so if you prefer to maintain physical distancing, please sit there. It is intended that we will be able to reinstate the communion cup on Easter Day.

Lent and Eco Church

This Lent we will be encouraging various ideas to encourage us to live in a more sustainable way. 'Loving our neighbour' includes loving those on the other side of the world, and those generations yet to come who will inherit our choices.

Week 1: Read Richard Foster's 'Simplicity' - <https://hnp.org/userfiles/Simplicity.pdf> .

Week 2: Reduce meat consumption for Lent, with the aim of sustaining it afterwards.

Week 3: Reduce car use.

Week 4: **Avoid fast fashion**, which takes huge amounts of resources (energy, crops, water) to produce, causes appalling pollution, and uses exploitative labour. Buy less - buy second hand - buy quality and beauty which lasts - cultivate simplicity.

This week: St James this week

Wednesday 30th March	10.30am	Holy Communion, Parish Centre
Wednesday 30th March	7pm	Lent sessions, Mandy Bayton
Thursday 31st March	9.30am	Prayer Group, Parish Centre
Sunday 3rd April	10.30am	Passion Sunday service

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We thank you for our mothers (hymn before communion)

1. We thank you for our mothers,
O God of grace and love,
Who gave us life to serve you
And seek our home above;
To whom are given the pattern
Of daily love and care
In Mary's sweet devotion
Our Saviour's needs to bear.

2. For those whose hearts are aching
Today, we seek your grace:
For children who have never
Beheld their mother's face,
And those with only memories,
Too precious yet to fade:
And mothers who are grieving
For children who have strayed.

3. We pray that in our homes, Lord,
Our mother's love may stay
A strength and inspiration
For living each new day;
Their patience with our trials,
Their strength to guide our ways,
Their faithfulness through sorrow,
Their love through all our days.

4. Grant them, O loving Saviour,
A crown of joy above,
Their hearts renewed from heaven,
Indwelt by Jesus' love.
And here we join to bless them
With gratitude and prayer;
That they may see within us
The fruit of all their care.

Philip Hill 2001
Tune: (The church's one foundation)