



All Saints' weekly email: 2nd Sunday before Lent

Dear Friends,

For ancient Israelites the natural world was not benign. The creation account in Genesis promises toil and sweat as our lot; famine is commonplace; the sea is a threatening presence. Our first reading on Sunday is an alternative version of the creation story from the later Wisdom literature tradition, from Proverbs. Wisdom is a personal figure who reappears in Christian thought as The Word, made flesh in Jesus Christ. In Proverbs 8 the writer claims that Wisdom was present with God when he created the world (a claim familiar to us from John 1: 'He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being').

In Jewish scripture the figure of Wisdom comes from the Hellenistic period when Jewish culture and religion was interacting with those around it, paralleling the Greek figure of *Sophia*. A need was felt for an intermediate figure between a transcendent God and humankind which also took account of Greek philosophy and showed how it did not refute faith in the one God. John's development of the theology of the Word completed this understanding for Christians.

The passage injects a marvellously light touch into the process of creation. It shows us a designer enjoying the work in company with someone who expresses her approval of what is done by playing with it (I wrote about this a few weeks ago with reference to the tapestry over the High Altar at Notre Dame de France). There is no 'first cause' or 'unmoved mover' here and the presence of Wisdom and her especial delight in the human race ensure that the creation is far more than a machine that is left to run on its own once it has been made. The figure of Wisdom personifies God's unwearying care for the created order, and for the well-being of the human animal that can be so destructive of what God has made. Jesus is the enfleshment of this person in the Godhead: the Word of God is a person not a book; God is with us.

Fr Michael

Click on the following links for Sung Mass on SUNDAY at 11am:

[Propers for 2nd Sunday before Lent](#)

[YouTube link for live stream](#)

Tomorrow week, **Saturday 13th February**, we offer our monthly **Walsingham Devotion**: Rosary at 1130 and Mass of Our Lady at Noon.

On **Saturday 20th** we celebrate our **monthly Requiem**: please give names of those you'd like remembered this month to Fr Michael.



The flowers this week have been given by **Jack de Gruiter** in memory of **Robert Streit** whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

If you would like to have flowers in church to mark an anniversary or special occasion, please contact **Shawn Welby-Cooke** on 07988 287 663 or shawnwilbe@outlook.com

Prayer list

Prisoners and captives:

Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, Ismaeil Maghrebinejad, Nasrin Sotoudeh, Mussie Eyob, Maira Shabhaz.

The sick:

David Fettke, Joan Cooper, Vallery Tchukov, Sara Vice, Katherine Lee, Nicky Yeo, Lorna Smith, Beth Klausing, Hilary Porter, Bruce Ross-Smith, Benjamin Woolf, James Shrimpton, Tony Rodger, Rachel Pereira, Victor Sharp, Fr Michael Gudgeon, Chris and Carole Radley, Fr Harry Hodgetts, Rosemary Orr, Andrew Rodger, Martin Berka, Bishop Mano Rumlshah, Barbara Schiefer, David Aspenal, Margaret Feaviour, Sybil Priestnall, John Mather, Joan Anna SLG, Tim Little, Elizabeth Dennis, Lorna Sargaison, Phil Gibbs, Poppy Harris, Sam Ellis, Sheila Wood, Jennifer Spreckley, David Craig.

Those known to us recently departed:

Marguerita Moorcroft
Barbara June SLG *Pr*
Brian Wood
George Pulman
Elizabeth Day
Paul Sutherland
Graham Prowse
Ralph Spreckley
Audrey Williams

Anniversaries of death:

7th - Beatrice Reed, Jane Twinch, Dorothy Dent, Grahame James
8th - Bernard Anslow, Armored Griffiths, Robert Streit
9th - Joan Adams, Pamela Brett, Hazel Otway, Eileen Mann
10th - Margaret Booker, Diana Juniper, Caroline Farrer
11th - Phyllis Woodcock, Frank Walker *Pr*, Winifred Bloomer, Victoria Nettey
12th - Charlotte Druitt, Helen Buck, Sister Barbara of All Saints
13th - Charles Lethbridge, Nellie Chapman



Supporting All Saints

Parish Giving Scheme:

Thank you to all who give in various ways to support the work of All Saints. While we regret that the previous online registration facility for the Parish Giving Scheme is no longer available, our Treasurer recommends that this remains our preferred option for giving: it allows contributions to be anonymous and deals with GiftAid, which saves our office a lot of time.

It is not possible at present to register for the scheme online.

There are two options, for each of which you need the parish code: 230623075.

You can join the scheme either

by phoning 0333 002 1271 and quoting the code

or

by requesting a form from the parish office.

The following link will take you to a page which explains how the scheme works:

www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/how-it-works

Donations for general Church purposes: To give by BACS please use the following details, advising the Administrator to collect Gift Aid:

PCC All Saints (*Charity # 1132895*)

Sort Code 60-09-15

A/C 04559452

Parish Legacy Policy We are always delighted to hear from anyone who wants to support us with a donation. Our PCC Legacy Policy encourages people to leave bequests specifically to one of our two related charities to be used for purposes of lasting value (rather than day to day costs):

All Saints Choir & Music Trust (Charity # 802994) or

The All Saints Foundation (Charity # 273390).