

All Saints Magazine



September 2017

Free

Letter from our Vicar

As the vicar was away we have included the following:

Father John Francis Friendship mentioned Saint Theresa of the Cross in a recent sermon and we were intrigued to find out more about her. He has kindly sent us her life story and hope that you will find it as moving and inspirational as I did.

Beryl Garson



St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (*Edith Stein*)

1891- 1942

Patroness of Europe

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross was a Carmelite nun, profound philosopher and brilliant writer who died in the gas chambers of Auschwitz Concentration Camp on August 9th, 1942.

She was born in Germany on October 12th, 1891, the Feast of Yom Kippur (the Jewish Day of Atonement). Her parents were deeply devout and as she grew up Edith showed a great aptitude for learning. By the outbreak of World War I she had studied philology and philosophy at the universities of Breslau and Goettingen and gave up her faith. During World War I, she served as a nurse in Austria. A little later she began to find the Catholic Church appealed to her because of the way people practiced their faith in very ordinary ways and didn't just attend church on Sundays. She developed an insight into God and was baptized on the Feast of the Circumcision (January 1st) 1922, the Feast which celebrates Jesus' entrance into the faith of Abraham. After her conversion Edith continued in academia and became a well-known philosopher, author and speaker on women's issues. At some point she encountered the life of her namesake, St. Teresa of Avila, and eventually entered the Discalced Carmelite monastery in Cologne in 1933. When Nazi persecution of the Jews increased in violence and fanaticism she realized the danger that her presence was to her sisters and asked to transfer to a foreign monastery. In 1938 she was secretly moved to Holland and received into the Carmel of Echt. There she wrote her last work, 'The Science of the Cross'.

After the Nazi invasion of Holland the Dutch bishops protested at the deportation of Jews and expulsion of Jewish children from the Catholic school system. As a consequence the Nazis arrested all Catholics of Jewish extraction in Holland. Sr. Mary Teresa (together with her sister, Rosa, who had also converted to Catholicism) was arrested in the convent chapel on August 2nd 1942 and transported by cattle truck to Auschwitz where, seven days later, she was gassed. Her life fulfilled what she had once written: "One can only learn the science of the Cross by feeling the Cross in one's own person."

Pope John Paul II beatified Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross on May 1st, 1987. He then canonized "a daughter of Israel" on October 11th, 1998. Her Feast Day is August 9th.

Good Friday, 1938: Prayer-poem of St. Teresa Benedicta:

*Today I stood with you beneath the cross
and felt more keenly than I ever did before that you,*

*beneath the cross, became our mother.
Even an earthly mother's faithful love desires to carry out her son's last wish.
Yet, you are the handmaid of the Lord,
and surrendered in your entire being and life to the Being and Life of God made man.
You have taken us into your heart,
and with the heart's blood of your bitter pains have purchased life that's new for every
soul.
You know us all: our weakness and our wounds.
You also know the spark of heaven's flame: your Son's love longs to take it and pour it
on us – an eternal blaze.
You guide our steps with care, no price for you too high to lead us to the goal.
But those whom you have chosen as companions here, surrounding you one day at the
eternal throne,
we now must stand, with you, beneath the cross and purchase, with our heart's blood's
bitter pains,
this spark of heaven for those priceless souls whom God's own Son bequeaths to us, his
heirs.*

The Church Gardens

We are blessed to have a church surrounded by a lovely garden. Many of us have treasured memories of members of our families and friends who are remembered in the memorial garden.

Recently a new rose has been planted by the family of Denise Figgess, who cleans our church hall. It is to replace one which was choked by weeds.

In this summer of sunny days and showers it has been difficult for Evelyn Green and her team to keep on top with the weeding. She sends out an urgent request for some able people to help with looking after the garden. If you could commit to a couple of hours helping in the garden that would be wonderful.

If you know anyone who may be interested you can contact Evelyn Green on 020 8850 1347.

We say thank you to the lawn mowing brigade

More about gardens

We have included two little thoughtful articles about gardens from The Friendship Books. If you are a gardener, might I ask what you grow? Is your patch a delight of colour or an example of ordered necessity?

Beautiful blooms? Humble veg? A combination of both? Might I suggest you cultivate more than that?

Mary Howitt, who wrote in England 150 years ago, it this way:

“Yes, in the poor man’s garden grow far more than herbs and flowers - kind thoughts, contentments, peace of mind, and joy for weary hours.

Can you imagine saying a prayer before eating an apple?

Well, the Hebrew book of prayer has a prayer specifically for tasting the first fruit of the season:

“Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who hast kept us in life, and hast preserved us, and hast enabled us to reach this season”.

The season referred to might be when fruit ripens, when something we have been waiting for comes to completion, the time of the year or a season in our life. With a little appreciation and thanks they might all taste as sweet as that first fruit.

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens”.

(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Pisa anyone!

How many photos have been seen of people pretending to hold up the straight towers of Pisa? Not many. But thousands of people every year will visit the leaning tower.

The leaning tower is now a preserved monument and the Italian government spends a lot of money taking care of it., while other, straighter, towers have fallen into disrepair.

The tower’s architects didn’t design it to lean, and our plans don’t always turn out the way we want them to either. But, sometimes, they work out better!

The Friendship Book 2015

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
NEW ELTHAM

MICHAELMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

10.30am-1.30pm

Church hall, Bercta Rd se9 3tz

Crafts, Games, Tombolas

Cake Stall



REFRESHMENTS ADMISSION FREE

Diary Dates for September 2017

Friday 1st	6.30 – 9.00 p.m.	Vicarage Garden Party.
Saturday 2nd	10.00 – 12.00	Parish Office
Sunday 3rd	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 7th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 10th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 13th	10.30 - 12.00	Fair trade café
Thursday 14th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 17th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 21st	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 24th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 27th	10.30 - 12.00	Fair trade café
Thursday 28th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Saturday 30th	10.30 - 1.30	Michaelmas Fair

Please check the weekly news sheet for any change.

Parish Pump

There were no Weddings, Funerals or Baptisms in August.

Quiz Results

The July Quiz prize of £16.50 was won by Emily Fancett, whose entry was picked 'from the hat' from the correct entries received.

There is a different quiz each month to raise money to cover essential church repairs and maintenance to keep this 100 year old building running. It cost £11,000 for roof repairs alone last year, exhausting our previously raised funds. Thanks to all our "quizzers", we hope you continue to enjoy supporting us in this way. If anyone has a quiz we could use please inform the Treasurer.

Michaelmas Fair

Our major fundraising event of the year requires your help. Everyone can help one way or another, initially by putting up posters, distributing leaflets/this magazine and generally advertising the Michaelmas Fair to everyone you know.

Every Thursday and Sunday there are opportunities to donate raffle prizes, bottles for the bottle stall, chocolates for the chocolate stall and of course all offers of cake making will be welcome.

Then there need to be volunteers to run the stalls and work in the kitchen. Early offers of help in this way would save Ruth a great deal of worry as organising the event is quiet stressful enough. Please let her know as soon as possible.

Finally you can support the event by turning up on the day and get your Christmas present buying off to a really early start, before the Easter Eggs are on sale in December!

Yoga

Diana Stewart BA PGCE BWY DIP, our qualified yoga instructor and choir member, is preparing to run further 'Simple Yoga for Beginners' classes, in the church hall on a 'no fees but donations to the church roof funds' basis, once a month until Christmas. Please contact Diana if you are interested on 020 8859 6529 and see the weekly news sheet and next month's magazine for further details.

Monthly Charity

This month we are raising money for Demelza House, children's hospice. Please place your donations in the wall safe by the main entrance. Or support the Wednesday Fair Trade Café's. Thank you.

Future Events (please put these dates in your diary)

Sunday 8th October – Harvest Festival, followed by a bring and share lunch.

Sunday 5th November – All Saints Service, followed by a bring and share lunch

Electrical Safety: Some very useful information

Statistics show that one million people over 75 live in homes that are not warm enough, are in a state of disrepair or do not have modern facilities. These homes can be dangerous as they don't meet basic electrical safety standards and don't include life saving devices such as a modern fusebox, circuit breakers and PVC wiring.

Sometime conditions such as dementia or parkinsons can increase the risk of electrical accidents as these conditions can cause loss of memory and reduced mobility, if you're worried about your own property or a neighbour or relative then here are a few things that you can do:

Check your fusebox: Your fusebox controls the electricity in your home which is why is it important to check it's working safely. All fuseboxes should have a mainswitch with fuses or circuit breakers and should NOT have a wooden back, cast iron switches or any access to the live parts. If you find that your circuit breakers trip or fuses blow regularly then it's worth getting them checked by your local electrician.

Check for an RCD: The next thing would be to check if you have an RCD, this is a safety device that will disconnect the supply in milliseconds if a fault should occur and can prevent you from receiving a potentially fatal electric shock. It is recommended you check the operation of your RCD every 3 months, you can do this simply by pressing the button with a T or test written on the RCD itself. It is a good idea to use plug in RCD's where possible and especially if you are going to use equipment outside such as a lawnmower.

Plugs and sockets: If your electrics are over 50 years old they will likely need checking and updating. Electrics can also become damaged or faulty which can require professional attention, things to look out for – round pin sockets, braided flex hanging from light fittings, sockets fitted to skirting boards, damaged plugs and sockets, visible burn marks, crackling sounds, excessive heat being omitted and multiple extension leads in use.

Light fittings: Any signs of overheating such as curled labels, discoloration and scorching should be warning signs. If you see any signs of cracking or burning around light fittings, stop using them immediately and contact a local electrician.

Cables: Cables should be in a good condition with no signs of damage, cracking or heat and should be enclosed in a PVC sheath. Cuts, damage or signs of excessive wear and tear means that the plug or cable may need replacing or repairing. Avoid trailing cables across floors or carpets as this could be a trip hazard.

Smoke alarm: Every property should have a working smoke alarm and batteries should be replaced each year. You can test your smoke alarm by pressing the button marked 'TEST', if you do not have a working smoke alarm then contact your local fire and rescue service.

Sign up to the priority register: Older people should ask their energy provider to add them to the priority services register which will give them access to free meter reading

and access to alternative cooking and heating facilities in the event of an electrical supply problem.

Billy Cox – Your Local Electrician –
020 8088 0858 – (See our ad below)

Answers to the August Quiz sheet

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Who is Scotland's patron saint? | Andrew |
| 2. What name was given to a black marketeer during the war? | Spiv |
| 3. Who is Dalziel's crime solving partner? | Pascoe |
| 4. What is the first name of the 1st DCI Barnaby in Midsomer Murders? | Tom |
| 5. What is the surname of the actor who played the 4th Dr. Who? | Baker |
| 6. Which pop band was formed by the Gallagher brothers? | Oasis |
| 7. Which Scottish pop singer had a hit with 'Shout'? | Lulu |
| 8. Who is Cannon's comedy partner? | Ball |
| 9. Who drew the cartoons of St. Trinian's school? | Ronald Searle |
| 10. Which Roman emperor ruled between AD54 and AD68? | Nero |
| 11. Which Beatle narrated Thomas the Tank Engine? | Ringo Starr |
| 12. Who is Dannii Minogue's older sibling? | Kylie |
| 13. Who was Eric Morcambe's comedy partner? | Ernie Wise |
| 14. Which Old Testament character's wife was turned to a pillar of salt? | Lot |
| 15. What is the first name of "My Family" star .. Wanamaker? | Zoe |

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

THE WEST END

The recent trip to Canterbury resulted, financially, in a balance of £1 13s. It was suggested by a member of the party that the balance should be given to the Building Fund. This was unanimously agreed to.

Will this mean the beginning of a steady stream of donations?

The work HAS BEGUN!

MOTHERS UNION

Service in Church, Wednesday, September 8th, at 3 p.m., followed by meeting in the Hall. Speaker, Mrs Crafter, Diocesan President.

As we are privileged to have Mrs Crafter with us, we are inviting Branches from the neighbouring parishes and we look forward to a record attendance.

MISSIONARIES

To pass to another personal note—it will be our privilege to “send forth” from our congregation during September Miss Josephine Chapman for service in the Mission Field. Miss Chapman sails for Rangoon on Friday, September 17th, and on Sunday 12th we shall have the special service of “Blessing and Sending forth of a Missionary” during Evensong at 6.30.

It is a great privilege for any congregation to have a representative at work overseas. We are very fortunate in that in recent years we have had three: the Rev. H. Hinkley, who worked for five years in Canada, Miss Marian Chapman, now Mrs. Leach, who has worked for ten years in China, and now Miss J. Chapman, who is going to Rangoon.

There are no entries in the “Church Logbook” for September 1977.

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