

## **NEXT SUNDAY - 28th January 2018**

**10am** Open Door with children's and young people's groups

### **THIS WEEK**

Mon	8pm	Standing Committee meeting
Tues	9.15am	Staff prayers and meeting
	7.30pm	Connect group with Mavis
	7.30pm	Connect group with Vera
	8pm	Nicholas and Davi meeting with Iranian Church's Youth Leaders
Thurs	9.15am	Staff prayers
	8pm	Connect group with Nicholas
Fri	9.30am	St Paul's Toddler group

### **OUR MISSION ACTION PLAN (MAP) PRIORITIES**

The PCC (our leadership team) has agreed four priorities on which we believe the Lord is calling us to focus on in the next few years:

- 1. Deepening Discipleship** – helping people of all ages to grow in their relationship with God in their personal lives and through our corporate life.
- 2. Creating Community** – helping people of all ages to grow in their relationship with other church members and build up our common life.
- 3. Moving in Mission** – helping people of all ages to grow in their relationship with the world in sharing their faith (evangelism) and transforming society (social action) and building up our shared witness in the neighbourhood and our circles of influence.
- 4. Releasing Resources** – helping people of all ages to grow in their stewardship of time, talents and treasure and enabling us to invest in the historic church so it is an asset

### **CONTACTS:**

Vicar: Revd Nicholas Pye  
(Days off Wednesday and Saturday)

Associate Vicar: Revd Mavis Crispin  
(part-time, working usually on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday)

Children's and Families' Community Worker: Ruth Cowlshaw (part-time, working usually all day Tues, Fri and Sun morning); 8349 3792

Administrator and Centre Manager:  
Irene Mburu 8349 3792; office@stpaulsfinchley.org.uk  
Office hours Mon - Fri, 9am - 1pm

Intern: Davi Guimaraes 8349 3792; (Days off Mon & Sat)

Churchwardens:  
Maggie Barnes  
Karen Fox

Website: [www.stpaulsfinchley.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsfinchley.org.uk)

# *Welcome to*



## **21 JANUARY 2018**

We extend a **warm welcome** to all who have come to worship. If you are a newcomer, we would encourage you to introduce yourself to the service leader or a member of our welcome team. To help us view **giving** as integral to the Christian life, we usually take an offering during our worship. If you are a visitor, do feel able to pass the offering basket on without contributing.

**10am** Open Door with children and young people's groups and Holy Communion for adults

**Bible reading:** Matthew 7:7-11 (page 971)

**Theme:** 3:16 The Numbers of Hope - Week 2. *He Gives*

**Preacher:** Jenny Brown

**Prayer for today (2nd Sunday of Epiphany)** *Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Please speak to the clergy if you'd like **prayer** for something or someone. There are **toilets** (including an accessible one with baby changing facilities) in the St Paul's Centre as well as in the foyer of the historic church.

### **BIBLE VERSE FOR 2018**

We have chosen John 3:16 as a theme for 2018:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not die but have eternal life”.

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## **THIS WEEK'S PRAYER TOPICS**

- A speedy end to the serious cholera outbreak in Zambia. In Lusaka there are curfews and church services have been cancelled. Some 3,200 people have been infected and 74 have died.
- The Lord to equip Christians who are involved in sport at any level to have the grace and patience to be his ambassadors on and off the field, whether the game is going well or not!
- Davi, our intern, as he prepares to go on a youth mission with SOMA UK to South Sudan, for the smooth and timely granting of visas for the team, safety in travel, openness among the delegates and team leader, Ron, to be especially alert to what the Lord is saying.
- For the 100,000 children in care in the UK to receive the love and affection they need.
- In the light of God's generosity to us, pray that the Holy Spirit will empower us to share willingly what we have with others and so bless them out of the blessings we have received.

## **REFLECTING FURTHER on TODAY'S TEXT - MATTHEW 7:7-11**

No loving father would give a stone or a snake to his hungry son if he asked for a piece of bread or a fish. Jesus used the absurdity of that analogy in verses 9-10 to underscore the heavenly Father's readiness to give good things to His children when they ask Him. He wanted them to have complete confidence in the Father's provision for their spiritual needs. Sometimes, it may seem as if the Lord has given us "stones" instead of "bread." But in His wisdom, He is working through our circumstances to give us something far better than what we requested.

## **OPEN DOORS WORLD WATCH LIST- [www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/](http://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/)**

Open Doors has published its 2018 World Watch list highlighting the 50 countries where it is most difficult to live as a Christian - places where disciples of Christ must keep their beliefs hidden and face beatings, imprisonment, discrimination and abuse. The list reports that over 3,000 Christians have been killed for their faith in the 2018 reporting period, more than twice as many as in the previous reporting period. Each of the top 11 World Watch List countries are now classed as places of extreme persecution – this is more countries than ever before in 26 years of the World Watch List.

## **BISHOP of EDMONTON VISITS ST MARYS' CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

On Thursday Bishop Rob took an act of Collective Worship at our church primary. He enthusiastically engaged with both children and adults. Initially there was chocolate eating (!) that led onto him talking about the Christian faith of the Cadbury family in Birmingham who in running their chocolate business showed concern for their employees' well-being by providing homes, schools, medical care and paid holidays as part of their calling as Christians. He developed this by talking about how we all have a calling and that that includes the call to be ordained. He said research indicates that 50% of clergy trace their calling to be ordained back to childhood.

## **FREE ENTRY to ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL**

We have a small number of passes which allow free entry to the Cathedral. These can be collected from the church office and used when the Cathedral is open to the public.

## **CHRISTIAN CARE TRUST, GRACE HOUSE**

Grace House, the Christian Residential Care Home in Nether Street, has a vacancy for a cook, from mid-March 2018, working Monday - Friday, 8am to 2pm. The post-holder must have relevant current qualifications (NVQ or City and Guilds) and be DBS checked. If you're interested or know someone who would be, contact Simon on 020 8445 5628 anytime Tuesday to Friday.

## **THIS MONTH'S WORLD MISSION FOCUS: the STOKER FAMILY**

Dave was a member of St Paul's until 2004 when he went to serve as a CMS UK mission partner with the Anglican Church of Peru. He married Kay, a teacher, in 2008 and they've two children - Joshua and Emily. In February 2013 they went to work as LatinLink mission partners with the Evangelical Church of Peru. They're based in Cusco where Dave is engaged in youth-work, training church leaders and teaching on the use of technology in Christian mission and Kay is working with children and families, especially in developing bereavement care. We've pledged to support them through prayer and by giving them at least £2,000 a year. For more information, please contact Mavis Crispin.

## **QUOTE to CONSIDER**

"John 3:16 is a simple text, with incredibly rich meaning. The message is clear, but the wisdom of those words are far reaching. John 3:16 is a twenty-six-word parade of hope: beginning with God, ending with life, and urging us to do the same. Brief enough to write on a napkin or memorize in a moment, yet solid enough to weather two thousand years of storms and questions. If you know nothing of the Bible, start here. If you know everything about the Bible, return here. We all need the reminder. The heart of the human problem is the heart of the human. And God's treatment is prescribed in John 3:16. He loves. He gave. We believe. We live." Max Lucado, the author of *3:16 The Numbers of Hope*.

## **REDUCING our CARBONFOOTPRINT**

In 2008 we changed our electricity supplier to [www.goodenergy.co.uk](http://www.goodenergy.co.uk) which generates renewable energy. This is part of our commitment to caring for creation and means that our electricity is 100% green and produces no carbon emissions. *Shrinking the Footprint* is the Church of England's national environmental campaign. This supports dioceses and individual churches in reducing their carbon footprint. See more at: [www.churchcare.co.uk/shrinking-the-footprint](http://www.churchcare.co.uk/shrinking-the-footprint)

## **FAIRTRADE COMMUNION WINE**

Our Communion Wine is Fairtrade wine because we are committed to supporting trade justice and helping alleviate poverty. Fairtrade is making a real difference to the lives of more than 1.5 million farmers and workers in 74 developing countries. We are one of more than 7,500 UK churches to have their support of Fairtrade officially recognised by achieving Fairtrade Church status. See [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk) for more details.

## **QUINQUENNIAL INSPECTION of the CHURCH CENTRE**

On Wednesday our architect will do the once-every-five years inspection of the church centre to see what condition it's in and what repairs are needed. The Diocese paid for the inspection that was done on the church last November but we have to pay for the one on the centre.

## **LATEST NEWS on SOUTH SUDAN**

In recent years we've had various connections with the Episcopal Church of South Sudan - e.g. through the St Mary's School Bicentenary Appeal to build classrooms and toilets at a church school in Maridi Diocese. The Barnabas Fund has produced an up-to-date analysis on the country where the Episcopal Church (founded by the Church Mission Society UK in 1899) is a key stakeholder in trying to bring peace and hope to an intolerable situation. Over half the population has insufficient food and a third of the population has fled their homes, causing the largest refugee crisis in Africa (2.1 million are living in neighbouring countries). May the Lord have mercy. See [www.barnabasfund.org/en/news/analysis-of-situation-in-south-sudan-january-2018](http://www.barnabasfund.org/en/news/analysis-of-situation-in-south-sudan-january-2018)