

GROWING LIVING FAITH **(GLF) 2019**

Our hope for 2019:

That every member of each of our churches will consider signing up to one or more of our GLF activities, and so love Jesus more dearly and follow him more nearly day by day.

This booklet sets out our new initiatives, which the Ministry and the GLF Teams are very excited about, and our existing activities; together they offer a wide range of opportunities to learn, develop and grow as Christians. Where it is not yet available, more information will be available later on. At the end of the booklet there is also a short list of other resources you might like to consider for personal use.

Headlines:

NEW for 2019 - PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP PLANS (PDPs)

PDPs are a bit like a spiritual equivalent of a medical check-up. Experience of PDPs in other parishes has been almost exclusively positive. If you might be interested, speak initially to Canon John and see p.3 for more details.

NEW for 2019 - PILGRIM

Pilgrim is a new suite of courses aimed at those who are already Christians and want to find out more about their faith. See p.4 for more details.

CONTINUING - ALPHA

CONTINUING - LENT LECTURES

CONTINUING - SERMON SERIES

CONTINUING - MONDAY AFTERNOON DISCUSSION GROUP

CONTINUING - TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP

CONTINUING - LADIES' BREAKFASTS

PRAYER DURING THE WEEK

A growing living faith will be fostered, nurtured and underpinned by prayer. We have a number of opportunities to offer:

MORNING PRAYER at St JAMES

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 9.30am in church

PRAYER MEETING at St ELIGIUS

Tuesday at 9.30am in the Memorial Chapel

PRAISE & PRAYER at St ELIGIUS

Join us to prepare for the launch of the new service at St Eligius in May for prayer and worship : 19th Jan; 2nd March; 23rd March; 13th April; 20th April. Tea at 4.30pm for 5.00pm start.

Other opportunities:

ANNUAL QUIET DAY

At Ascot Priory – usually in September – watch out for more details in Spring 2019.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

One of the new suite of courses that we offering – a six-week course focusing upon the question 'How do Christians know and worship God?' For further details talk to Revd Tonia and watch out in the pew sheet for firm dates.

MID-WEEK COMMUNION

This is another opportunity to nourish your faith in a more informal (and usually warmer!) setting, including a short reflection and coffee to follow.

1st Tues in month at 12.15 St Eligius with Tuesday Fellowship (See below for more details)

1st Weds in month at 10.00am St Mary and St John Parish Centre

2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Weds in month at 10.00am St James' Church Centre

NB On the 3rd Weds in the month intercessions are led by the MU 2.



DEVELOPING A GROWING LIVING FAITH

On a personal level:

NEW for 2019 - PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP PLANS (PDPs)

PDPs are a bit like a spiritual equivalent of a medical check-up. They provide an opportunity to anyone who would like to take advantage of them for a confidential discussion with one of the clergy about faith and where it is leading. A PDP is a conversation, not an assessment, and may or may not lead you to take a next or different step in faith. The clergy, who are subject to a similar but more rigorous ministry review each year, feel that the chance of such an open-ended discussion may be a real benefit to some people. Experience of PDPs in other parishes has been almost exclusively positive. If you might be interested, speak initially to Canon John.

Collectively:

Courses

CONTINUING – ALPHA



The Alpha course seeks to introduce people to the basics of the Christian faith through teaching, discussion and fellowship around a shared meal. It is described by its organisers as "an opportunity to explore the meaning of life". For details of our next course, which will take place in Autumn 2019, speak to Revd Tonia, who will lead it with the support of other church members drawn from our three congregations.

NEW for 2019 – PILGRIM



Pilgrim is a new suite of courses aimed at those who are already Christians and want to find out more about their faith. The courses normally run for six sessions and are devoted to one of four topics: belief, worship, behaviour, and vision. Each of these courses is available at two levels - a basic one (*Follow: Turning to Christ; The Lord's Prayer; The Commandments; The Beatitudes*) and a more advanced one (*Grow: The Creeds; The Eucharist; The Bible; Church and Kingdom*). Our aim is to offer all of the **Follow** courses during this year and two of the **Grow** topics.

Dates thus far:

Follow

'**Turning to Christ**' begins Tuesday 26th February – speak to Revd Tonia for more details.

Grow

The two topics we will be offering this year will be

The Bible - during the Summer term

Church and Kingdom – during the Autumn term

(Courses on The Creeds and The Eucharist will follow in 2020)

Watch out for more details or speak to Canon Julie.

CONTINUING: LENT LECTURES

Our theme for this year is:

Easter Eyewitnesses



Tuesday 12th March

Dr Martyn Percy, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford

Tuesday 19th March

Revd Julian McAllen, Associate Priest- Finchampstead & California

John, the beloved disciple

Tuesday 26th March

Bishop Humphrey Southern, Principal of Ripon College, Cuddesdon

Mary Magdalene

Tuesday 2nd April

Dr Janice Proud

Mary the mother of Jesus

Tuesday 9th April

Revd Tonia Elliott – New Communities Minister – Finchampstead & California

Simon of Cyrene

Tuesday 16th April

General Tim Cross, Royal Engineers

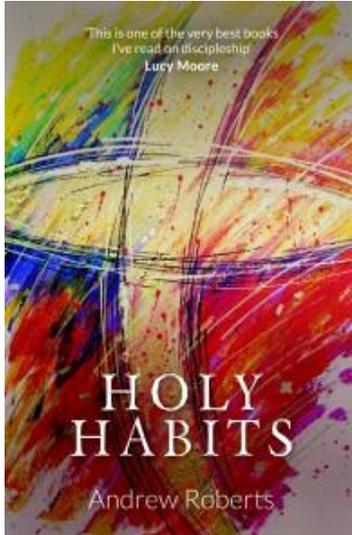
Judas Iscariot and Pontius Pilate

At St James Church Centre – coffee at 7.45pm for 8.00pm 5.

CONTINUING:

SERMON SERIES

As ever we will be offering a number of sermon series through the year, beginning with Holy Habits in January 2019.



20/1/19 Holy Habits – Biblical teaching

27/1/19 Holy Habits – Fellowship

10/2/19 Holy Habits – Breaking Bread

17/2/19 Holy Habits – Prayer

24/2/19 Holy habits – Worship

3/3/19 Holy Habits – Making More Disciples

*'The call to Christian discipleship is a call to adventure. **Holy Habits** explores this adventure through a rich mix of biblical material and inspiring stories'.*

Groups:

CONTINUING - MONDAY AFTERNOON DISCUSSION GROUP

This informal group will meet from 14 Jan onwards, initially for 5 weeks. The discussion will be about applying our Christian faith in our everyday lives. It will normally be based around a Bible passage. All materials will be supplied. Meet at SJCC from 2 to 3pm (to allow for school pickup). Any queries to Canon John.

CONTINUING – TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP

This ecumenical house group meets at St Eligius on Tuesdays at 12.15pm for study, worship and fellowship, ending with a light lunch. Prayer and pastoral care are key to this group. The first Tuesday in the month is a service of Holy Communion. For more details speak to Larry le Var 01252 372320

CONTINUING – LADIES' BREAKFASTS

This group, led by Carolyn Fox, meets on a number of Saturdays during the year at St James Parish Centre from 9.00am – 10.00am (setting up at 8.45am and clearing away after 10.00 am for those able to help). Lots of friendly chat over dishes of delicious fruit salad, yoghurt, continental breakfast, followed by a short 'thought for the day/week' and a prayer.

Dates for 2019 are : 26th Jan, 23rd March, 11th May, 6th July, 21st Sept, 16th Nov.

For more details contact Carolyn Fox. 01189732262/07779724090

CONTINUING : MOTHERS' UNION



This group, now led by a small committee, is putting together the programme for 2019. Meetings take place on the second Thursday in the month at St James Church Centre at 2.00pm. All welcome – men and women.

Jan 10th Speaker from ***Soulscape***

MU Prayer

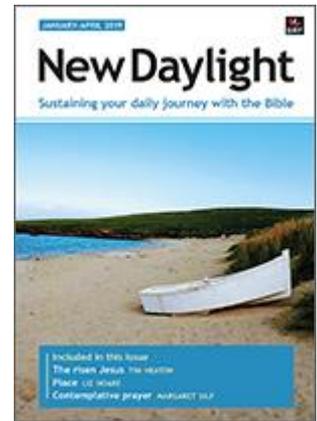
*Thank you for your love so freely given to us all.
We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

RESOURCES

BRF New Daylight notes – available via the Parish Office

0118 973 0133 Mon – Fri 10.00am – 12 noon

'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.' (Psalm 119: 105; NIV)



A daily email prompt, a 50-day series from LICC:

www.licc.org.uk/ourresources/whole-life-whole-bible



Walk through the story of the whole Bible, and how it can shape your whole life, in 50 readings with teaching, in a book, email series, or YouVersion reading plan.

For information about Spiritual Direction speak to Janet Clements

Members of the GLF Team:

Janet Clements (Chair) *Please call the Parish Office to make contact*

Revd Julian *(until Jan 2019)*

Canon Julie *(from Jan 2019)*

Revd Tonia

Kate Meads

Karen Remmington

If you would like to join this team please contact Janet Clements