

# NEWSLETTER

ALL SAINTS, SCRAPTOFT & NETHERHALL - March 2024

## The God who works in the dark

This year, to help us on our journey through Lent, we are using the material the Church of England has provided under the title: **Watch and Pray** - echoing the words of Jesus to his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane.



The Archbishop's Lent book: **Tarry awhile: wisdom from Black Spirituality for people of faith** is part of these Lenten resources, and is proving to be a fascinating window into how Christians from black led churches worship and come close to God. One significant way is simply spending time with God (tarrying) - waiting upon the Lord to perceive what He might be saying to us. And the theme of darkness is a constant - darkness as times of struggle and trial, darkness when, despite its negative connotations, new wisdom and hope are often made clear.

As I write this, we have met for one session, where we have looked at the reflections provided in the Watch and Pray booklet, as well as material from the Archbishop's Lent Book, written by Selina Stone. I think we have all discovered much about God at work in times of darkness, some of them being the most fruitful aspects of God's work (Creation being a prime example). We have recalled how much of the natural world only comes to be through the darkness of hibernation and germination.

Another aspect of the darkness we are all going through is the disunity of God's Church - a reality which is clearly against the desire of Jesus that "they may all be one." We discussed the dangers of dualism, and our tendency to fall into the trap of seeing things as simply black and white; acknowledging that life has a plethora of grey shades. And we lamented the fact that what should be the greatest source of Christian unity, Holy Communion, is often actually a sign of our division.

Week 2 will move us towards reflections about movement in spiritual life - that waiting on God doesn't mean that we simply remain static, unmoving, but that we learn to join in with God as He moves in and around us.

I hope that you will all, in your own ways, be able to make use of the booklets that have been given out. The weekly discussions may not be everyone's 'thing', but if you want to come along to any of them you are always very welcome. We learn so much more together. Making the most of Lent is not always easy and there are so many distractions that can divert us from tarrying with God. I hope we can all make some use of these resources to enrich Lent 2024 and to come to the Resurrection Feast reinvigorated by a fuller picture of the ways God is at work.

With every blessing

*Fr Martin*

## March Diary

1st	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
2nd	10.00am	Coffee Morning
4th	<b>LENT 3</b>	
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist
	3.00pm	Morsbag Making - Eco Group
5th	10.00am	Coffee Pop-in
	7.00pm	Lent Discussion
6th	12.00pm	Eucharist
8th	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
10th	<b>LENT 4 - Mothering Sunday</b>	
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist and giving of flowers
12th	10.00am	Coffee Pop-in
	7.00pm	Lent Discussion
13th	12.00pm	Eucharist
15th	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
16th	9.00am	Eco Group Litter Pick
17th	<b>LENT 5</b>	
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist
18th	7.00pm	Lent Discussion
19th	10.00am	Coffee Pop-in
	7.00pm	PCC
20th	12.00pm	Eucharist
22nd	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
24th	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	
	9.45pm	Procession of Palms from White House & Sung Eucharist with Dramatic Gospel
25th	<b>Monday in Holy Week</b>	
	7.00pm	Devotional Service
26th	<b>Tuesday in Holy Week</b>	
	10.00am	NO pop-in
	7.00pm	Devotional Service

### 27th **Wednesday in Holy Week**

12.00pm Eucharist  
7.00pm Devotional Service

### 28th **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper,  
Footwashing and Watch

### 29th **GOOD FRIDAY**

3.00pm Stations of the Cross  
7.30pm The Liturgy

### 31st **EASTER DAY**

5.30am New Fire, Vigil & 1st Mass  
*followed by Parish Breakfast*  
10.00am Family Festival Eucharist

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## The Bishop of Leicester's Lent Appeal 2024 - in Support of Baca

*So Child Refugees Can Be Safe to Heal and Free to Thrive*

Many of the young people who arrive in the UK alone have endured unimaginable horrors. They have seen their homes destroyed, loved ones killed, been tortured, and many have been victims of trafficking. They have taken long, dangerous and terrifying journeys to reach safety.

Baca is a charity based in Loughborough and Cambridge which provides accommodation and therapeutic care for young people seeking refuge in the UK, without families. The vision for the charity came from a local church after child refugees, who were being housed in unsafe environments, started coming to its youth group.

Baca runs 11 homes in Loughborough, with capacity for 39 people, and provides specialised education and training, and various forms of therapeutic, social and emotional support. Each young person cared for by Baca has a support worker who helps them to develop life skills and to adjust to life in the UK, its laws and culture.

You can donate following this link:

[www.leicester.anglican.org/about-us/lent-appeal/](http://www.leicester.anglican.org/about-us/lent-appeal/)