

All Saints' and St. Luke's Parish Page



Dear Friends,

Events in Haiti have stirred a deep compassion in the hearts of many people right around the world. Amazingly, even many days after the initial earthquake, people are being found alive beneath the rubble. But such natural disasters raise questions in the minds of many about God and suffering.

Suffering has many causes – some is the consequence of people simply being cruel and inhuman, of being intolerant and seeing life from a very different perspective, other suffering comes as a result of illness or accident, some from poor judgement or miscalculation. Sometimes it appears that suffering is simply part of what it means to live in an uncertain world, where illness and disease are naturally occurring – and no one, whether of faith or no faith, is given immunity from suffering, and it can come whatever age we are, or whatever background.

The Christian faith views suffering as being a hard and difficult part of life which many are asked to face. Jesus was frequently moved with compassion by suffering, and eventually suffered himself terribly as a result of injustice and the prejudice of others, which led to his death. Yet through it all he held unswervingly to God his Father, knowing that God cared, that all suffering would eventually come to an end, and that love and compassion would win through. And it did at Easter.

Such a faith does not take away the pain, the natural questions, the soul searching, but Jesus promises that he would stay the course with us, to be right there at the point it really hurts, that his love and compassion are expressions of the love and compassion of God the Father.

And suffering also stirs the deepest acts of compassion and love into action, helps keep life in perspective, enables us to be grateful for the good times, and alert to the needs and wellbeing of others. So, however difficult faith may be in the face of such natural disasters, the real challenge is how we each respond to the suffering we see.

With my warmest greetings

Revd Richard Zair

February calendar:

OtQ = Open to Question

Many people have questions about faith and the Christian Faith in particular, but few have the opportunity to ask those questions. During Lent this year we are holding a number of OtQ events around the Parish. These will be open to anyone who would like to come (whether or not you attend church), and will be informal in style. The dates and venues for these events are below. We look forward to seeing you on any of these dates.

February 24th at All Saints Church - 8.00pm
March 8th at 1 All Saints Close - 10.00 am
March 18th at 4 Morland Road – 8.00pm
March 19th at Hawthorne House, Garford – 8.00pm
March 25th at 28 Parkside - 8.00pm

Parish people:

We extend our sympathy to the families of Alan Trevor Ealey of Hyde Copse, and

Gareth Michael Jones of Tubney, formerly of Marcham Mill

Regular services and events:

Sundays at All Saints': 10am and 6pm (8am first Sunday)

Wednesdays: 10.30am Holy Communion at Duffield Place

Sundays at St. Luke's: 10.30 am first Sunday

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Prayer of the Month:

Almighty God,

Look with love and compassion on this hurting world.

Be close to those caught up in natural disaster, illness or pain.

Help us to be channels of love, care, compassion and

peace, and to hold on in faith and trust when life is hard.

Thank you for the hope and inner strength you give us in Christ.

Amen.