

A tale of tall and small

At January Messy Church the stories and activities focused on the story of David and Goliath



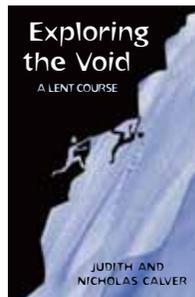
In his talk Nicholas said firstly that it is important to be yourself – the armour the king offered David was too big for him and he needed to face Goliath as he was, a shepherd boy. Secondly, it is important when facing adversity to remember that you are not alone but that God is with you

Coming this month ...

Exploring the Void

The Windmill United Benefice
Lent Course 2016

Three groups will meet at the Rectory on Tuesday or Wednesday mornings at 10am or Wednesday evenings at 8pm for five weeks, from the week beginning 15 February. The course is based on the film 'Touching the Void' and the book of the same name by the mountaineer Joe Simpson. If you would like to come, and would like to order a copy of the course book at £5, let Nicholas know and also let him know if you would like a lift.



Windmill United Benefice

The parishes of Burstow, Horne and Outwood

Rector: Revd Nicholas Calver
(nicholas.calver@btinternet.com)

February 2016

Around the Benefice in January



At the Outwood Wassail (*below and right*), organised by the National Trust, a torchlit procession set off from The Bell for the community orchard where cider was shared and a toast was raised for a good crop of apples later in the year.



Left: In Horne, Burns Night was marked with a seasonal choir practice. The evening included the singing of traditional Scottish songs, poetry reading, nibbles, a quiz and a wee dram!
Below: In Burstow, folk gathered for a fund-raising 'Cheer Up Supper' to inject some fun into what can be a dull month. All enjoyed a delicious three-course meal and good company.



The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2016

The theme of Bishop Christopher's Lent Call this year is 'Caring for the whole person' so we'll be supporting projects that address the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual wellbeing of those in need in our own diocese, as well as in the Holy Land and Zimbabwe

In Southwark Diocese:

The **Croydon Refugee Day Centre** provides a friendly environment where new Asylum Seekers and Refugees can drop in. Those who come wearing all they possess are given new underwear, socks and warm coats and a choice of second-hand clothing, as well as a basic toiletries kit and small food parcel – enough to tide them over for their first day in a new town. Volunteers staff a Help Desk and signpost people for qualified advice. A grant from the Lent Call will enable the Centre to continue this vital service for the rising numbers who find themselves in a strange town with no friends or family.



The **Copleston Centre** was established in Peckham in 1978 and offers a multi-purpose community centre whilst maintaining within it a church with an active congregation. The space is multi-cultural, multi-faith and inclusive in its provision of a wide range of community-focused services and activities. The Centre is the venue for all kinds of classes and groups, including the Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers, as well community-based social health initiatives, such as the Creative Therapies Project which provides a holistic approach to supporting community members, whether in the area of mental or physical health or those in need of a socially inclusive environment.

- Envelopes or boxes are being given out in the three churches in Lent and
- contributions to the Lent Call can be brought back at any time and put in the
- collection bag, or handed to the wardens or treasurer. We shall send off the
- Windmill United Benefice contribution to the Lent Call after Easter.

The **Fircroft Centre** in Kingston provides centre-based support for adults with mental health problems – valuable for those recovering from hospitalisation or experiencing a crisis and for those on day support from hospital. Trained staff monitor the wellbeing of each service user and all service users have the opportunity to join in activities to help them build educational skills or manage their illness. There are also activities to help service users improve their quality of life, integrate into the community and provide opportunities for voluntary and work experience. The Trust also runs a small garden project for people experiencing social exclusion and undertakes small projects around the local community.

In Zimbabwe:

The Anglican Church of Zimbabwe is working to ensure that people are educated and cared for practically as well as spiritually. In the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe, Bishop Jonathan was present at the opening of the new hospital at **St Patrick's Mission** in October. Meanwhile, Simon Cyrene School in Matabeleland has a newly remodelled school block and a clinic which has expanded and offers healthcare, including a maternity provision, for the local community. It is also exciting to see the growth of farming, as well as increasing numbers of churches and rectories being built. The Church in Zimbabwe is vibrant and the people are very committed to all that they are doing. They value the links with Southwark and our support. It is important to them to know that we pray for them and that we will continue to support them in all they are trying to do.

In The Holy Land:

The Lent Call will support both educational and health projects in The Holy Land. The **Arab Evangelical Episcopal School** and the **Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Centre** are in the Palestinian town of Ramallah, six miles from Jerusalem. Children from both Muslim and Christian communities are educated together to help to build understanding and links across the communities. At the Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Centre students learn useful skills and get hands-on experience in local businesses.



Also supported this year are **St Luke's Hospital** in Nablus and the **Al-Wafa Rehabilitation Hospital** in the Gaza Strip. St Luke's cares for those who have difficulty accessing health care elsewhere because of where they live. It is the only Christian institution in Northern Palestine and relies on the Diocese of Jerusalem for financial support. The Al-Wafa Hospital cares for those who have many different forms of disabilities. Its building was destroyed by bombing in July 2014 and it is yet to be re-built so staff go out into the community to support the disadvantaged.