

From the Chaplain...

There is nothing about us that God doesn't already know. As self-evident as it may be to say so, it's an idea that can be very difficult truly to accept and live by. Instead, we persuade ourselves that if we successfully conceal our actions from others, God will somehow be taken in as well. Yet our Old Testament reading this week (Amos 5. 6-7, 10-15) assures us that this is not the case: 'I know how many are your transgressions,' says the Lord, 'and how great are your sins – you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate' (v.12). And what is true of the big things remains the case with the little things as well. We may be disconcerted by the notion of another consciousness privy to all our minor shortcomings, but in fact God is present there, too, witness to all those moments of pettiness and corner-cutting in which we too readily indulge. Further still, it's not even a matter of only our actions but also what we think and feel in the privacy of our inner selves. So, our passage from the Letter to the Hebrews (4. 12-end) reminds us that before God 'no creature is hidden, but all are open and laid bare to the eyes of him with whom we have to do' (v. 13). If this reality about our relationship with God strikes us as threatening, we should not forget that it also has the potential to liberate us. For the God who knows everything is, after all, the same God who has also chosen to forgive everything. When we accept that we are both known and forgiven in equal measure, then we can leave the shadows and live more fully in the light.

This Sunday, we welcome the Revd Dr John Philpott-Howard as our guest preacher at the 11.00am Choral Eucharist. Then, at 3.00pm, the Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust's annual 'Forget Me Not' service will also take place in the Chapel. This gathering, led by the Trust Chaplaincy team, will honour the lives of babies and children who have died. The service is open to everyone.

Yours faithfully,
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