

18th February 2018
~ 1st Sunday of Lent ~

10.00 am Holy Communion

President & Preacher:: Revd Sr. Elizabeth Shearcroft, C.A.

Readings: Genesis 9:8-17 OT page 7
1 Peter 3:18-end NT page 232
Mark 1:9-15 NT page 33



“For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.” 2 Corinthians 4:6 (NIV)

Shop online via the link below and Immanuel and St Andrew Church benefits at no cost to you.

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/immanuelstandrew>

Vicar	Revd Sr Elizabeth Shearcroft CA
Wardens	(Vacant) (Vacant)
Treasurer	Caroline Hewitt
Envelope Sec	Lorraine Thomas
Stewardship	Lorraine Thomas
Safeguarding	Laura Reynolds (Children)
Officers	Maureen Boothe (Vulnerable Adults)
Office	Tuesdays and Fridays (school hours) 8679 6888 office@immanuelstreatham.org.uk
452 Streatham High Road, London, SW16 3PY	

OPEN DOOR

Our weekly newsletter for you to take home



Immanuel and St Andrew

Registered Charity no:1131245
www.immanuelstreatham.org.uk

11th February 2018
~ Sunday next before Lent ~

10.00 am Holy Communion

President: Revd Sr. Elizabeth Shearcroft, C.A.

Preacher: David Gray

Readings: 2 Kings 2:1-12 OT page 342
2 Corinthians 4:3-6 NT page 177
Mark 9:2-9 NT page 42

Collect

**Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Diary Dates

- **Tuesday 13th February 2018 - Immanuel Prays!** - our prayer group meets at 7:30pm in the Chapel.
- **Tuesday 13th February ~ Shrove Tuesday ~ PANCAKES ~** At home, symbolically use up the 'luxury' food items in your pantry in preparation for your Lenten observation.
- **Wednesday 14th February, 2018 ~ Ash Wednesday ~ 8.00 pm** Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes. This Service is the important marker that Lent is beginning.
- **Thursday 15th February 2018 - CAIAS** - 10:30am in the Common Room. This week's programme: Pray & Sing-a-long
- **Thursday 15^h February 2018 - Admission to Communion/Confirmation sessions** - see notice below for details.

Foundation Governor - Immanuel & St Andrew School

Being a school governor is challenging and rewarding. We have two vacancies at the moment, and one is for a Foundation Governor. A Foundation Governor needs to be someone who wants to see our children being educated in a school with strong Christian values. There are lots of evening meetings to attend (about 10 per year), and lots of things to read. You can see details of our governors on the school's website <http://www.immanuelsoollambeth.org/meet-our-governors/> where there are several documents at the bottom of that page that give some more information.

If you want to know more, talk to Simon Early or Sister Elizabeth.

Admission to Communion/Confirmation

Exploration and preparation sessions take place in Church on

Thursdays from 1st February 2018:

Admission to Communion (7-12 year olds) 4:30 - 6:00pm

Confirmation Preparation (12 years upwards) 6:30 - 8:00pm

Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks for our very positive MAP morning last Saturday which gave much clarity and vision for us at Immanuel & St. Andrew growing together as a community **Knowing Jesus ~ Making Him known.** Pray for your Lenten preparation.
- For those of our congregation facing the limitations of ill health.
- Pray for all involved with our school. Pray for the right person to offer as a foundation governor as we look beyond our own church community and invite applications from the Polish church community
- Give thanks for Keira Hamilton and all the young people who were Confirmed in Westminster Abbey last Wednesday
- Give thanks for the lives of Jim McLean and Granville Brown (Lorraine Thomas's father) and pray for Hannah and Lorraine and their families at this sad time.

Immanuel Prays!

The next meeting is at 7.30pm in the Chapel on
Tuesday 13th February

If you are unable to attend but would like us to pray for you or someone you know, please contact Lorraine or Marion.

Important thank you and notice ~ Junior Church

At our recent PCC meeting we affirmed the difficult decision to reduce our Junior Church (Infant & Junior) provision to **once a month**. This will be offered on the **1st Sunday of each month** with immediate effect.

God has been very good and we are delighted and grateful that eight congregation members have been prompted to offer to help in our ministry with our children so our prayer that our reduced offer will be a temporary measure is now a reality. It will still be a little while until DBS checks can be done, and obviously anyone else who feels that they can offer to help will be welcomed as we aim to meet the needs of the leaders as well as the children. Continue to pray and give thanks. Elizabeth

Ministry Musings

Sunday next before Lent

In Biblical times they didn't talk about Strategic or Mission Action Planning ~ though a terrific amount of forward planning did happen, whether it was basic or complex!

Take a look at the relationship between Elisha and Elijah. As the elder Elijah appears to want to protect Elisha by giving him instructions that will separate them but Elisha is having none of it. They travel down to the company of prophets at Bethel and those prophets challenge Elisha asking if he knows what is happening? Elisha is well aware and again Elijah attempts to separate them, inviting Elisha to stay with the prophets ~ again Elisha refuses to leave Elijah and they journey on to the Jordan river, where Elijah separates the water and they cross the dry riverbed to the other side. Elijah asks Elijah what he can do for him before he departs and Elisha requests a double portion of Elijah's spirit ~ he wants to be equipped to continue the ministry! Elijah does not directly promise to honour Elisha's request ~ he leaves it to God by setting a condition ~ Elisha will need to witness Elijah being taken into heaven ~ and that is beyond either of them to ensure ~ it has to be God's Will. The men give God the supremacy in their lives.

Giving God the supremacy, as was revealed to us last Sunday in our exploration of His Word, is not easy. Many are blinded to God's supremacy and those of us that recognise it can be tempted to deny it! We can resist that temptation and let Christ's light shine in our hearts ~ it takes God's grace and will power on our part to use our freewill to say yes to God.

Our Gospel tells of the Transfiguration ~ witnessed by Peter, James and John, who struggled to know how to respond to what was revealed to them. How do you deal with God revealing glimpses of His supremacy in your lives ~ have you ever been blessed with a Transfiguration type experience in your faith journey ~ deepening your "knowing Jesus ~ making Him known".

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