

All Saints Magazine



March 2017

Free

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Friends

Ash Wednesday begins March this year and we are here in a season of penitence for the whole of March. We are asked to reflect on our relationships with God and with each other. I was recently challenged to love my neighbour as myself, and to actually work hard on loving myself so that I could in turn reflect that love to my neighbours. For as my challenger said, if we love our neighbours as ourselves what does that mean if we are harsh on ourselves, or give ourselves a hard time, or have a distorted image of ourselves and our abilities.

As the proverb says, you must have a full cup yourself in order for it to be able to spill out and fill other cups.

So often we are operating on an almost empty cup and Lent gives us space to fill ourselves and to renew and refresh our relationship with God. We all need to find space for God to fill us up with his love and to remind ourselves that this isn't selfish but essential if we are to love our neighbours as ourselves.

Take time to pray.

Read something that challenges you.

Read something that nurtures you.

Find time for something artistic or crafty.

Find time for a walk, or a bike ride, or just a sit outside.

Listen to God.

Amen

Annette



Same Sex Marriage

In General Synod, the bishops had prepared a statement on same sex marriage and on whether we, as a church, should actively welcome all people regardless of their sexual orientation, gender or sexual preferences.

For some this statement was really radical but for others it didn't go far enough. For the moment the church will not be embracing same sex marriage. This has hurt some people but reassured others. Wherever you are in this debate be reassured that the church is there for you and we hold you all in love and prayers

Bishop Christopher's letter follows

Annette

A Pastoral Letter to the Diocese from the Bishop of Southwark

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ

Many of you will have followed the debate in and around General Synod relating to Marriage and Same Sex Relationships. As you know, Synod decided **not** to 'take note' of the Bishops' Report. It is unlikely that further proposals will return in the life of this Synod.

You may wish to know that I abstained from voting. This was not in order to distance myself from the House of Bishops. People spoke with passion in the course of the debate across a wide spectrum and it was in the light of what I heard that I made my decision recognising a continuing need to listen attentively to each other in the love of Christ. You need to know of my desire to maintain my God-given ministry of unity as your bishop.

Two Shared Conversations have already taken place in Southwark, following the National Regional Conversations. People have grown in confidence and trust in voicing very different convictions. I believe that we have taken a positive approach towards the good disagreement that the Archbishop of Canterbury has commended. I am meeting with participants from the Shared Conversations at the beginning of March to reflect on what has been of value and to consider carefully what to commend more widely to the Diocese. I will also be calling a meeting with those from the Diocese on General Synod as recommend in the Archbishops' Letter.

I do not anticipate a formal change in the doctrine relating to marriage. But I believe there is scope for us to be braver and bolder in generous love and forbearance. Whatever shape a pastoral accommodation should in due season take, I steadfastly believe that, by God's grace, we should proceed with a prayerful unity of purpose and integrity. The key, as so often, will be to speak well of one another and to listen well.

In music, harmony is not achieved when all play their own notes but only when all engage in sensitive and acute listening. It is to this listening that I believe we are now called. This is generous, humble listening, that makes the voice of the other have more weight than one's own voice.

As the Scripture says, 'we do not lose heart' 'And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.' (Romans 5. 3-5)

Please be assured of my prayers, as I am of yours for which I am deeply grateful.

+ Christopher Southwark

Mothering Sunday

This year mothering Sunday falls on the 26th March, when we remember with gratitude all that our mothers have done for us. Here are some words from a lovely prayer by Dr. Leslie Weatherhead, well suited to the occasion:

O God, we thank thee this day for all good mothers. For their care and patience and love in childhood's earliest days, for the prayer they offered, the counsel they gave, the example they set, we give thee thanks. And now, perhaps, their hearts are anxious for loved ones far away. Grant to them fortitude, serenity and grace. Comfort them in their loneliness and grant them light at eventide.

Iris & Tony Bennett

As they prepare for their new life with their family in Warsash, Hampshire we are pleased that Tony and Iris Bennett have agreed to share some memories and hopes for the future.

Tony and Iris met one another at her twenty-first birthday party in the village hall in Green Street Green, Farnborough, Kent in 1953.

He came at the invitation of Iris's twin brother also called Tony. Iris always calls him Anthony to distinguish him from her brother.

Tony was a perfect gentleman and held Iris's skirt down when they gave her the bumps. They were married in Orpington Village Church, a lovely old building which they remember with great affection, on 22nd June 1957. Anthony had been a choirboy and server there for many years.

Tony and Iris came to All Saints when their daughter Theresa was five weeks old on the 5th August 1963. Before that they lived on the beautiful Gower Peninsula in Wales, where Tony was a chartered quantity surveyor. The baby was born at Morrision Hospital, Swansea.

The family moved to Chislehurst when Tony's position was transferred to London, where they lived for a short while with their brother-in-law before they moved to 6 Castleford Avenue, New Eltham.

Iris remembers how Reverend Barney Milligan invited them to join All Saints, New Eltham even though they were technically in Holy Trinity, Eltham parish. They have found great friendship and opportunities for service during their 54 years at All Saints. Tony was in charge of stewardship for many years and remembers helping Evelyn Green to transport members of The Sunshine Club when its members were mainly disabled children. Iris continued to organise the birthday cards for the Sunshine Club until January 2017.

Iris remembers being involved with the Friday playgroup and in particular being involved with the social committee. She hopes that people will support Ruth Fancett doing all the work in catering, ecetera.

Tony and Iris will always treasure the warmth and friendship they have received meeting their friends in prayer on a Thursday morning. One of their lifelong friends is Dave Deubert, who has been an amazing help with the heating of the church and others.

Iris remembers how she worked voluntarily at Wyborne Primary School with Margaret Lyons first as a volunteer and then as a paid employee at the invitation of Sydney Cousins, the headmaster. She first worked as a dinner lady and primary helper. She then organised the library and acted as a general dogs-body for 22 years helping out where there was a genuine need.

Iris and Tony's family have always been very important to them and, although they are sad to be leaving All Saints, they are sure that moving closer to their daughter Theresa will be the best way of making sure that they will be happy and safe for the future.



They look back at all the time they have spent with their grandchildren and are happy with the way they have developed into loving, caring people. Laura is twenty-one and a qualified paramedic in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. Isabel and Edward, their eighteen year old grandchildren, are still studying for their 'A' Levels. Isabel is planning a gap year and Edward would like to be an architect and plans to go to university. Iris and Tony are looking forward to watching them flourish in the years to come.

Finally this is a message that Anthony and Iris sent to the people of All Saints after their last Sunday service:



Dear Friends of All Saints, Anthony and Iris would like to say "Thank you so much for the very warm send off you gave us last Sunday. The framed photo of all of you will be a constant reminder of the love and support we have received over the many ups and downs we have had this past fifty years. Also a very big thank you for the most generous gift. We were completely overwhelmed.

We shall be wandering around the Garden Centre in the Spring and choosing something to spend it on.

Good bye and may God Bless you all".

Love Iris and Tony

Little brown seed, round and sound,
Here I put you in the ground.
You can sleep a week or two,
Then — I'll tell you what to do:
You must grow some downward roots,
Then some tiny upward shoots.
From the green shoots' folded sheaves
Soon must come some healthy leaves.
When the leaves have time to grow
Next a bunch of buds must show.
Last of all, the buds must spread
Into blossoms white and red.
There, seed! Now I've done my best:
Please to grow and do the rest!

Rodney Bennett

Diary Dates for March 2017

Wednesday 1st	ASH WEDNESDAY	
	11.00 am	Holy Communion with imposition of ashes
	8.00 pm	Holy Communion with imposition of ashes
Friday 3rd	12.00 pm	Lent Lunch
Saturday 4th	10.00-12.00	Parish office
Sunday 5th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 8th	10.30 -12.00	Fair Trade Café
	1.30 pm	Lent Course at Methodist Church
	6.30 pm	Prayers for Lent
Thursday 9th	11.00 am	Holy communion
Saturday 11th	5.00 -6.30 pm	Youth Club
Sunday 12th	10.00 am	Holy Communion With CAP Speaker
Wednesday 15th	1.30 pm	Lent Course at Methodist Church
	6.30 pm	Prayers for Lent
	8.00 pm	PCC meeting
Thursday 16th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Friday 17th	11.00 am	at Cathedral Consecration of Bishop of Woolwich
Sunday 19th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
	5.00 pm	Welcome to Episcopal area for Bishop of Woolwich
Wednesday 22nd	10.30 -12.00	Fair Trade Café
	1.30 pm	Lent Course at Methodist Church
	6.30 pm	Prayers for Lent
Thursday 24th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 26th	MOTHERING SUNDAY	
	10.00 am	Holy Communion with John Francis Friendship
Tuesday 28th	9.30-11.30	St Olaves Rehearsal
Wednesday 29th	9.30-11.30	St Olaves rehearsal
	1.30 pm	Lent Course at Methodist Church
	7.00 pm	St Olaves Concert
Thursday 30th	9.30 -11.30	Dulverton Easter Service (NB no Holy Communion at 11.00 am)

Please check the weekly news sheet for any changes

Parish Pump

Funerals

3rd February, Alec Frank Wilson

23rd February, Diane Bull

100 Club

The 100 Club prizes were won in February by Alfie Peters, (Margaret & Graham Lyons grandson) and Simon & Beryl Garson.

Quiz Results

The January Quiz prize of £16.50 was won by Rita Mather.

Monthly Charity

This month we are raising money for the Bishop's Lent Appeal. Detail of the specific Charities chosen this year will be on the notice board by the main entrance. Please place your donations in the wall safe by the main entrance. Thank you.

Future Events

23rd April, Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Lent, a time for preparation

Lent is a time in the Christian calendar when the focus is in the preparation for the celebration of Easter. Traditionally this has involved some form of self-denial, "What are you giving up for Lent?"

For your treasurer it is giving up time to prepare a budget for the "parish share" for 2018*. This is for our third year of the new scheme and anticipating our expected income a year in advance doesn't get any easier. Thankfully many of you participate in our "planned giving" scheme, whereby you contribute a regular amount every week or month, either using our envelope system or by standing order. As approx 50% of our income is from our regular contributions, for which we are extremely grateful, the amount of "planned giving" is not only a vital part of the calculation, but also essential for us to be able to maintain our own Vicar, rather than having to share one.

This year, some of our long standing regular attendees will be moving away, Sadly, not only will we miss them, but their contributions as well. So if you are not already part of the "Planned giving scheme" now is the time to consider joining.

Also traditionally, it is a time when church treasurer's come up with some ideas as to what you could do with any money you have saved by giving something up. Given the above, it is not hard to guess that I am going to ask you to review what you currently contribute.

Another way of increasing your contributions, if you are a tax-payer, is by "Gift Aiding" it. Enabling the parish to reclaim the basic tax rate, an additional 20%, from HMRC. Any higher rate tax-payers can reclaim the difference between the basic and higher rates, a further 20%, on their tax return. Please consider completing a "Gift Aid" form if you have not already done so.

Equally, in recent years the government has increased personal allowances by more than inflation, currently £11,000, due to increase to £11,500 in April, which, if your income falls below that, means that you no longer pay tax and thus are ineligible for the "Gift Aid" scheme. If this applies to you please advise the treasurer to cancel your gift aid declaration.

For more details about "Gift Aid" or how the "Planned giving scheme" works contact Simon, the gift aid secretary, or the treasurer.

As you will see from the Diary page the PCC meet on Wednesday 15th to consider last year's accounts in preparation for the APCM in April.

Hopefully by then, with your help, I will better be able to assess what we can afford to pay the diocese in 2018, without running down our reserves anymore, after the roofing expenses last year and the organ expenses this year.

Talking about money is often thought rude and asking for money worse. It's a dirty job but someone has to do it.

The Treasurer

*The "parish share" is our contribution to the diocese to pay for the clergy, pensions, vicarages, diocesan staff, etc. To maintain a Vicar in a parish is estimated to cost £70,000 on average. For 2017 we have pledged £28,600, however our "planned giving" only raised £26,255, in 2016.

Smile Lines.

Church Notices

Where the church notices should have been somebody had written up the following, which attracted the attention of several passers-by:

Check list

Cancel the milk

Cancel the newspapers

Arrange for the cat to be fed

Buy sun-glasses, sun-tan lotion

Thank God for holidays.

The Hereafter

The preacher came to see me the other day. He said, that at my age, I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him, "Oh! But I do all the time, no matter where I am. If it's in the parlour, upstairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement, I ask myself, '**now what am I down here after?**'"

What are seniors worth?

Remember old folks are worth a fortune with silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs.

Frisky Lady!

As we become older, certain changes come in our lives. Frankly, I have become a frivolous old girl.

I am seeing five gentlemen every day. As soon as I wake up **WILL POWER** helps me out of bed. Then I pay a visit to **JOHN**. Next, it's time for **BILLY TEA** to come along. He leaves and **ARTHUR RITIS** shows up and stays for the rest of the day. He doesn't like to stay in one place very long so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day I am really tired and am glad to go to bed with **JOHNNY WALKER**.

What a life! Oh yes, I am also flirting with **AL ZYMER**.

Easy fundraising update

We now have 19 supporters, and the number is growing, who have now generated £199.91, for All Saint's, £32 of which has already reached our bank account, (we get paid quarterly). There are nearly 3,000 retailers including Amazon, ebay, John Lewis, Waitrose & 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 especially if you are thinking about holiday bookings, buying insurance, one off purchases, broadband, or gas & electric—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.

All Saints is really grateful to our supporters, but even if you don't shop online but know of family or friends who do, please feel free to share our "cause page" (link above) with them on facebook or twitter. Thank you for your support, every penny counts.

Answers to the February Quiz sheet

1. What was Margaret Thatcher's middle name? **Hilda**
2. How many old pennies were there in a pound? **240**
3. Who was cast adrift from the 'Bounty' after a mutiny?
Captain Bligh
4. John Harmon is the hero of which Charles Dickens' novel?
Our Mutual Friend
5. What was the name of the boat in which Gulliver was shipwrecked?
The Antelope
6. What was the name of Billy Bunters' school? **Greyfriars**
7. Which river runs through Cambridge? **The Cam**
8. Which English humorist's first names were Pelham Grenville?
P.G. Wodehouse
9. Who was the first English woman to qualify in medicine?
Elizabeth Garrett Anderson
10. Who wrote just one novel, called 'Savrola' **Winston Churchill**
11. What was 'Capability' Brown's first given name? **Lancelot**
12. Who was the first footballer to be knighted?
Sir Stanley Mathews
13. For which British monarch was the gold coronation coach made?
George III
14. How long does it take to grow an orchid from seed?
3 to 8 years
15. Where does lanolin come from?
Sheep's wool

From the Archives – snippets from the March magazine of 1937, price twopence.

CHANCEL CLEANERS

We are badly in need of more helpers for the Chancel and Lady Chapel cleaning. The work falls heavily upon comparatively few helpers. Would some others volunteer? It would help greatly if a few other would offer to do an hour's work about once a month. Mrs. Norledge will be glad of any offers of help. What about some of the younger folk?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

We wish to thank all who supported the Social Evening on February the 4th and helped to make it a happy gathering. Chiefly are we indebted to Miss Steel and her helpers for looking after the refreshments, and to Mrs. Binstead and the members of her band for providing the music.

These notes are being written before February 21st, but judging from the number of young people who intend observing Fellowship Sunday, the re-introduction of this feature is justified.

It has been suggested that a Junior Section of the All Saints' Tennis Club be formed. This would be open to members of All Saints' Fellowship between the ages of 14 and 18. Play would be on two evenings per week, Mondays and Fridays from 5. p.m. onwards. Ball would be provided. The fee for the season 1st May to 30th September would be 7s. 6d.

One or two courts, according to the number of members, would be reserved for the exclusive use of the Junior Section.

The "Church Logbook" for March 1977 records:

Appointment of Reverend Michael Joseph Kingston—Curate of Holy Trinity, Reading—as Curate of All Saints, new Eltham.

Michael Johnson—Parish Treasurer, recommended for the Auxiliary Ministry by ACCM. Training to commence in September with S.O.C.

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