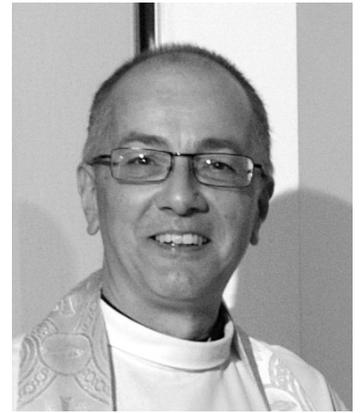


# Pastoral Letter

## Revd Roger Hagon shares his thoughts...



Dear Friends

Lent, the 'Springtime of the Soul', starts on Ash Wednesday 6 March. There will be services both at 10am and 8pm in church where you will have the opportunity to enter this holy season which prepares us for the joy of Easter. Barry Goodwin will preach at the evening service and introduce his exciting Lent course on the prophet Micah, called 'People, Prophets and Power'.

One of the traditions that marks our keeping of Lent at St Mildred's is Lent Lunches. These take place every Thursday at 1pm in the Concourse and give us a chance to hear about, and support, this year's Bishop of Southwark Lent Call. The projects we are giving money to this year include The Leprosy Mission in Sri Lanka, a church training project in Nairobi, Sutton Women's Centre, and our link dioceses in Zimbabwe. Details of all of these will be put up at the back of church on a Lenten display.

Bishop Christopher has chosen a verse from St John's Gospel to set the scene: Jesus said, 'I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly' (Chapter 10 verse 10). So, whether you are celebrating the new life of Spring with its longer daylight hours, the life of St Mildred's church as we stir up our commitment week by week to Christ, his Church and his Mission, or the ways in which we anticipate the freedom of Easter by breaking free from sinful and harmful patterns of behaviour, may we all enjoy the abundance of eternal life promised to us by Jesus our Lord.

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**Roger**



# Choir Notes

This month we see the start of Lent, and with it some wonderful musical opportunities. We will again be holding a series of Sung Complines by candlelight. These will be at 9.15pm on Wednesday evenings in Lent, in the Lady Chapel. This beautiful plainsong service lasts only around 10 minutes and is a perfect and calm way to end the day. Our glorious Lady Chapel has the most extraordinary acoustic for performing plainsong, so these services will be very special.

Also during March, Eloise Demay will give a Trumpet Recital after Choral Evensong on the 24th. Afternoon Tea will be served as usual, and the recital will begin after that. Please come and support Eloise, who is a wonderful young musician. You won't be disappointed!

Advance warning: on Maundy Thursday the choir will be performing Allegri's Miserere, one of the cornerstone works of the choral repertoire, at the conclusion of the Holy Communion service at 8pm. There will also be Choral Evensong on Holy Saturday 20 April.

**Richard Mander, Director of Music**

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## **People, Prophets and Power: A Lenten Journey through the Prophet Micah**

Our Lent Course this year, led by Revd Barry Goodwin, will run for five weeks **starting on Wednesday 13 March**.

There is a sign-up sheet for people to add their names and we hope many of you will want to attend what will be very interesting, informative and stimulating evenings.

**Barbara Skilton**