

## **NEXT SUNDAY - 4th February 2018**

**10am** **Open Door** with children's and young people's groups  
and All Age Holy Communion

### **THIS WEEK**

Tues	9.15am	Staff prayers and meeting
	7.30pm	Connect group with Vera
Thurs	9.15am	Staff prayers
Fri	9.30am	St Paul's Toddler group
	4.45pm	Adventure Time cell group for those in Years 7-9

### **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*



## **28 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  
**Bible reading:** John 3:1-21 (page 1065)  
**Theme:** 3:16 The Numbers of Hope - Week 3. We Believe  
**Preacher:** Davi Guimaraes

**Prayer for today (3rd Sunday of Epiphany)** *God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in 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**

- Bishop Sarah Mullally, the Bishop of London elect, and her husband, Eamonn, the practicalities of moving from Devon to London, and our Diocese in this time of transition.
- Davi, our intern, as he prepares to go on a youth mission with SOMA UK to Maridi, South Sudan - for the effectiveness of UK team training day on Saturday (3rd February) and our generous response to the request to cover the £1,500 cost of the trip.
- Christians working on the underground and rail network: 'Lord would you help them to shine your light in dark places, and give them patience to deal with difficult situations smoothly.'
- Nicholas, our vicar, to be richly blessed as he attends a retreat exploring the life of Joseph in the book of Genesis at Lee Abbey Devon from 29 January to 3rd February.
- Across our globe situations will unravel this week that will have a profound impact on individuals, communities and on nations. Choose one news item and pray for 'God's kingdom to come, his will to be done, on earth as it is in heaven' in that situation.

## **REFLECTING FURTHER on TODAY'S THEME of FAITH**

1. What do you think faith is? How does Hebrews 11:1 define faith?
2. Read the whole of Hebrews 11. Of all the heroes of the faith listed here, who do you feel closest to? And most in awe of? Reflect on the reason(s) for your choices.
3. Which post-biblical hero of the Christian faith inspires you most? What challenges you about their life? How can you enter into some of their experience?
4. Christians are called to live by faith and not by sight. What does it mean for you to 'live by faith'? How can you grow in faith? Who is there in your life right now who can help you?
5. Reflect on this quotation: "Faith is trust, assurance and confidence in God. Living faith is shown by service and obedience to God. God will increase our faith if we fervently ask and draw close to Him." How do you react to this statement?
6. Respond in Prayer: "Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which you have given us, for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us. Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen." Prayer of Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)

## **SERVICING OF FIRE ALARM and SMOKE DETECTORS**

The bi-annual testing of the fire alarm and smoke-detectors in the Church Centre took place on Thursday. All the equipment was found to be in full working order.

## **INSTALLATION of NEW BISHOP of LONDON**

It has been confirmed that Bishop Sarah Mullally will be installed as Bishop of London at St Paul's Cathedral on 12th May. This is the opportunity for the Diocese and the people of London to celebrate Bishop Sarah taking up the role. Bishop Sarah has now become 'Bishop-elect' following her election on 25th January by the College of Canons. The Confirmation of Election will take place on 8th March. At this point, Bishop Sarah will legally take on the responsibilities of Bishop of London, but in practice she will continue to honour her remaining commitments as Bishop of Crediton after then.

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

On Tuesday our architect did 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.

## **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.

## **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)

## **QUOTE to CONSIDER on OUR BIBLE VERSE for 2018**

"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*.

## **VICAR'S ABSENCE**

Following an occupational health assessment, Nicholas, our vicar, is off duty from 27th January to 3rd March inclusive so that he can rest. Please pray for his well-being and that of Amy and their children. May the Lord bring healing of body, mind and spirit to Nicholas and protect and provide for us as a church at this time. Please do not contact Nicholas while he is off duty. General enquiries should be made to Irene Mburu, our administrator. Pastoral enquiries should be made to Mavis, our associate vicar, and Karen and Maggie, our churchwardens.

## **INVITATION to SUPPORT DAVI'S MISSION TRIP**

Please respond generously to the invitation to give to cover the £1,500 cost of Davi, our intern's mission trip to South Sudan. This covers return flights, travel within South Sudan, food and gifts for hosts, injections, malaria tablets and travel insurance. Donations can be made **EITHER** by internet or telephone banking using the following details: Account Name: St Paul Finchley PCC; Sort Code: 30-93-80; Account No: 01866006; Reference: South Sudan **OR** by putting cash or a cheque (payable to St Paul's Finchley PCC) in one of our white giving envelopes, writing South Sudan on the front and, if you are a taxpayer, filling in the Gift Aid declaration. Any amount in excess of £1,500 will be given through Church Mission Society UK to support the Diocese of Maridi who are hosting the trip.