



Woodlands Avenue, W3 9BU

Minister: Rev Shirlyn Toppin  
Contact details: 0208 567 1970  
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Date: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**NOTICES**

Scripture verse "Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." Psalm37: 3-4.

We are glad to have you worshipping with us today, especially if you are visiting for the first time.

Today's service is led by Rev Toppin

Thanks to all who have contributed to the worship.

**Monthly Church Notices**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February** –there will be a collection for the Benevolent Fund during the singing of the final hymn.  
**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 7.00pm** – will be our next Bible study session.

**Other Notices**

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm** – there is a Church Council Meeting.  
**Circuit Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm** – This meeting will be held at Acton Hill.  
**Notes:** The Circuit Office is closed for holidays, re-opening on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February. Any urgent messages are to go to our minister or to Rachel Bending.  
**Also,** Rachel is due to have a planned minor op on 13<sup>th</sup> February and will be on sick leave for a few days afterwards. She expects to be back at work on 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> February.

**Circuit Notices**

**Holy Humour Festival, Ealing Green Church, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

As part of our fundraising drive to raise money for Christian Aid's work in Lebanon and Iraq to support children and young people displaced by war, we're organising Ealing's first 'Holy Humour' comedy festival. There's a full bill, running from 10.00am through until 11.00pm. People can drop in and out as they please for £5.00. Over 30 acts are lined up to appear ranging from Christian comedians, Syrian comedians, musical acts, comedians with a disability, those from a refugee background and many more. So there really is something for everyone. Here's the programme for the day: 10.00am – noon: 'Improv' workshop. Come along, have some fun and learn how to perform your own improvised comedy sketches. 4.00pm to 5.10pm: **The Early Show**; 5.30pm to 6.50pm: **Live from the Green**; 7.00pm to 8.30pm: **Saturday Night Live**; 9.00pm to 11.00pm: **The Late Show**.

Tickets will be available at church or online here (<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/holyhumourfest>)  
For up to the minute information like or follow this Face Book page  
<https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Humour-Comedy-Festival-110815983777970>

**Marriage and Relationships –“God in Love Unites Us”- Conference Report.** Please remember to read the report in preparation for the discussion meetings to be held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 7.45 – 9.45pm at Kingsdown Methodist Church; Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 10.00am – 12 noon at Northolt Methodist Church; and Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7.45 – 9.45pm at Ealing Green Church.

**DBS Checks** – If you are in a role that requires a DBS check and your most recent one was more than 5 years ago, you need a new one. Rachel Bending will be at home on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March to carry out checks. Full details are posted on the back and front of the church.

**Service next Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February will be led by Mrs Esther Ackah**

Weekly Offerings					Total
02/02/2020	Envelopes:	£208.10	Loose:	£30.02	£238.12
Monthly Offerings/ Collections – February 2020					Total

**Thought for the day** "Patience is not simply the ability to wait - it's how we behave while we're waiting."  
Joyce Meyer.

# Salt and light



Janice Scott *reflects on* Matthew 5:13-20

In the first century both light and salt were precious commodities. Light came from the sun, with just a little being produced by fairly primitive oil lamps during the hours of darkness. Salt was reclaimed from the sea in salt pans, in which seawater was evaporated by the sun. Salt had many uses including healing, flavouring, preserving and cleaning. Roman troops were often paid in salt, hence the word “salary”, and the earliest of the great Roman roads was the “Via Salaria” – the salt road.

Only a little salt is necessary for life, but without salt the human body becomes chemically unbalanced, causing muscle and the nervous system to cease to function and eventually leading to death. When Jesus says that if salt loses its saltiness it is only fit to be thrown out and trampled underfoot, perhaps he is referring to the spiritual imbalance that occurs if we refuse to accept God. This would be like putting a bucket on top of a lamp so that the light is extinguished, leaving total darkness.

Nobody has to produce salt or light – that is provided for them by God. All they are required to do is allow the light to shine through them and to become salty for God. We too are light and salt for the world, right now, exactly as we are. We just have to be open to transmit God’s light. As that happens, our tiny pinch of salt will increase until it begins to flavour life around us. 🌟

Lord, let your light shine through us just as though we were plain glass, and help us to live lives that are full of flavour. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

## Preparing for Lent at Coventry Cathedral

by John Witcombe

Preparing for Lent? But we’ve hardly finished celebrating Christmas! Shifting liturgical gears can be really challenging in the cathedral, but we have to be ready for the next great season of the Christian year. A cathedral is a bit like an ocean liner – it takes time to turn! Worship patterns and music need planning far in

advance, especially for big diocesan services. And we have to ready ourselves for an internal move from joyful celebration to penitential preparation. One thing to consider well in advance is the topic for our Lent study course. Last year we explored the TV series *Broken*, with its interweaving plot of human stories around the ministry of a priest, who is wrestling with the meaning of his own life. With our emphasis on reconciliation, we look for material that will challenge and equip us to understand the fractures in our world, and help us pray through and respond to those fractures. What will your focus be this year? 🌟

*The Very Revd John Witcombe is Dean of Coventry, responsible for Coventry Cathedral, with its international ministry of reconciliation.*

## Cities of the Bible

Capernaum

by Caroline Fletcher

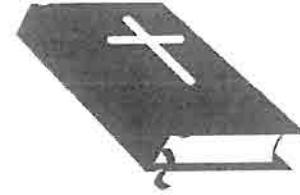
Capernaum lies on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee and was Jesus’ base for much of his ministry. He healed Peter’s mother-in-law in Capernaum and the ruins of Peter’s home remain visible there today.

It was an important town where the Roman centurion, whose servant Jesus healed,

was stationed. This centurion built the synagogue in which Jesus preached and performed miracles. Capernaum was also vital for collecting taxes, because it was a border town on a major Roman road, and it is where Matthew the tax collector was called to be a disciple.

Capernaum’s houses were built of basalt rocks with little, if any, mortar. Roofs were light structures covered in straw, branches and soil for that was all such walls could support. This explains why people could break up a roof to lower a paralysed man down to Jesus for healing (Mark 2:1-12). 🌟

“ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”



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Minister: Rev Shirlyn Toppin  
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Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020

NOTICES

Scripture verse "Trust in the Lord for ever, for in the Lord God you have an everlasting rock." Isaiah 26: 4

We are glad to have you worshipping with us today, especially if you are visiting for the first time.

Today's service is led by Mrs Charmaine Dinham  
Thanks to all who have contributed to the worship.

Monthly Church Notices

17<sup>th</sup> March 7.00pm – will be our next Bible study session.

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – will be our next collection for the Refurbishment Fund.

Fund-raising events

Hymnathon – 21<sup>st</sup> March

Multi-cultural evening – 11<sup>th</sup> July

Church restoration concert – 17<sup>th</sup> October

The dates for all three are subject to confirmation.

Other Notices

Church cleaning – Our next "quarterly clean" will be 28<sup>th</sup> March.

Church fellowship – The first "meet and chat" was last October and we are aiming for another one soon after Easter.

3 Generate 2020 – We have a manifesto (set out in a poster) which was produced following the 3 Generate 2019 event. These events are geared mainly towards listening to and supporting, young people from 8 to 23 years old in Christian fellowship. But there is a role, and encouragement, for the church as a whole to use the subjects as worship themes, Bible study topics or prayer points. We will be able to access resources in support of this work at [www.methodist.org.uk/3genmanifestos](http://www.methodist.org.uk/3genmanifestos). We can also obtain further information by contacting [youthpresident@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:youthpresident@methodistchurch.org.uk). This year 3Generate is taking place from 30<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> November at the NEC in Birmingham, with the theme 2020 vision. Our young people from this church will be encouraged to attend.

Circuit Notices

"God in Love Unites Us" A new date of 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7.45pm has been set for the discussion at Kingsdown on the report "God in Love Unites Us". The programme of discussions is now:

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 10.00am -12 noon at Northolt

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7.45pm – 9.45pm Ealing Green Church

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7.45pm – 9.45 pm at Kingsdown

You can find more information on the Circuit website about the report, download a copy of the full report and also download a copy of the article outlining the report from the current edition of 'In-touch' – go to:

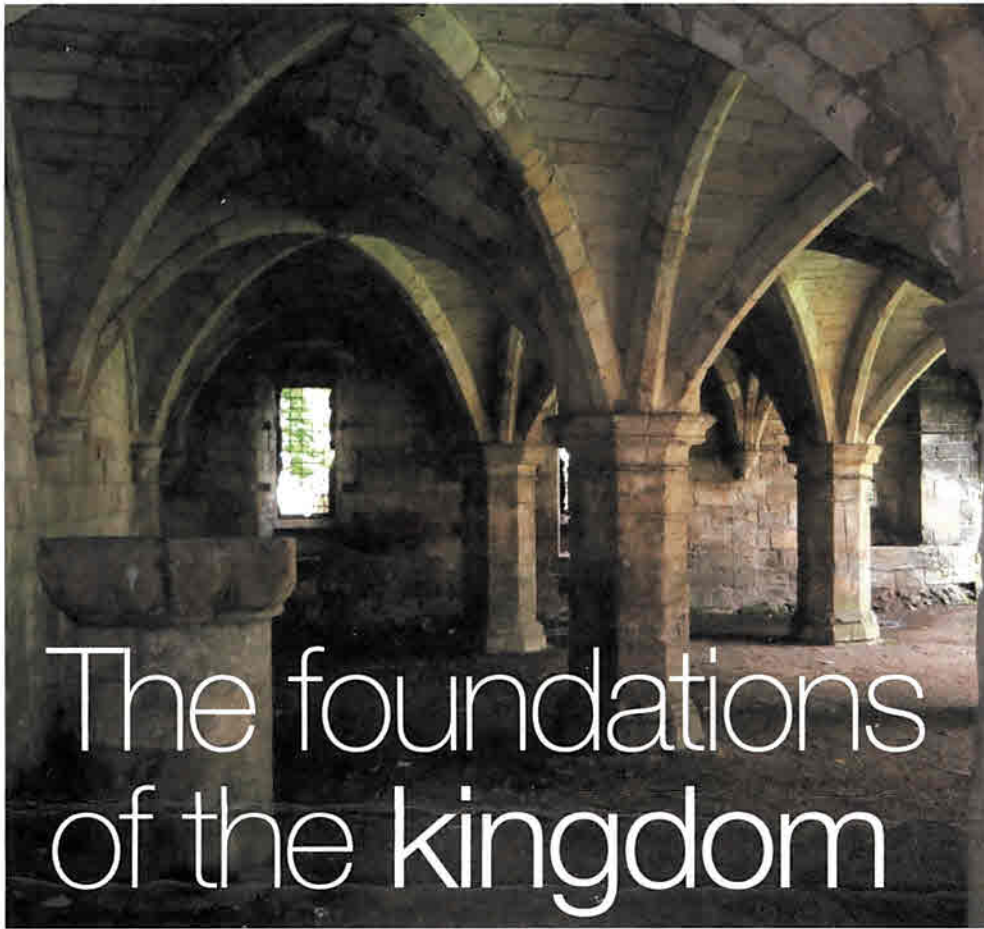
<http://www.ealingtrinity.org.uk/god-in-love-unites-us/>.

**Circuit Lay Employment Committee** - The Circuit has a Lay Employment Committee that oversees its lay employees. This is an important part of the Circuit's management process and the Circuit would like to invite additional people to join the committee. If you would be interested in joining the committee please contact Fleur Hatherall by e-mail at [fleurh@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fleurh@hotmail.co.uk) or call her on 020 8248 6774.

Service next Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March will be led by Rev Rachel Bending

Weekly Offerings					Total
01/03/2020	Envelopes:	£202.50	Loose:	£12.14	£214.64
Monthly Offerings/ Collections – March 2020					Total
Benevolent fund: £21.61					£21.61

Thought for the day "When the whole world is silent even one voice becomes powerful." Malala Yousafzai



Heather Smith *reflects on*  
Genesis 12:1-4a and Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

**H**ow would you define a good person? By how they behave, of course. But since outside fairy tales nobody is ever completely good or completely bad, what percentage of a person's actions must be good for them to be classified as a good person? And, what makes an action good or bad? Is it motivation or outcome?

Ever since Abram left his father's house in response to God's call, people have struggled with the idea that it is not our actions that make us righteous, but our belief and trust in God. Abraham, as Abram later became, "believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness". Belief in God has two consequences – it brings us personal righteousness, and it also enables God to further the kingdom through us.

It is as well that Abraham did not have to rely on his own righteousness. His actions were, at times, far from what we might describe as good. He passed off his wife as his sister in Egypt because he thought his own life would be in danger if Pharaoh realised he was married to this attractive woman. In fact she was also his half-sister – all the best lies have some element of truth in them. Despite it all, though, he believed God and could summon up courage to follow God's lead and create the foundations of the great story of salvation. 🌱

# The foundations of the kingdom

God, the source of all our righteousness, help us to recognise what you are saying to us, to believe, and to act upon it, so that you, and others, may recognise our righteousness and know that we follow you. Amen.

## Leap into Lent

*Ricarda Witcombe continues her Lenten series.*

Let us take a sideways look at the word "Lent" and think about things that are "lent" to us. It is often hard to lend something precious, for someone else may not take such good care of the thing that is ours. It is an amazing gift to be trusted with something of value. What if

we thought of this season of Lent as an incredibly precious gift of time that is lent to us by God our creator? How might we live differently if we heightened our awareness of who our time belongs to? An ancient Easter prayer to Christ affirms that "All time belongs to you, and all ages."

As we continue through this Lent, perhaps we might take some moments each day to remind ourselves who we belong to, and of the gift of life that is ours to tend, to share and, ultimately, to return. 🌱

“ Sometimes you have to let go of the picture of what you thought it would be like and learn to find joy in the story you are actually living.

Rachel Marie Martin, author

## International Women's Day

by Lisa Tulfer

Today is International Women's Day. First marked in 1911, it was initially about campaigning for women's right to work without discrimination. It was soon also concerned with the campaign for women's suffrage. The 1917 protests in Russia, expected to be only minor demonstrations, triggered significant events in the Russian Revolution. Thereafter, Women's Day was predominantly celebrated by Communist countries for several

decades, until it was adopted by the feminist movement in 1967, and in 1970 was declared an international day by the United Nations.

During its history, it has variously emphasised protest against discrimination and celebrated womanhood, but continues to highlight development issues: equality, discrimination and participation, the impact of war, displacement, sexual violence, and access to education.

Writing for the diocesan website last International Women's Day, the Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester, referred to "dignity" and "fulfilling potential" – these are surely what we should be ensuring for all God's people. 🌱