

Praying the News: As we read or watch the news, let it move us to prayer rather than despair. Each story is an invitation to bring our world, its leaders, and its suffering to God in hope and trust.

Praying for Wick and Kingley Gate – Road of the Week: **Greenfields**.

Dear Lord, We place the name of Jesus over **Greenfields** – all who live, work and travel there. May they know the light of your presence, the joy of your peace and the hope of your guidance. We ask this in Jesus' powerful name. Amen.

Pray for wholeness and healing: For Richard Fernando, Malcolm Nicholls, Dan, Sandra Ostler, Marian Ayres, Angie Johnson, Nancy Fellows, the Batchelors, Eileen Vause, Jeff, Norman (Jenny Tillman's brother), and Jamie Colclough (Val Stewart's son).

If you would like something about All Saints or other local churches publicised or would like your name added / taken off the prayer request list above please email Jonathan Black: wickinformation@gmail.com

QR code for General Giving:



All Saints Wick Sunday 22 February
Know, Love & Follow Jesus
'The Servant with Authority Over Storms and Spirits'

Our Purpose: Deeply know, love and follow Jesus

A warm welcome to All Saints Church, Wick. We are a diverse church family, welcoming people of all ages and stages of life. On Sundays we gather to worship, pray, and engage with the Bible, encouraging one another in faith, with groups and activities running throughout the week. We hope you feel at home with us.

We offer a range of services to suit different styles. At 9am we gather at All Saints Church for a traditional service, usually with Holy Communion and hymns. Our 10:30am service at Wick Hall is informal, with refreshments from 10am, children's and youth groups, and worship led by a band. On the first Sunday of the month we meet together as one church family, and on the second Sunday at 7pm we gather for extended worship and prayer. During the week, we also meet in small groups, mostly in the evenings, with some daytime groups available. We also have a popular midweek communion service, Wednesdays, 9.30am.

www.allsaintswick.org.uk

Facebook and Private All Saints Wick Group

To contact Lisa, our Priest in Charge - rev.lyminsterwick@gmail.com/ 07925 275184. Lisa is not generally available on Fridays which is her rest day.

OTHER SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Knit and Natter – Mondays 10.15am-12pm in The Garden Room at All Saints

Tots on Tuesday – 10am -11am at Wick Hall. Term time only.

The Garden Room Cafe and Information 1st Tuesday of the month 10- 12

Midweek Service – Wednesdays, 9.30am in All Saints

Coffee Morning – Fridays 9.30am – 12pm in All Saints

Church Prayer Gathering – 3rd Sunday of the month **6-7pm** at All Saints

COLLECT (Worldwide Anglican prayer) for The First Sunday of Lent

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Testimony of good fun

On this first Sunday of Lent, I want to share with you my pastor friend's letter to his congregation, it's food for thought:

Sometime ago I read about a particular bike race that took place in India. One of the participants was however unclear about the rules. When the starting gun was fired, off he rode as fast as he could. Instantly he realised he was being successful – he left the other cyclists far behind. On and on he went until he couldn't even see them, he was so far in front. Finally, when he returned to the starting point he was stunned when he discovered that he had come last in the competition. You see the purpose of the race was to discover who could go the slowest and not fall off. He had misjudged what real success was.

There is a fascinating spiritual parallel to this. The driving force in our society is "be successful" and "be an achiever". Society measures success in terms of "promotion", "wealth", "power", "holidays", "expensive cars" etc etc. The reality however, is that in God's eyes, real success and real achievement is measured in how a person has progressed in their spiritual life. It is to be measured in how loyal an individual is to His Commandments, how trusting they are of His promises, and how faithful they are in resisting temptation. It is to be measured in how they have progressively dealt with their character faults, how they have treated others around them and how they have brought their life into line with the will of God. True greatness, true achievement and true success is what a person is like in heart. It is the heart which God values. And what rewards come with this kind of success? The rewards are peace, joy, self-control, gentleness, kindness and so on. In Revelation Chapter 3 a chilling description is given of people who fail to realise what real success is. It states, *"you have said I am rich, have become wealthy and have need of nothing, and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked."*

Day after day I see people striving for the wrong kind of success. I see them working long hours to climb up the corporate ladder. I often think they are

like people climbing a tall tree – they strive and sweat and struggle and often they finally achieve their goal by reaching the top, but I know that one day it will dawn on them they have been climbing the wrong tree. If they had spent as much energy and time developing a Godly character then they would be truly great and have rewards that money cannot buy.

Some years ago, a Christian woman described how a young man had repeatedly asked her out on a date. He wasn't interested in spiritual matters and they had nothing in common but he kept on and on at her inviting her to this and that event. Finally in exasperation the young man said "what on earth do you Christians do for fun?" The woman replied, "For fun I get up in the morning without feeling embarrassed or ashamed about what I did the night before." Thinking about it years later, she was able to add, *"For fun I am married to a fine Christian man, for fun I have a little girl and my husband and I are building a Christian home together. I am thrilled at the fun my daughter is having – fun every day, living without the affliction of having selfish materialistic parents. Its fun looking forward to my husband coming home, knowing he won't be stopping off at the pub for a few drinks. Its fun knowing that while he is away, his Christian conduct won't allow infidelity. Its fun watching him hold my daughter with loving protective arms. The list of fun things is endless."*

True success and true greatness are measured in how a person has progressed in their faithfulness towards God and the rewards and fun that comes from this "greatness" are priceless. We should all look at our lives through God's eyes. Only then will we discover if in reality we are a loser or a winner in God's race of life.

During this season of Lent, as we prepare for Easter, let us ask ourselves if we really are in a right relationship with the Lord. The sending of Jesus to suffer in our place on the Cross was no trivial matter....it was no small thing...it is actually God's indescribable gift to us. And yet the response of many who say they are Christians is to neglect reading their Bible, neglect attending Church and neglect taking Holy Communion all because they have fallen for the lie that worldly success is more important than being faithful to God. One of the most famous paintings of the crucifixion has the wording underneath "I did this for you, what are you doing for Me?" The season of Lent is a perfect time to ask ourselves that very question.

Lisa adds: Today is a great day to start a Bible reading plan, to pause for just 5 minutes in prayer simply enjoying God's presence, to confess to God your sin – it has unparalleled power to deflate our ego, to spend just 5 minutes every day reading a devotional book. Then repeat tomorrow, and by the end of Lent, life-giving habits will have been formed in you.

BIBLE READING

Verses of prophecy from the book of Isaiah 35:4

4 say to those with fearful hearts, 'Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.'

Matthew 8:18-34

18 When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. 19 Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, 'Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.' 20 Jesus replied, 'Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' 21 Another disciple said to him, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' 22 But Jesus told him, 'Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.' 23 Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. 24 Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. 25 The disciples went and woke him, saying, 'Lord, save us! We're going to drown!' 26 He replied, 'You of little faith, why are you so afraid?' Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. 27 The men were amazed and asked, 'What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!' 28 When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. 29 'What do you want with us, Son of God?' they shouted. 'Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?' 30 Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. 31 The demons begged Jesus, 'If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs.' 32 He said to them, 'Go!' So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. 33 Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. 34 Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region.

SERMON NOTES – What's God been saying to you today?

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Lisa will be taking a few days annual leave and then be at a conference. In her absence this week, please contact either of our Churchwardens if the need arises.

Save the date - Sussex Prayer for Revival, 6-9pm, Friday 6th March hosted this time by St Peter's Church Brighton. Please let Lisa know if you are planning to go.

Psalm Roar! If doctrine strengthens our minds, psalm-singing fortifies our souls. A Psalm Roar has both! As well as singing, those who attend will gain an understanding of God's purpose for singing and a deeper awareness that the psalms are the songs of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We will grow in faith as we engage with the word of God. Book a place at Psalm Roar Sussex, 7th March. Bishop Hannington Church, Hove.

www.psalmtree.org/sussex

Our next Men's Ministry breakfast is on Saturday 21 March 9am - 10.30am in the small hall & kitchen Wick hall Aaron Colhoun is our speaker & he will share his amazing testimony. Bacon Sausage & egg baps will be served for which I suggest a £5 donation. Please include in notices for All Saints Wick 9 & 10.30 and Lyminster Church please.

Church family invited: Retreat Day at the Alpha Holy Spirit Away Day, Bishop's Palace, Chichester. Saturday 28th March, 10am-4pm. More details coming soon.

I am once again asking for donations of Easter Eggs to distribute to homeless and those in temporary accommodation around our town. This year there are more than ever, so please spread a little Christian Joy and drop eggs in the box to be found in church, with grateful thanks - Viv Prior