



All Saints' and St. Luke's Parish Page

Dear Friends,

Recent events in Egypt underline how unpredictable and uncertain life can be, whether on a large international scale or on the smaller personal scale. Such uncertainties in life can have far reaching consequences for those concerned. Closer to home are the anxieties about Government fiscal policies and large scale job losses, particularly in the public sector. Some of you reading this will no doubt be only too aware of such anxieties and the possible implications.

Christ was always a realist in his teaching. He warned his followers about the uncertainty of life here on earth, that it was never an 'easy ride', and that care was needed at every twist and turn of the proverbial road.

Despite life's unpredictable nature, Jesus offers the security of faith, of the possibility of knowing that God is utterly reliable and trustworthy, and that we can, as human beings, be assured of God's care and provision, even for the basic necessities of everyday living like food and clothes.

However, Jesus also teaches that we must be ready to put first things first. No selfish personal greed or gain here – we are to seek first God's kingdom and understand what he requires of us – then things begin to slip into place. Human beings were never meant to be independent beings on the sea of life; *interdependent* perhaps, with the rest of life; but one step further – having a conscious dependence on our Creator, upon God our provider, who alone orders the comings and goings of people and nations.

Faith is no easy option! Faith requires guts and courage, a clear mind and a steady heart. Jesus' first followers were men, tough men, hard working men, 'rough-around-the-edges' men - with a love for life! Women and children came too. All are welcome on this path of faith. God calls us to work it out together - with him. Welcome to Lent and Life!

With my warmest best wishes,

Revd Richard Zair

Prayer for the Month:

Dear God,
In the changes and uncertainties of life, please help me to trust You. Please strengthen my faith, and help me to put my hand in Yours for the journey ahead. Help me to know Jesus as my constant friend and companion, as well as my Saviour and Lord. In His name. Amen.

March calendar:

Saturday 5th March – Special Men's Breakfast

This month we will be joining with Kingston Bagpuize for a joint Men's Breakfast at Carswell Golf Club House (8.30 am) – the speaker will be Stephen Sizer, talking on the Middle East. For further information or to arrange a lift please contact James Allan on 391373. (If possible, please confirm attendance by 1 March.)

Wednesday 9th March – Ash Wednesday Communion at 7.30 pm. This service will be held at St. Mary's, Shippon and will be a joint service between our two parishes. All welcome.

Lent courses: Various lent courses are being run – both at All Saints' and in the Abingdon churches. Lent is an important time of year in the churches calendar, for many it is a time of reflection and "taking stock". If you are interested in using this time to explore your own faith, please contact Richard for further details.

Parish People:

On 28 January, the funerals of June Amey and Cecilia Dyer took place at All Saints'. We extend our sympathy to their family and friends.

Regular services:

Sundays at All Saints': 10am and 6pm
(8am first Sunday)

Wednesdays: 10.30am Holy Communion
at Duffield Place

Sundays at St. Luke's: 10.30 am on the first Sunday of
each month.

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