

# St George-in-the-East

## Giving up not listening



# March 2015

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## **From the Churchwardens...**

**W**e hope you are having a good Lent. The Archbishop of Canterbury suggests a good Lent is about listening. He suggested, in a talk in a series called Passion and Resurrection, A Good Lent, A Good Easter at St Paul's Cathedral, that we give up 'not listening' for Lent. The talk is on the cathedral's website if you'd like to know more. In the same series, Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford will be talking on 'Passion: A Good Holy Week' on Thursday 19 March from 6.30 - 8pm, please let Alex know if you'd like to go.

In the run up to Easter, we're planning a joint Palm Sunday service with St Dunstan's-on Sunday 29th March we will start at St George-in-the-East at 10am, and will then process, following Stepney City Farm's two donkeys, to St Dunstan's for the rest of the service. The donkeys are fittingly called George and Dunstan, and apparently they need a long walk every week so will enjoy the outing! Please let us know if you'd like to have a part in the joint service-we're looking for readers for a part in the Passion Gospel, and people to take up bread and wine.

Jenny will be taking all our Easter services, more details to follow. We'll also have help to prepare the church for Easter, the Orthodox will be staying after their morning service on the 4th April to join us with coffee, cake and cleaning. It will take place from 12.30-14.30 this year, and I'm sure many hands will make light work!

January and February have been busy months for the PCC! We met with Bishop Adrian, Archdeacon Rachel and Area Dean Andy at the end of January to continue the process started by the consultation with Ali Lyon to consider options for St George-in-the-East. We had responded to Ali's report for Bishop Adrian with our ambitions and hopes for the parish and, following the meeting, continue to explore options by finding out more about Ali's suggestions. We're hoping this will help the Bishop make his decision about the best way forward for St George-in-the-East, but it means that we don't have an answer yet. Everyone is keeping the needs of our parish at the forefront as we think and pray about some exciting possibilities and we hope the decision won't take too long!

We had the sad news of Michael Saward's death recently. A memorial service is to be held on March 18th at St Paul's Cathedral. Michael's daughter has asked us to let her know if anyone wishes to attend. If you'd like to go please let us know and we'll give you the details.

**Allan and Alex**

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## **Focus on...**

## **Charitable Giving**

### **ALMA - Angola, London Mozambique Association**

**“A growing partnership in the gospel”**

<http://www.almalink.org>

ALMA is the London Diocesan link with the Anglican Church in Angola and Mozambique that was started in 1998.

Money raised for ALMA is used in a variety of ways. Some is used in 'capacity building' such as helping to fund the travel costs for ordinands in Angola (A) and Mozambique (M) training to join the clergy and for visitors from A&M to visit London. All monies raised are shared equally between the three dioceses in A&M.

The church in A&M is growing and the supply of priests can't keep up with demand! One project is to train lay preachers ("catechists") who not only lead Sunday services but also funerals and act as community leaders. The costs of this include training the catechist, a bible, a cassock and perhaps most importantly...a bicycle.

ALMA works to develop facilities in A&M such schools and community 'health posts' where trained volunteers can provide care for the sick where no other medical facilities exist and make a real difference to lives. ALMA has also held create links between many parishes and schools in London with counterparts in Angola and Mozambique.

## Bits 'n' bobs

**Messy Church:** The children's church went on an outing on Saturday 24th January to the Patronal Festival with Messy Cathedral at St Paul's. Alex and 11 of us from church and our parents came. Mostly what we did was making crafts, it was really great, my favourite craft was making a candle collage, but everyone else's are different. There were lots to do like: colouring glass, making angels and light houses and painting pottery hearts. When it ended we all got a chocolate biscuit and bookmark. We all had cake and hot chocolate afterwards!

Services and readings	
1 March— Second Sunday of Lent	Malachi 3.1-5 Psalm 24.[1-6]7-10 Hebrews 2.14-18 Luke 2.22-40
8 March Third Sunday of Lent	Exodus 20.1-17 Psalm 19* 1 Corinthians 1.18-25 John 2.13-22
15 March Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday	Exodus 2.1-10 or 1 Samuel 1.20-28 Psalm 34.11-20 or Psalm 127.1-4 2 Corinthians 1.3-7 or Colossians 3.12-17 Luke 2.33-35 or John 19.25-27
22 March Fifth Sunday of Lent	Jeremiah 31.31-34 Psalm 51.1-13 or Psalm 119.9-16 Hebrews 5.5-10 John 12.20-33
29 March Palm Sunday (See Churchwarden news)	Mark 11.1-11 or John 12.12-16 Psalm 118.1-2,19-24*