

St Paul's Knightsbridge

The Parish Office
32a Wilton Place
London SW1X 8SH

Phone 020 7201 9999

E-mail info@spkb.org

The Vicar

Fr Alan Gyle
020 7201 9999

Honorary Assistant Clergy:

The Rt Reverend Michael Colclough
The Very Reverend Victor Stock
The Venerable Nick Mercer
The Revd Prebendary Bill Scott

SERVICES THIS

WEEK:

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

4 March 2018

Family Mass at 09:00 (AG)

Solemn Eucharist at 11:00

Preacher: Fr Bill Scott

Mon 26 February: Feria of Lent

Low Mass at 18:00 (+MC)

Tues 27 February: Feria of Lent

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Low Mass at 18:00 (NM)

Wed 28 February: Perpeua and Felicity

Morning Prayer at 09:00

The 'Big' Wednesday evening Service at 19:00 (+MC and AG), followed by supper

Thu 1 March: Feria of Lent

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Low Mass at 18:00 (WS)

Fri 2 March: Feria of Lent

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Low Mass at 18:00 (AG)

Sat 3 March: Feria of Lent

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Quiet Day from 10:30 – 15:30 with Mass at 12:00 (AG)

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

4 March 2018

Family Mass at 09:00 (AG)

Solemn Eucharist at 11:00

Preacher: Fr Alan Gyle

Man proposes...



It was in April 2010 that mount Eyjafjallajökull, a volcano in Iceland, erupted spewing vast amounts of ash in the the atmosphere. You may vaguely remember chaos that ensued as flights across Europe were grounded for fear that the coarse volcanic dust would interfere with the engines of planes at 30,000 feet, ferrying people from one country to another. It was one of those rare times when nature reminded us of our finitude – and that for all our technical sophistication, we live not as masters of the universe but as mere creatures in a powerful system that ultimately can trump our mastery of it.

So it has been in these past days as the 'Beast from the East' overwhelmed our more usually balmy winter with a taste of what it is like in winter in North Eastern Europe: a deep freeze, drifting snow and red warnings not to travel at all, even if it felt important to do so. I'm told that my nephew, working from home but emboldened to drive across to meet a friend in a neighbouring town, was stopped by Scottish Borders Police and given a severe talking to! We have all been reminded that our sense that we are 'in charge' is largely an illusion.

In a sense, this is good Lenten stuff. Material for reflection. In these holy days our primary task is to return to a truer sense of ourselves. We so quickly limit the ambition of these days into a rather silly game of bartering with God over chocolate and alcohol – but our real task is to set aside not idle pleasures but our profound delusions and fantasies about ourselves. In Lent we are to return to a sense of our 'creatureliness' (the Bible roots our sense of ourselves in the fact of our creation by God)

and of our 'finitude' (the Bible also talks, from the story of the Tower of Babel onwards, about our vaulting ambition to behave as if we are gods and rulers) – an invitation to reset our sense of who we truly are in relation to God and each other, reining in those omnipotent fantasies that see us so often try to exercise an inappropriate and unhelpful control over others and our world.

The picture above is *not* of the events of the last week! As far as I know, polar bears weren't part of our problems. The painting is by Sir Edwin Landeer, inspired by 'Franklin's Lost Expedition of 1845,' an ill-fated exploration of the Northwest Passage in two ships, HMS Erebus and HMS Terror in the great Victorian age of discovery. The title of the painting? '*Man proposes: God disposes.*' Of course Landeer's painting is not only a visual representation of the events of 1845 as he imagined them; it is widely interpreted as a commentary on British triumphalism and imperialism in the 1840s. But the theme is eternal – and has to do with individual and collective delusion. We fall into imagining we are much more powerful than we are – and often our resulting boldness is folly.

The title of the painting is a translation of the Latin phrase, *Homo proponit, sed Deus disponit*, from the Christian spiritual classic, *The Imitation of Christ* by the 15th century writer Thomas a Kempis. *Man proposes: God disposes.* This is not to say that God sends us storms and catastrophies! But it is to say that when they come our way, we might notice again our finitude and return to our God-given senses!
Fr Alan Gyle

Today: Sunday 4th March

The inclement weather earlier in the week has resulted in the **postponement** of the 9 o'clock brunch and the **cancellation** of the Parish Lunch and of this afternoon's free concert.

Who's who this Sunday At 09:00

Celebrant: Fr Alan Gyle

At 11:00

Celebrant: Fr Nick Mercer
Deacon: Fr Bill Scott
Subdeacon:
Reader: Caroline Docker
Preacher: Fr Bill Scott
Intercessor: sung by the cantor

The Music Dinner

This years highly-popular Music Dinner will take place on **Monday 14th May at 7pm for 7:30pm**. Black tie or equivalent – tables of 10, or individual tickets – a ticket cost of £50 with an additional (gift-aidable) donation of £150 means £200pp or £2,000 per table. Please speak to John Tweddle for more information.

Revision of the Electoral Roll

We are required by Church law to undertake a formal process of revision of our 'membership' on an annual basis. If you have been a regular worshipper for more than six months and are not currently on the Electoral Roll, or if you are a regular worshipper living in the parish, please speak to one of the Churchwardens or Clergy – or to the parish's Electoral Roll Officer, Charlotte Wolseley Brinton. Copies of application forms are available at the back of church.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

A reminder that our APCM will take place after Easter on Sunday 15th April, at 12:20 after the Solemn Eucharist. All are warmly invited to attend.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.spkb.org

AND REGISTER FOR OUR WEEKLY EMAIL

Keeping a good Lent...



Copies of the Church of England's little prayer handbook **LOVE LIFE, LIVE LENT**, with a reflection for each day of the Lenten Season were handed out on Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday to members of the congregations. Some copies are still available – please help yourself. If you were given a copy, but have decided it is not for you, perhaps you'll return it to the table at the back of church for reuse by someone else?

There is also an excellent app for your iPhone or tablet which delivers the same material in electronic form. Visit your app store to download it.

THIS COMING SATURDAY: The Parish Quiet Day has been rescheduled to **Saturday 10th March**. It will refer to the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2018 (Luigi Gioia's **SAY IT TO GOD**). Apologies to those who were inconvenienced yesterday by the day's postponement. Those who registered may collect their copies of the book from the Parish Office. Any other who would like to attend on the 10th March should ring Claire in the Parish Office on 020 7201 9994. The charge for the day – including lunch and a copy of the book – is £20.

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" — Matthew 25:40

The Diocese of London's Lent Appeal this year is a continuation of the appeal launched in Advent, **TRACKLING HOMELESSNESS TOGETHER**. We are seeking to support 15 carefully chosen homeless projects across the city. We, who have so much, need to share of our plenty. Please hand your **generous** donation to one of the Churchwardens.

Please pray for...

We pray this week for:

All Christian people embarked upon the keeping of a good Lent;
Sarah, Bishop-Elect, and for +Pete Broadbent our acting Bishop;
for Lorna Gradden and John Tweddle, our Churchwardens;
for our staff team;
for those who live within the parish; for all the housebound;

Among the sick and those in need:

John King; Ingrid Gray; Gregoriy Galitzine; Maya Habboush; Nora Shishkovskaya; Federico Fernandes; Alan Bennyworth; John and Julia.

And we pray for the recently departed:

Florence Ellis
Gerald Bridgeman.

And we pray for those whose year's mind falls at this time:

William Humbert 4th March
Mark Johnstone 5th March
Audrey Simons 5th March
Olive Ferdinando 5th March
Ronnie Lindsay 6th March
Joan Kelly 7th March
Joy Linton Smith 7th March
William Courtauld 7th March
Ross Benson 8th March
Richard Austin Butler 8th March

Sunday 11th March from 18:00-20:00

A Lenten Evening Seminar with Fr Alan Gyle

Living with difference: Christian Issues of exclusion and embrace in the Vicarage, supper included: £10 (*limited places available – please book through the Parish Website*)

Forthcoming Trips and Visits

Please visit the parish website for more information:

Rycote Chapel

Saturday 28th April from 09:00-18:00 – almost fully booked

Parish Trip to The Rycote Chapel in Oxfordshire, An historic fifteenth-century Chapel with exquisitely carved and painted woodwork and many intriguing features, including two early seventeenth-century roofed pews and a musicians' gallery.

Berlin

Thursday 17th May (evening) – Sunday 20th May (after lunch) The Parish Trip to Berlin – almost fully booked

A three day study weekend looking at Berlin's 20th century's experience of division and reunification with Fr Alan Gyle and Roland Brunner

BOOKING NOW OPEN:

**Coventry Cathedral
Saturday 16th June from 08:00 – 18:00**



A visit to Basil Spence's remarkable 1960s Cathedral and to reflect on its distinctive ministry in the face of conflict. We will travel by train and enjoy a late lunch together after a tour and Eucharist.