

# News from Rev John Musson

14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020

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## *Happy Valentine's Day*

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Hope you feel specially loved today, whether or not you've received any Valentine Cards! Who is St Valentine? – He's a 3<sup>rd</sup> century Saint beheaded for being a Christian, because the emperor at the time, Claudius (of 'I' fame) tried to ban soldiers getting married as it interfered with their work – Valentine was a priest and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. He ended up in prison and had his head chopped off on 14<sup>th</sup> February. Legend has it that while he was in jail he became friendly with the jailer's daughter, and sent her a note just before he was killed which he signed 'from your Valentine'! It may not be romantic, but it's certainly brave!

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## *School Communion*

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We had an amazing School Communion service on Tuesday. The children who did the dramatized reading and the prayers did really well, and it was amazing to see all your children engage so well as I broke bread and blessed the wine, remembering the meal that Jesus shared with his friends on the night before he died. Mrs Musson who is training to be a priest helped give your children Jesus' blessing too; and it was great to see several children receive communion as well. Before and after the service some children asked me whether they could join in, and I told them they could with their parent or carer's permission, as long as they have been to the short preparation course - It is the practice of Cudham Church to prepare children to receive communion from the age of 7 – school years 3 upwards. If this is something you'd like your children to do, please let me know. Best is to email me at [vicar@pcd.org.uk](mailto:vicar@pcd.org.uk)

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## *Messy Church*

***Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb  
10.30am-12.30pm  
including lunch  
Cudham Church***

Hope you are looking forward to half term – we're half way through the school year already! By Thursday you might be looking for something to do – so why not come along to Messy Church? There will be lots of craft activities, a short time of singing and worship, then a shared buffet lunch together- on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb with the theme of 'mindfulness' – come along as a family – there's room for very little ones and plenty for children and parents/helpers/carers too. We don't charge, but welcome donations on the day – contact Denise Angell our children's leader on 07957 206901 to find out more, or just turn up on the day.

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Just a reminder that straight after half term Lent begins. We'll be thinking about Lent in worship on Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday) Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February and giving out this year's Live Life Live Lent booklets for you as a family to use. This year's theme is how we care for our environment, with a challenge a day for the 40 days of Lent (far better than giving up chocolate!) There is a service of Communion and the imposition of ashes in Cudham Church 7.30pm on Ash Wednesday.

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*The Bishop's visit!*

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As well as being Vicar of Cudham and Downe, I'm also Area Dean of Orpington – and I'm arranging a visit from Bishop James, the Bishop of Rochester in the first week of March – I'm pleased to say he's agreed to come and speak at Collective Worship on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 9am, and will be in school from 8am with the staff when Kim Curle will be leading another 'space to breathe' craft session for them. This is a 'chill out' session before the day begins, and I know that teachers and helpers who've been before really value this short time before the day begins.

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*Cudham Church*

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Church services don't take a half-term break – Sunday morning services happen every week at 11am, with Sunday Club for 3-11's during the service. There's also a creche area, and we end with refreshments and home-made cookies afterwards. Why not give it a try?

Have a great half term!

Rev John Musson, vicar@pcd.org.uk