

Next Wednesday, 22nd February we begin the Season of Lent with The Liturgy of Ash
Wednesday including the **Imposition of Ashes** for both parishes at **8pm, St Mark's Church** (Albert Road, SE25). For those unable to join us in the evening, you're invited to attend **(St Mark) School's Collective Worship complete with Imposition of Ashes, at (St Mark's) Church from 1.15pm.**

Lent may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness followed immediately on his baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter, as the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship for apostasy or serious faults. This history explains the **characteristic notes of Lent – self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added.**

Now is the healing time decreed
 for sins of heart and word and deed,
 when we in humble fear record
 the wrong that we have done the Lord.
 (Latin, before 12th century)

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in Christian faith, and as penitents prepared themselves, through fasting and penance, to be readmitted to communion, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which over forty days would remind them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan.

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the middle ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross.

Beginning Lent on the sixth Wednesday before Easter, Ash Wednesday, the forty days is counted continuously to the end of Holy Week (not including Sundays).

Churches are kept bare of flowers and decoration.

Gloria in excelsis is not used.

The Stations of the Cross is one of the many devotional exercises which **are used during Lent.**

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Our **Diocesan Secretary**, will be retiring in the summer. The role includes being the CEO of the Diocesan Board of Finance, the Secretary to the governance of the Diocese through Diocesan Synod and also the COO of the Diocese. Interested persons to contact David Loft, Director of HR for further details david.loft@southwark.anglican.org

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AGED 11-18 AND LIVE IN CROYDON?

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO BE HEARD

Croydon Citizens

Tuesday 21st February 2023
 4:30-6:30 pm at Woodside Baptist Church

Snacks and pancakes will be served!

Register at bit.ly/CroySafe

Croydon Citizens is working with the Council to develop a new **Youth Safety Strategy**: a plan to make sure that young people feel safer on the streets and in school.

This is where YOU come in!

We need to **hear your stories**. Let's celebrate what's making us feel safe, and shine a light on what needs improving. **Young people are the real experts**: no one knows more about the situation than you and your friends. So **come along and share your story**.

Welcome to the United Benefice of South Norwood Holy Innocents and St. Mark

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



19th February 2023

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Roxanne F. Eversley
Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley
Reader: Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds

THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

8.00am BCP Mass (St. Mark)

10am Parish Mass (both Parishes)

Exodus 24.12-18 * Psalm 2 or 99 * 2Peter 1.16-21 * Matthew 17.1-9

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

CHURCH NOTICES

Pastoral Care: Mother Roxanne is available on Tel. 020 8916 1830 or 07723 038215 or

mtrroxxanne@gmail.com N/A on Mondays; Mother Susan is contactable on 07890 780572, N/A on Fridays.
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We pray: for Archbishops Justin and Stephen; **for our** Bishops in this diocese - Christopher, Rosemarie, Karowei and Martin.

For the Bishops, clergy and people in our link Dioceses in Zimbabwe; and **for** the Bishops, priests, deacons and people of the Anglican Church of Rwanda (Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda).

For Eltham and Mottingham Deanery Catherine Shelley (Area Dean); Caroline Risdon (Assistant Area Dean); Martin North (Lay Chair); Sue Charles (PTO); John Francis Friendship (PTO); William David (PTO); Christine Latham (PTO); Peter Charles (Deanery Reader)

For the sick – Richard, Jennifer & Reuben, Rose, Caroline, Susan, Pauline, Sigi, Marie-Gabrielle, Colin (Castle), Carmen, Rodney, Marina, Linda, Fred, Peter (McGill), Doreen (Macan) and Alec.

For the bereaved – the Onyiaike, Irono and Eckhardt families.

For the recently departed – Fidelia Onyiaike and Rachel Eckhardt. **Years Mind.**

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If you were still able to provide items from the list below to Nightwatch, they can be dropped off any Sunday after 8.30pm to:

**Friends Meeting House,
 60 Park Lane, Croydon CR0 1JE.**

Tinned meat soup; Jars of pasta sauce; Packets of pasta; Tinned meals; Pot noodles; Individual care packages typically including a few masks, hand gel, soap, deodorant; Pack of tissues; Drinks - water or cans; blankets and sleeping bags, coats, hats, scarves, gloves and new underwear.