

All Saints Magazine



February 2016

Free

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Friends

This year Lent starts really early and we are almost upon it once Christmas is finally over on 2nd February with just eight days of ordinary time.

Lent is a time when we begin our countdown to Easter and reflect on how we are Christians, and ponder our relationship with God.

It is a time for study and reflection, of taking up new activities and of giving up of things as a reminder of Christ giving his life for us.

This lent we are looking at four clips of films:

The Passion of the Christ;

The Last temptation of Christ;

And the lion the witch and the wardrobe.

We are thinking on what we can see immediately and what is hidden. How is God revealed through a variety of media.

God can speak to us in a variety of ways and we are going to explore one of them so do come to the Methodist church for the following dates at 1.30pm for around an hour.

24/2, Session 1: The Passion of the Christ.

2/3, Session 2: The Passion of the Christ.

9/3, Session 3: The last temptation of Christ.

16/3, Session 4: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.

Please come to All Saints for prayers during lent on a Wednesday night at 6.30pm.

Please think on what you might give up, and what you might take up, where you might give a little time, or a little money.

Lent is a time for us all to reflect, to pray, and to grow in our journey with God.

AMEN.

God Bless.

Annette.

PCC Outreach

After our Sunday service on the 10 January I asked you all to think once more on what we could be doing together to move us forwards and here are the replies, they are no particular order.

We started with what we were good at:-

We are a friendly and welcoming church; like quiet service and noisy service; like noisy service – feels relaxed; pleased with increased Sunday school; however constantly worried about money

And then things we could do together:-

Group Lunch; Meals; BBQ; Church family activities – picnic/ weekend activity/day trips/seaside/beach (particularly as many of our older folk don't drive anymore); social events.

Outreach:-

Refresh discipleship; Re-energise foodbank collection; choir to take part in more services; possibility occasional of visiting clergy; advertise better; bigger signs/posters/leaflets/websites; update website regularly; advertise church activities more; encourage younger people to attend; encourage young people to be more involved; offer a Sunday afternoon service- like café church or messy church; volunteers to oversee children on carpet area; duty rota for children's Sunday school; more people to help organising church; take every opportunity when it arises.

And some practical thing which could be provided and helped with:-

More large print leaflets/service sheets; help with the garden; visit home for homeless people & special needs; more people helping with intercessions.

As well as some challenges:-

More community involvement.

Some of these things were new but mostly held no surprises. We do however need to think not just about what can be done but by whom.

So yes let's get together for some social events but who is organising this? How can it work?

Yes let's get our younger ones involved, but who's going to do this? Take the time to prepare them. Take any relevant training etc.

It is really encouraging that we want to do more together but we all need to be involved in the making and the doing as well as the attending of such events

Annette

Children at Work and Play

An image of streets with children at play can be found in the Old Testament in Zechariah VIII: v5- "And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the street thereof."

The truth of this prophecy can be seen as later in the 13th century it is recorded that children took part in civic and ecclesiastical ceremonies, it is noted that "upon St. Nicholas, St. Katherine, St. Clement and Holy Innocents Day", children were arrayed in chimers and surplices to be led with songs and dances from house to house blessing the people. Also on the holy days of summer the children played leap frog, wrestling and "slinging javelins beyond a mark"; in winter they enjoyed snowballing and ice skating, for the latter using the long shinbones of animals as skates, possibly not unlike today's skateboards.

As today, children could be badly behaved, even aggressive. One 14th century bishop, reproved "impudent youths" who scribbled in the margins of books, another in Robert Braybroke, in his "Letter of Excommunication" of November 1385, complained of "boys good for nothing in their insolence and idleness, instigated by evil minds and busying themselves rather in doing harm than good" he goes on to say "they throw stone, shoot arrows at birds and the church porch, also they play ball and destructive games both inside and outside the church damaging glass windows and stone images".

In London children were part of life of a turbulent city and a 14th century report records: "a boy climbing up to a gutter to retrieve his lost ball; of others playing on a heap of timber when one fell and broke his leg; and of another, a schoolboy hung by his hands from the side of London Bridge, and fell in and was drowned". They played "hoodman blind" now known as "blind man's buff", and "cobnutte" which is today's "conkers". They also enjoyed cockfighting and football played with an inflated pig's bladder as the ball. There were strict rule books for schoolboys and they in turn wrote doggerel poems about their masters: I would my master were an hare.....For if he were dead I would not care.

Children from both urban and rural environments, if they were poor, were put out to service, and many disadvantaged were offered bad company, gambling, drink, and petty theft. In the 18th century engravings of William Hogarth (1697-1764) on moral subjects, "The Rake's Progress" a young boy is seen sitting in the gutter smoking a pipe and reading a newspaper, and in the foreground children play with dice and cards. Of 19th century street boys, gambling was also a passion, and in the early 20th century, young children were still being arrested for street gambling games such as "Buttons". The 19th Century and the works of Charles Dickens (1812-1870), tell of the harsh reality of the life, particularly the children of the urban poor, and his image of the "artful dodger" portrays a street-wise child.

The early 20th century there were girls' games such as "Mother I'm Over the Water" or "Turning Mothers Wringer" and skipping rope games such as "Over the Moon" they sang as they tapped their feet on the pavement.

Charlie Chaplin, meek and mild,
Stole a sixpence from a child,
When the child began to cry,
Charlie Chaplin said goodbye.

Later, street games remained popular. Pavements were marked with chalk for hopping games "Hopscotch". Cigarette cards called "fag -cards" were flicked against walls in a game called "Nearest the Wall Takes" or "Spins Up". The game of "Follow My Leader" included running around, crossing roads, and knocking on street doors, not approved of by adults. The bomb sites of the Second World War provided opportunities to climb and clamber over the ruins, as did any disused spaces, and parks and recreation grounds gave the space for play.

Boys and girls come out to play,
The moon doth shine as bright as day.
Leave your supper and leave your sleep,
And join your playfellows in the street.

Diary Dates for February 2016

Thursday 4th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	
Saturday 6th	10.00-12.00	Parish office	
Sunday 7th	10.00 am	Holy Communion	
	12.00 pm	Baptism, Daniel	
Wednesday 10th		ASH WEDNESDAY	
	10.30 -12.00	Fair Trade Café	
11.00 am	Holy Communion with		imposition of ashes
8.00 pm	Holy Communion with		imposition of ashes
Saturday 13th	5.00- 6.30 pm	Youth Club	
Sunday 14th	10.00 am	Holy Communion	
	12.00 pm	Baptism, Freya Ruby Oates	
Thursday 18th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	
Sunday 21st	9.30 am	Quiet Communion	
	11.00 am	Noisy family communion	
Wednesday 24th	10.30 -12.00	Fair Trade Café	
	1.30 pm	Joint Lent Course, Methodist	
Church			
	6.30 pm	Lenten Prayer Service	
Thursday 25th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	
Sunday 28th	10.00 am	Holy Communion	

Please check the weekly news sheet for any changes.

Parish Pump

100 Club

The 100 Club prize in January was won by Ann French.

Baptisms

3rd January, Stanley Roger Stopperton

31st January Averie Jull

Thank you

Thanks to all who made Christmas brilliant, we had lots of people at all our services and lots of visitors over the Christmas period.

Thank you to Pauline Lyons of the Methodist Church who was the main organiser of the joint service at New Eltham Methodist Church for the week of prayer for Christian Unity. It was a marvellous service enjoyed by all and truly ecumenical.

Future Events

2nd March, Joint Lent Course, Methodist Church 1.30pm.

9th March, Joint Lent Course, Methodist Church 1.30pm.

16th March, Joint Lent Course, Methodist Church 1.30pm.

25th March, CTNE Good Friday Walk of Witness.

24th April, Annual Parochial Meeting.

5th May, Deanery Ascension Day Service, St John the Baptist.

26th May, Deanery Corpus Christi Service, 7.30 pm Holy Trinity.

11th July, Deanery Children's and Young Persons Event.

Stewardship, charitable giving

Ash Wednesday, 10th February, marks the start of the Church season of Lent, traditionally a time of giving.

Although All Saints, along with the rest of the Church of England, is an authorised charity, we do have a Christian duty to support other charitable causes, not just ourselves.

To this end we have a Stewardship Committee who decides which charities we are going to support throughout the year, through donations into the wall safe by the entrance door of the Church.

(The notice board, at the side of the wall safe, changes with the details of the charity being supported.)

Previously we have supported a diverse array of charities, including: Emmaus, a self help group for the homeless; Smile, to provide surgery for those with cleft palates; Demelza, a local children's hospice; and the Falconer Trust, a Zambian orphanage.

In previous years we used to change the charities each month. However last year, due to significant falls in donations, we halved the charities but supported them for two months. Unfortunately the level of donations has not improved. So either: the charities are not sufficiently publicised: the charities chosen are not popular with the congregation; or we don't have the cash to support them as well as regular donations to the church or the foodbank.

Your feedback to the Vicar/Churchwardens is important as the Stewardship Committee will meet during Lent. Meanwhile, we are supporting the Sunshine Club for disabled people, (who meet in our Church Hall), followed by the Bishop's Lent appeal, more details later.

February Sayings

A wet February, a wet Spring follows.

Winter either bites with its teeth or lashes with its tail.

If Candlemas be fair and clear, There'll be two winters in the year.

If a hedgehog casts a shadow at noon, Winter will return.

Daffodils

On Joanne's way to work every day she drives past a grassy embankment just beyond the boundaries of the city where she lives. There is a stunning display of daffodils there every spring and she always looks for their bright, cheerful faces as the new season unfolds.

One morning she noticed an eye-catching addition to the display of blooms - new daffodils had been planted in the shape of a big, smiling face!

A green-fingered person had spent many hours working on that slope to share their love of flowers with passers-by and their thoughtful gesture brings to mind this lovely proverb:

One kind word can warm three winter months.

The Friendship Book 2014

Visit to Berlin & Dresden

In July 2005, a friend and I spent a week in Germany, staying in Berlin and Dresden.

In Berlin, everywhere you look there are reminders of the dramatic events of the 20th century. Our hotel was situated near the Tiergarten (animal garden) not a zoo, but once a forest for hunting deer and wild boar.

We visited Checkpoint Charlie, the border crossing between East and West where American and Russian tanks faced each other in a tense stand-off during the Cold War. Today there are no barriers, just a couple of policemen ready to be photographed and to chat and joke with tourists. There are many places where remains of the Wall can be seen. They are now a protected historical monument; in one place the Wall is on the banks of the River Spree, obscuring the view of the river - the Wall here has become an unofficial art gallery - would be artists cover it with their paintings which are cleaned off periodically. They return within 24 hours! An exhibition in a shopping mall depicts events connected with the Wall.

The Brandenburg Gate, built between 1789 and 1791, was intended as a tollgate in the city wall, but it was left isolated in no-man's land when the wall went up. Today, you can cross from East to West through the gate with no problem.

We stood in the square which is a memorial to the Holocaust. It is filled with stone blocks of various sizes and the ground slopes in different directions so that you become disorientated.

We saw many other important sites including the cathedral, the parliament building, shopping centers and museums including one dedicated to Germans who resisted the Nazis.

On the way to Dresden, we visited Colditz Castle and the Meissen porcelain factory. The castle is now a Youth Hostel and a music school, no longer the grim place it was in WWII.

Dresden is a beautiful city. Much of it was reduced to rubble by bombing in 1945, but has gradually been restored. We were impressed by the vast squares where we saw the cathedral, theatre. The famous Semper Opera House and the royal palace.

We visited the Zwinger built in the 18th century. A passage way leads to a wide inner courtyard, with lakes and fountains surrounded by galleries and pavilions. We also visited the "Green Vaults" to see a breathtaking collection of precious objects collected by Augustus the Strong (an 18th century king).

Frauerkirche (the Church of Our Lady) stood in Dresden since the 18th century. After the bombing in 1945, it collapsed completely and remained a ruin until 1993. Restoration was completed in 2004 and a piece of ruined stone was placed near the entrance. We were there at noon on Friday when there was a short service. The peace bell was rung and the liturgy of reconciliation from Coventry was used. Everyone was invited to join in the response 'Vater vergib' (Father forgive). This takes place every Friday and was a moving and meaningful experience.

In Berlin and Dresden, there is a feeling that past events are acknowledged with respect and regret but also a willingness to move forward into the future.

Lily Hutchins

From the Archives – snippets from the February magazine of 1935, price twopence

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE.

The Vicar has given long, serious, and prayerful thought as to what is the best arrangement of the 11 o'clock service on Sunday mornings. We have tried many variations in the hope of arriving at the best possible solution and pleasing—as far as possible—everyone. It is, of course, quite impossible to please everybody. We can never hope to do that. Whatever the arrangement has been, and whatever the service, the congregation has remained comparatively small.

For the time being, the service will be a Sung Eucharist—in any case, over the Mission, and through Lent. If the Eucharist is appreciated—and surely the attendance must be the only evidence—then we may continue this arrangement. The Vicar feels that the Eucharist should be provided as there are many that want it and ask for it. Now if they value it and wish to keep it they must support it by regular attendance.

The Vicar also feels that Evensong provides for those who prefer a “simpler service” and he is anxious to provide as far as possible for all. The combination of Matins and Eucharist has not proved satisfactory, and has been generally criticised all round.

The Vicar appeals to all for unity and co-operation, and trusts that those who may feel the loss of Sung Matins will appreciate the difficulties he has to face. It is only fair that both sides should have during the Sunday the type of service they prefer. The Vicar hopes that the Eucharist in the morning and a simple congregational Evensong at night may prove a fair and acceptable solution. He will be glad of comments and Suggestions.

The “Church Logbook” for early 1976 records:

The fund raising campaign to include; Monthly Bingo Sessions; Sponsored Silence; Jumble Sale; A Review; Annual Gift Day; Dedications Festival; Christmas Bazaar (this organised by Mr. John Tuffley); Pantry Pot at the back of the Church.

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