

St John's News from the Pews – 9 March 2021

Dear friends,

Blessed is the one who considers the poor!

*In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him; the Lord protects him and keeps him alive;
he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies.
The Lord sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health.*

Psalm 41:1-3

Lent – A time for acts of generosity

Here we are in the middle of Lent. How it is going for you? My prayer is that God is blessing you through this reflective season. For myself, I have been thinking about a question that a number of people in the church across the globe have been asking recently - what if Lent could be about more than just giving up stuff? How about also responding with acts of generosity? After all, when we consider all that Jesus had granted to us, how can we fail to be generous to others?

Twin your vaccine

One way we can respond generously is by twinning our vaccine. We are so lucky that the vaccine programme in the UK is going so well. Many other people across the world are not so fortunate. So, this Lent, please consider making a donation equivalent to the cost of your vaccine. The Astra-Zeneca vaccine costs between £5 and £10 for two doses. Would you consider donating this much to enable someone, somewhere else in the world, to have the vaccine? A vicar colleague has set up a giving page to help us make donations:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/donatethecostofyourvaccine>

Mothering Sunday

Continuing this theme, as we cannot meet in church and distribute daffodils this year, Lisa and I have decided that we are going to instead mark Mothering Sunday at St John's by making a personal donation of £2 per lady who attends church to the Just Giving Vaccine page mentioned above. Happy Mothering Sunday to you all.

Last Sunday's Service

In case you missed the joyful all age service on Sunday, you can access it by clicking [here](#):



Coming up this week:

- Tue 9 Mar 8:00pm Compline online (Facebook only)
- Wed 10 Mar Various Home Groups
- Thu 11 Mar 8:00pm Celtic Prayer online (Facebook only)
- Sat 13 Mar 9:00am Church prayer meeting (using Zoom)
- Sat 13 Mar 10:30am Coffee and Chat (using Zoom)
- Sun 14 Mar 10:30am Zoom Sunday School (Please contact [Lisa](#) for details)
- Sun 14 Mar 10:30am Sunday Worship online on Facebook & YouTube followed by "Coffee and Chat" on Zoom.

How to connect with us online:

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell/live>

St John's

<http://www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk/>

YouTube

Accessed from home page of St John's web site

Zoom

Click <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6852951296> or, load Zoom and use Meeting ID: 685 295 1296 and Password: 816262

A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,

During the season of Lent, bring me closer to you.

*Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude,
so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life.*

*Help me to fast from those things that threaten well-being of body and soul
and remind me of the grace of simplicity*

*Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need
and, in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity*

*May this season be a grace-filled time
to rekindle my love for and faith in you.*

Amen.

With every blessing in Him,
Peter