

All Saints Magazine



January 2018

Free

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Friends

Happy New Year. It always seems a bit odd to write this when we are still about to celebrate Christmas but the new year brings with it all the expectations, the plans and dreams we have for the future.

New year is a time to say good bye to last year with all the pleasant things and all the tough things too. There may be things we regret and now is the time to let them go; it may be that we have lost loved ones and now is the time to look to a new future, different maybe to what we had imagined.

It is also January which can be cold and grey, and a bit boring after all the festivities of December.

But that is just the time to take a few moments to ponder the past year, to get a cup of tea and sit somewhere comfortable and think on what was good, what habits and learning do you want to take from it, and what do you want to leave firmly behind in 2017.

And also it's a time for planning, not too much as there is a saying 'when you show God your plans he laughs'

But maybe, where can we be more gracious, where can we be kind or helpful

Could we volunteer some of our time?

Could we find a bit more time for prayer or bible study?

Can we just pause our business and have time to breathe.

Yes plan to the big stuff, the holidays, the celebrations, the work projects but remember God is with us in the small stuff as well as the big stuff,

Whatever the new year brings us let's face it with confidence and with the certainty that God is with us through it all.

AMEN

Annette

Youth Club

On Monday 11th December the youth club at All Saints went Ice Skating at Ruxley Manor. All eight of us were there despite James feeling under the weather.



It was fun even though I fell several times and felt like I almost broke my leg. I didn't though as you can see we all enjoyed it and thanks to the fundraising of selling cake and mince pies and waffles we only had to pay a minimal amount too!

Richard Rose.

Posada

This December the posada has been circulating once again.

Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus have stayed at various homes overnight with several people expressing a wish for them to stay longer.

If you are a knitter please see me as we can hopefully have two sets circulating next year

Annette



Mums and Tots



Throughout December Sarah Brooks has been helping Mums and Tots with their crafts, producing snowflakes, snowmen (pictured) and baubles.

The Mews

I was recently taken to visit the Royal Mews by my daughter whose friend is assistant to the Crown Equerry and personally took us around, so we had quite intimate details. We entered through The Gate House (used by staff and royals only), crossed the quadrangle where the layout is just as it was in Queen Victoria's day.

Our first stop was the "post van" , a smart black carriage and horse still used to deliver the mail between the Royal Palaces of London each day. We went behind the scenes to see the state cars, which I always assumed were black, but in certain light are a dark rich burgundy, as are the coaches.

It was interesting to see the coach repairers and painters painting out low scuff marks from coachmen's boots, which had to be regularly painted and polished out and the thin red line painted freehand.

Then onto a large room with many diverse brasses and harnesses set out on wooden 'horse' structures to keep their shape until needed for particular celebrations.

Many of the men working in these departments are 3rd generation, and all leather work is restored on site, beautiful to see.

We visited the stables and met the lovely horses with their different personalities, one of whom had £3,000 spent on a problem hoof, rather than be put down. Another, instead of chomping a mint treat, enjoyed sucking it - then licking his lips!

The original Victorian stables were next visited, with the little drays of Victoria's children displayed and named.

At Christmas the horses are brought in to these stalls and staff and their children await the Queen, who arrives, and as a footman backs up with a tray of carrots, the Queen chats and gives a carrot to each horse. Then Father Christmas arrives in a carriage.

An amazing conundrum was left until the end, when we saw the Royal Coach in a temperature held room. How did it go through the door?

Well the whole of the wall panels on one side wall are removed to reveal the original doors to the outside.



It was a worthwhile visit, seeing the famous Gold Coach was the piece de resistance.

BMW

Reflections on 2017

At a recent family gathering just before Christmas, my daughter Jenny, suggested we each had to pick a personal peak or a pit (try saying that after a few glasses!) in 2017.

My **peak** came to me straightaway. It was the day that I climbed on to a mobile scaffolding so that I could try to clean the War Memorial. Fortunately, my son-in-law, Alfie, had applied the scaffolding brake securely or else I could have moved serenely onto Bercta Road!

I was asked why I was so intent on cleaning the Memorial. The reason was simply that I felt I owed it to my parents who both served with distinction and with humour.

My mother joined the WRAF because she wanted to fly but instead ended up on radar during the Battle of Britain. "Radar wasn't a very precise science in those days, dear," she once told me. "We could just about tell the difference between a Spitfire and a Messerschmitt!"

My dad was in most of the major conflicts during the Second World War but never quite there! So, for example, while most of the British Expeditionary Force were desperately retreating to Dunkirk, my Dad's platoon got lost. "Bit of a problem on the old map reading front! We ended up sleeping by day, and walking across enemy lines by night. Finally got to a port and got a boat back home. Never did find out what port it was!"

My personal **pit** in 2017 was equally clear cut. It was Saturday 3rd June when Alfie took me to his favourite restaurant, the Black and Blue, in Borough Market, London Bridge. Unfortunately it was the same night that three terrorists decided to visit that restaurant. As they smashed their way through the glass in the front of the restaurant about ten of us, including two of the waitresses, slipped out the back way.

I later learned that several of the diners in the front had fought back heroically. As one terrorist started slashing with his two knives and shouting "This one's for Allah," one of the diners got up and shouted back "Foxtrot Oscar (rough translation!) I am Millwall" and ended up in intensive care with eight stab wounds. I found out later that the "Lion of London Bridge" as he was dubbed, when visited by friends while recovering in hospital, was given the usual presents, grapes, newspapers, etc., but was also given a health book –
– **"How to run!"**

In stark contrast to peaks and pits, one constant throughout the year has been the warm friendship of the community of ASNE. I do not know what instinct impelled me to walk into the church, one sunny Sunday morning in August 2013, but it led to the dizzy heights of the role of Gardener No 3 and in the months to come I will continue to slowly reveal the "cunning" plans that I have for the garden!

Thank you for making me always feel so welcome and I wish you all a very peaceful New Year.

Neal – Gardener No 3.

With apologies to Gardener No 3 (Neal) for, due to running out of space, omitting from his article last month the pictures of him cleaning the war memorial. We are very thankful to him and Dennis for their hard work on the memorial, and to Alfie for the loan of the scaffolding tower. This is what you missed.



Diary Dates for January 2018

Thursday 4th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 7th	EPIPHANY 10.00 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 10th	10.30 -12.00 6.30 pm 8.00 pm	Fair Trade Café Evening Prayer PCC Meeting
Thursday 11th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Saturday 13th	5.00 pm	Youth Club
Sunday 14th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Mon15th –Fri 19th		Annette on retreat
Thursday 18th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21st	10.00 am	Family Communion
Wednesday 24th	10.30 -12.00 6.30 pm	Fair Trade Café Evening Prayer
Thursday 25th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 28th	10.30 am 12.30 pm	Holy Communion for week of prayer for Christian Unity at the Methodist church Baptism Shania Campbell
Wednesday 31st	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer

Please check the weekly news sheet for any change

Parish Pump

Baptisms.

10th December, Harley Rose Appard

100 Club.

The winner of the December draw was our youngest ever, Eric Jennings, (Ruth and Graham Fancett's grandson).

Quiz Results.

The November Quiz prize of £17.50 was won by Mel Bingley (Emma Lewis's father), whose entry was picked 'from the hat' from the correct entries received.

Yoga.

We thank Diana Stewart for her yoga classes in aid of the church roof fund, £130 was raised.

Churches Together in New Eltham (CTNE).

The carol service was well attended and £122.57 was collected for Crisis at Christmas. Especial thanks goes to Paul, Aaron and the Choir and Ruth and her team who replenished us with mince pies and drinks afterwards.

To celebrate the culmination of "the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity", traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January, there will be a joint service at the Methodist Church on 28th January.

All Saints is under represented at this forum which works to co-ordinate the efforts of local churches to bring faith to the secular community. Please see the Vicar or Churchwardens if you would like to work with your fellow neighbourhood Christians.

Monthly Charity.

This month we are raising money for Welcare, a charity working with local vulnerable families. Please place your donations in the wall safe by the main entrance. Or support the Wednesday Fair Trade Cafés. Thank you.

Future Events

This years' Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 22nd April

Gardening Corner

The PCC has received a complaint about the untidy state of the memorial garden. I suppose we should not be too surprised, as it is not just the remains of autumn leaves, but dead cut flowers, half buried plant pots and containers, rotting cards, vases of stagnant water and what would be described as “unauthorised ephemera” in the faculty that only allows us to have a rose and shrub memorial garden, with standardised plaques.

It is a difficult line to draw between possibly upsetting the families who, despite having signed a copy of the rules of the garden, do leave or plant things they shouldn't and the difficulty and inconvenience they pose for people who have to remove them to weed round them.

We have to rely on people volunteering to keep sectioned parts of the garden tidy, and not all the sections were taken. Further, as this was done some time ago, some of those who had volunteered have now moved away and some are no longer physically capable. However, we know of someone funding a gardener to keep their section tidy.

Unfortunately this option is not open to the PCC as there is no money in the Garden Fund, it having been emptied in the last two years by having to pay for the necessary removal of dangerous and damaging trees in the church grounds.

Neither is it practical to ask families of those in the garden to look after their own, as in some cases there is no family left and many others live elsewhere. (Also see first paragraph). We are also aware that on the forms to order memorial plaques there is an option to provide a subscription for the upkeep of the garden, which is usually ignored.

So we are left with an appeal for more volunteers to take on the remaining vacant sections of the garden; a number of pre-spring working parties for a general clear up; and a hope that some of the families will reclaim their items.

We give thanks for all our volunteer gardeners, in their unenviable task, and also those on, or want to be on, the grass cutting rota, especially Geoff Ellis for organising the rota and arranging for the maintenance of the mower. March will soon be upon us.

Stewardship and Planned giving.

In November we launched a “The Responsibility is Ours (TRIO)” campaign, with a guest speaker from the Diocese, where we invited members of the congregation to prayerfully review their giving and make regular payments, so that we can move towards self sufficiency and plan for the future of the church with accurate budgeting.

We gave or sent leaflets and forms to everyone on the electoral roll and to regular attenders who are not yet on the electoral roll, over 80 people, with responses requested by the beginning of Advent.

The bad news is that we have had a less than 40% response rate so far. So unless the rest of the forms come back soon, regardless of what is being pledged, budgeting will be little more than guesswork and the Treasurer’s job unsustainable.

The good news is that most of the responses have been positive, so it looks as if we are moving towards a sustainable future.

A New Year Wish

A Wish for you and those you love
To light the way ahead,
A wish for joy and hope and peace
Along the path you tread.

With memories of happy times
And places long ago,
Reminding you, you’re thought about
More often than you know.

And then another extra wish
With greetings most sincere,
May love warm every day for you
Throughout the coming year.

Iris Hesselden

The Cross in my pocket

I carry a cross in my pocket,
A simple reminder to me.
Of the fact that I am Christian,
No matter where I may be.

This little cross is not magic,
Nor is it a good luck charm,
It isn't meant to protect me
From every physical harm.

It's not for identification
For all the world to see;
It's simply an understanding
Between my Saviour and me.

When I put my hand in my pocket
To bring out a coin or key;
The cross is there to remind me
Of the price He paid for me.

It reminds me, too, to be thankful
For my blessings day by day.
And to strive to serve Him better
In all I do and say.

It's also a daily reminder
Of the peace and comfort I share
With all who know the Master
And give themselves to his care.

So I carry a cross in my pocket
Reminding no one but He...
That Jesus Christ is the Lord of my life
If only I let Him be.

Easy fundraising update

Hurrah, after last month's special request our number of supporters has increased to 21, but there must be more of you that shop online, even if you don't but know of family or friends who do, please share our "cause page" (link below) with them. We still have to get the guttering repaired.

For the 18 months we have been promoting this **easy access to free money**, you have now generated £434.31, for All Saints, **at no cost to yourself**.

There are over 3,200 retailers including Amazon, ebay, Just Eat, Groupon, Tesco & Sainsburys (including grocery shopping), M&S, Thomas Cook and countless other big name stores, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to All Saints to say thank you for shopping with them.

Please remember to shop via. Easyfundraising—you could be raising a FREE donation for All Saints, New Eltham.

Easyfundraising also **alerts you to special offers and discount deals, so you could save money too**. All you have to do is:

1. Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/allsaintsneweltham>
2. Sign up for **FREE, Don't forget to download the Donation Reminder** on a laptop or PC so you will never forget to collect a **FREE** donation.
3. Select your store/retailer and get shopping—the stores' donations will be collected by easyfundraising and automatically sent to All Saints.

Or: if you have a smart phone or tablet, you can download the **FREE** easyfundraising **app** from the App Store or Google Play Store and follow the instructions on how to sign up.

Alternatively: you can safely register debit or credit cards with easyfundraising. Visit a participating high street retailer. Make an in-store purchase and easyfundraising will do the rest. Any donations you raise are in addition to any rewards from your card provided and it won't stop you getting any cash back.

It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything. There are no catches or hidden charges.

Thank you for your support, every penny counts.

Answers to the December Quiz sheet

BIBLE-ish questions

1. What was the most important book first published in the reign of James I
The Authorised Bible
2. What is the second book in the Old Testament?
Exodus
3. In what formation did the animals enter Noah's Ark?
2 by 2
4. In the Old Testament, who was the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth?
Noah
5. Into which Sea does the River Jordan Flow?
The Dead Sea
6. Whose wife was turned into a pillar of salt?
Lot
7. In the Old Testament, which daughter of the King of Sidon married King Ahab of Israel?
Jezebel
8. In the Old Testament, who was the third King of Israel?
Solomon
9. Who cut off Samson's hair
Delilah
10. Lake Tiberias is the modern name for which Biblical sea?
The Sea of Gallilee
11. How many books are there in the Old Testament?
39
12. According to medieval Christian legend, what did Jesus drink from at the Last Supper?
The Holy Grail
13. What is the fifth book of the New Testament?
The Acts
14. What was the Apostle Matthew's job?
Tax Collector
15. Who was Britain's first Christian martyr?
St Alban
16. Where is the last battle scheduled to take place on the Day of Judgement?
Armageddon

From the Archives – snippets from the January magazine of 1938, price twopence.

THE CHURCH GARDEN

Our grateful thanks and appreciation to Mr. Raybould for arranging for the lopping of trees in the church grounds and general clearing up. Mr Raybould has also planted the "Coronation Trees." There are nine trees—four poplars and five spring flowering trees. The cost of these is 10s. Each.

Two have been given by members of the congregation and one by the Mother's Union and one by the Girl Guides. This leaves five to be paid for and we shall be happy to stake claims for these.

HYMN BOARDS

Many thanks to my Warden, Mr Scates, for the gift of new Hymn and Psalm Boards.

NOTICE BOARD

Hearty congratulations and thanks to Mr. George Prior for gift of Notice Board in the new porch. It is a fine bit of work and Mr. Prior was specially congratulated by the architect upon his beautiful handiwork.

ELECTORAL ROLL

Last month we published one of a series of twelve leaflets entitled: "The Church : Your Church."It dealt with the subject of the laity claiming their votes and seeing to it that they are on the Electoral Roll and so qualified to vote at the Annual Parochial Meeting.

Our Annual Meeting will be arranged early in the year, possibly in February, and the Electoral Roll is now under revision.

With so many new residents coming into the parish there should be a large number of new names to add to the Roll. In this year's revision many names have been removed owing to deaths and removals but we ought to be able to more than balance these by the addition of new names.

There are no entries in the "Church Logbook" for January 1978.

We hope to provide "snippets" from the relevant month of 80 and 40 years ago.