



COWLEY ST JOHN  
TWO CHURCHES  
ONE COMMUNITY

A watercolor-style background featuring a large, abstract shape in shades of blue and teal, resembling a heart or a stylized 'C'. The colors are soft and blended, with a yellowish-gold glow on the left side.

LENT  
2018

*Meeting Jesus*

*“God Emmanuel is so palpable in John’s Gospel; it invites me to be in God’s presence just as I am, for good or ill, to be welcomed, provided for, sustained by Jesus. Praying with John, I feel a profound sense of not being alone.” – Br. Curtis Almquist, SSJE*

St Mary and St John Church  
St Alban’s Church



## MESSAGE FROM FATHER PHIL

One of the joys of last year was connecting again with brother James and the SSJE (Society of St John the Evangelist) community in America. A little bit of our history connecting up with us again. So I was delighted when I discovered that they are offering a course called "Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John" for Lent this year. We have been sent 100 copies of the booklet which has some bible verses/reflections for everyday in Lent and more importantly some space for you to write down your thoughts. The process of writing down our thoughts about our life with God in prayer can make us feel quite nervous and self-conscious but it can also be a good way of purposefully reflecting on our spiritual journey. So this Lent I invite you all to take a "Meeting Jesus" booklet but also to come along to the sessions we are running on Tuesday evenings about the SSJE course. As usual there are a variety of other offerings for Lent detailed in this booklet. It would be lovely to see people at the Stations of the Cross on Monday evenings. We will also have a daily celebration of the Eucharist (Monday-Friday). I hope you may feel that you can commit to coming along to a weekday Eucharist during Lent or maybe even two. Please also come and support the other offerings shown below. Lent can be a real springtime for the soul, a fresh opportunity to engage with the life of faith, may it be so for us and for our community.

## SERVICE SCHEDULE DURING LENT

### Weekday Prayer and Eucharist:

*All at St Mary and St John Church, unless stated otherwise.*

Sunday	9.30am	<b>Eucharist</b> at St Alban's
	10.45am	<b>Eucharist</b> at St Mary and St John
	6.15pm	<b>Eucharist</b> at St Mary and St John
Monday	8am	Morning prayer followed by <b>Eucharist</b> at 8.20am
	5pm	Evening Prayer
	7pm	Stations of the Cross
Tuesday	8am	15min Silence followed by Morning Prayer at 8.15am
	5pm	Evening Prayer followed by <b>Eucharist</b> at 5.20pm
Wednesday	8am	15min Silence followed by Morning Prayer at 8.15am
	12pm	<b>Eucharist</b> at Upton Chapel, ASSP, St Mary's Road
	5pm	Evening Prayer
Thursday	8am	15min Silence followed by Morning Prayer at 8.15am
	10.30am	<b>Eucharist</b>
	5pm	Evening Prayer
Friday	8am	15min Silence followed by Morning Prayer at 8.15am
	9am	<b>Eucharist</b> at St Alban's
	5pm	Evening Prayer

# STUDY AND DEVOTION DURING LENT

## **Daily Eucharist – Monday to Friday**

*See left for times and place.*

During Lent, you might like to commit to coming to a weekday Eucharist in Lent (maybe even more than one!)

## **Study Group: “Meeting Jesus”**

*Tuesday evenings during Lent, 7pm, in the Richard Benson Hall. 20<sup>th</sup> Feb; 27<sup>th</sup> Feb; 6<sup>th</sup> March; 13<sup>th</sup> March; 20<sup>th</sup> March*

This year we will be following the ‘Meeting Jesus through the Gospel of St John’ study guide, provided by SSJE, our Cowley Brothers in Massachusetts. As well as being a great link to our church history, this insightful booklet will help us focus and reflect on our spiritual journey. The evening will be a discussion group led by Father Phil, with light refreshments. This booklet and course will be the heart of our Lenten study together.

## **Stations of the Cross**

*Mondays in Lent, 7pm, St Mary and St John Church.*

Cowley St John Parish and St Stephen’s House ordinands are joining together to pray the Stations of the Cross every Monday evening in Lent. This is a traditional Lenten devotion. It would be good if we all came at least once to experience it.

## **Reading and Discussion Group (Eco-theology, Environmentalism)**

We are planning to set up a new group looking at the religious/philosophical response to environmental issues. We hope the group will have an ecumenical element, and will therefore be an ‘Eco-Ecu’ group! If you would like to know more please contact Michael Barrett who is looking at some book suggestions: [mpbarrett12@btinternet.com](mailto:mpbarrett12@btinternet.com). Times and dates to be announced.

## ONE-OFF EVENTS DURING LENT

### **Prayer Space Eucharist, St Albans**

*Sunday 4th March, 9.30am.*

The Sunday Eucharist will begin with an opportunity to share in a prayer space with a variety of prayer activities on a Lentern theme.

### **Alice Floyd - Discussion of Failure in the Light of Christ**

*Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm, St Alban's Church*

Evening performance and discussion thinking about the theme of failure in Christian discipleship. Those of us who shared in Alice's 'Metanoia' evening at St Albans look forward to another opportunity to share, pray and think together.

### **Dances of Universal Peace in Lent**

*Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2-4pm, St Alban's Hall*

A celebration of dance across different spiritual and religious traditions. The dances and singing are simple and repetitive. There are refreshments as we gather, and half way through. The pace is gentle, meditative and supportive. Lead by Rev'd Susannah Reide.

### **Film night in Lent**

*Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm - 10pm, at the Vicarage.*

*"Jesus of Montreal"*: The film tells the story of a group of actors in Montreal who perform a Passion play in a Quebec church, combining religious belief with unconventional theories on a historical Jesus. As the church turns against the main actor and author of the play, his life increasingly mirrors the story of Jesus, and the film adapts numerous stories from the New Testament. Come and join us for a fun evening!

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Vicar: Fr. Phil Ritchie, [vicarcsj@gmail.com](mailto:vicarcsj@gmail.com), 07590 514884**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession), prayer and  
counsel available by appointment

[www.cowleystjohn.co.uk](http://www.cowleystjohn.co.uk)

[www.facebook.com/cowleystjohn.parish](http://www.facebook.com/cowleystjohn.parish)

### **St Mary and St John Church**

Cowley Road,  
Oxford,  
Oxfordshire,  
OX4 1UR

(corner of Leopold St and Cowley Road).

### **St Alban's Church**

Charles St,  
Oxford,  
OX4 3AH

(corner of Catherine Street and Charles Street).

### **Parish Office:**

St Mary and St John Church  
Open Tues-Thurs, 9am-3pm  
01865 792717

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

<b>Palm Sunday</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> March	10am	Blessing of the Palms	Start at St Alban's Church, process to SMJ
<b>Monday</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> March	7.30pm	Eucharist	St Alban's
<b>Tuesday</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> March	7.30pm	Eucharist	St Alban's
<b>Wednesday</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> March	7.30pm	Eucharist	St Alban's
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> March	7.30pm	Eucharist of the Lord's Supper <i>With foot washing, and watch until midnight</i>	St Mary and St John
<b>Good Friday</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> March	Time TBC	Stations of the Cross along Cowley Road	Meet at Cowley Methodist Church, refreshments at SMJ
		12 noon - 3pm	Meditations and Good Friday Liturgy	St Mary and St John
<b>Holy Saturday</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> March	8pm	Easter Vigil	St Mary and St John
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> April	9.30am	Eucharist	St Alban's
		10.45am	Eucharist	St Mary and St John