

## From the Rectory

We had a wonderful Lenten Plainsong Compline at Horsenden last night. The choir, as always, sang beautifully and it was a very special service in what is our smallest and very special little church. We had a few members of the congregation there – though whether they went home quietly to bed afterwards, as one is supposed to do after Compline, is debatable!

Compline is one of the 'daily offices' which happen in churches, cathedrals and religious institutions throughout not just the country, but the world. Often these are sung, and often the only people in attendance are the choir and clergy. Does this matter? No it doesn't, because the object of these services is to offer praise to God on behalf of the local population, and to pray for that local population. It keeps open a channel of prayer in every corner of the world. It is amazing to think that every second of every minute of every day there is a continuous river of prayer. When we join in on behalf of our villages, we are standing in that river for a few minutes.

So wherever you live, you are being prayed for, sometimes by name if you have requested prayer, sometimes because you fall into a certain category, for example if you are a pupil at school, or you are sick or elderly, or live in a certain street. In our own parish every month the occupants of every street, and the members of schools and local organisations and establishments are prayed for.

In the remaining weeks of Lent, why not join in this river of prayer for a few minutes once a day? If you don't know how to, look at  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/join-us-in-daily-prayer.aspx>  
or

<http://www.sacredspace.ie>

Alternatively, just set aside some silent time and sit consciously in the presence of God, and if you want to pray for someone, just say his/her name. God will fill in the rest. You won't be praying alone, you will be dipping your toes into that great river of prayer for a few minutes.

May the remainder of your Lent be a blessed time, and when Easter Day comes, may you and yours know the joy and hope of Our Lord's resurrection.

With love and prayer

Jennifer

