



St Michael, Flixton

Loving God, Sharing Faith, Serving All

www.stmichaelflixton.org



Flixton ...
Church ...

Welcome to our church - everyone is welcome !

Message from The Church Warden:

This year the Christian season of Lent coincides with the holy month of Ramadan in the Islamic calendar, which is a Muslim period of prayer, reflection, community and fasting. This is strikingly similar to Christianity and the 3 tenets of Lent, prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Years ago, a Muslim colleague told me how another Muslim colleague had given a hefty donation to the Iman in order to avoid the need for the strict observance of fasting between sunrise and sunset which is particularly challenging when Ramadan falls within the summer months. I had no reason to disbelieve my colleague as he told me this story every Ramadan.

So, I pondered on the idea of approaching St Michael's clergy and wondered what would be their reaction. Could I throw a hefty donation to the "Revs" and carry on indulging in my pleasures? But what would this really achieve? But what would this really achieve? St Michael's may benefit in the short term, but nothing would be really gained on a personal level. Lent is an excellent opportunity to take time to reflect, pray and follow Christ's example of his time in the wilderness. In a world that is becoming increasingly troubled and frightening, what better time to take the chance to step back, embrace Lent and seize this period to focus on life's simple joys and small signs of hope that can be seen all around us? This may be a long walk soaking in beautiful views, the new shoots of spring flowers such as crocuses and daffodils, the sound of a child's laughter on discovering something amusing for the first time or a look of unconditional love from a faithful dog. By truly reflecting on what faith and Christianity gives us on a personal level and what love and hope it can bring to our lives, surely that love and hope will spread to those who are in need, just as a drop of water causes ripples in the pond. So sorry, Huw, no large amounts for the coffers from me just yet! I do hope all of you will be able to capture this extraordinary season in our Christian calendar in your own way and walk towards Easter with hope and love in your hearts and minds. *Joanne*

Upcoming Events – Holy Week and Easter - please join in as much as you can !

Sunday March 30 th Mothering Sunday	Eucharist 10.15am
Sunday April 6 th Passion Sunday	Eucharist 9 am Orchard Service (all-age) 10.15am
Sunday April 13 th Palm Sunday	Eucharist 10.15 am with Dramatic Reading of the Gospel
Tuesday April 15 th Healing Service	7.30pm
Thursday April 17 th Maunday Thursday	Eucharist 7.30pm with washing of feet
Friday April 18 th Good Friday	Family service 10.15am Last Hour on the Cross 2pm
Saturday April 19 th Easter Eve Easter Vigil	Eucharist 8pm renewal of Baptismal Vows
Sunday April 20 th Easter Day	Eucharist 10.15am and Lighting of the new fire

Regular Events: (term time)

Monday: Family Church 3.40pm in church – all welcome

First Wednesday of month: Walking group 9.30 am at the Croft, Poetry Group at 7pm, and 8pm Pub church in the Church inn – a Christian presence in the pub – **all welcome**.

Third Thursday of month 2pm Mothers' Union in the Croft





Chethams concert - please join us to enjoy the talents of these fabulous young musicians on eeds **April 2nd** at 7pm in church. Entrance free but donations welcome for church funds. All are welcome!



AGM (Annual General meeting) Sunday 11th May aafterthe 10.15am service - this is the meeting when we elect new church wardens (leaders) and our PCC – Parish Church Council – please attend if you possibly can.

LENT LEARNING GROUP - this year we are discussing Feasting and fasting and ending with a meditative worship. This is an informal group to discuss our spiritual journeys in relaxed way. Please join us in the side chapel Thursday at 6pm.