

# All Saints Magazine



June 2016

Free

## **Letter from our Vicar**

Dear Friends

I am writing this on the day after our international food day and we had a fantastic spread of food from all around the world, we had cucumber sandwiches and coronation chicken, haggis and stovies and neaps, and then jollif and fried rice and plantain and fried fish and yams and pasta bake and shepherd's pie and French apple tart and fruit salad and New York cheesecake and a whole lot more

But what was even better than the food was the coming together of our church family to eat together and to spend time with one another and to share stories.

The life of our church is one which ebbs and flows and people come for a while and then go, some to God and some move on to a new church and a new life. The number of people who are part of our church life for a short while is increasing as the flow of people moving in and out of New Eltham increases. Life seems so fast nowadays and it is important that we give people a place of welcome if only for a short time.

Our congregation is undergoing a change and we need to embrace all those who come to our church and welcome them and make them feel part of it, maybe for years, maybe for a few weeks but that All Saints is the welcoming environment that it has always been, no matter where you come from or how long you stay, is important. That no matter who you are or where you have come from, you can feel at home here.

We do this well already but we could always go that extra bit, we could ask ourselves if we have really made a difference, have we found out the name of someone who comes, have we shared God's love with those around us, have we met the challenge of unconditional love today.

Amen

**Annette.**

## **Coffee and Conversation**

In a book sale, I recently purchased a little book with the title 'what am I doing here? A beginners guide to the church'. It's a fascinating, thought provoking and often amusing little book, which punches above its weight, and is filled with little gems, and as we celebrated Ascension recently, which is an ending and yet a beginning, my thoughts turned to what we do at the end of Mass: the climax is over and it's time to go. It is an ending which is also a beginning. And with this in mind I would like to share the following extract from my newly acquired book.

Pilgrimage and participation – the need to share the journey.

*We are pilgrims on a journey  
Fellow travellers on the Road  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load*

(Richard Gillard from 'the Servant Song')

The communion is completed. The service is nearly at an end. Together priest and people ask God to "*Send us out to live and work to your praise and glory*".

What has been happening in this hour or so is not just a peaceful interlude in a busy week. It is intended to be the very foundation of that week. You are being sent out to make a difference to your world. To bring, even into the ordinary things you do each day, a tiny trace of God's glory. And you are not intended to leave empty handed. You are intended to go out in the power of the Holy Spirit and with heart and mind kept stable by 'the peace of God which passes all understanding'. And this is vital to remember. You don't leave God behind as you leave. God is with you in every part of your journey, with you equally in your mistakes and disappointments as in your joys and successes. So as you prepare to leave, before the rest of life takes over, take a tiny moment of quiet to make this prayer your own. If what you do in church doesn't have an impact on your life outside, then you may as well stay home with the Sunday papers.

At the end of the service the priest proclaims *Go in peace to love and serve the Lord*.

At which point you may have a choice – to scuttle off and resume Normal life, or in many churches to join others at the back or in the hall for tea coffee and biscuits

There's something valuable at times going to church anonymously. You've gone to meet God and God alone. If now is a time when you need that kind of solitude, then that's fine. But in the long term, it's not really what church was intended to be. A church service can help you to worship, but church in the terms Jesus intended is rather more than that, what he meant was a community of his followers gathering together, learning together and journeying in faith together.

After his death and resurrection, the first Christians instinctively pitched into this lifestyle with gusto. They met daily to learn or pray, they ate together in each other's homes, they shared their possessions. It was clearly a lifestyle that attracted others- their numbers grew day by day (Acts 2:44-47).

All that may seem a long way from small talk over the chocolate digestives, but any sort of human relationship begins with tiny first steps. So even though small talk with loads of strangers isn't always easy, maybe it's the first step towards understanding what being part of a church means rather than just going to it.

Not that belonging to a church means some sort of first believers' styles all in togetherness. You no doubt have a busy life and even if you could suddenly throw it all up to go to prayer meeting and bible studies and run the toddler group, that might not be a great idea. God wants his people out there living authentic spiritual life in all parts of society and not tucked away in some holy huddle.

But if you are serious about living an authentic spiritual life then you probably need some help and companionship as you set about it. So spending at least some time with others who are on the same quest as yourself is pretty much essential if you mean business, after all it's a pretty peculiar family member who claims Yes I belong to that family but who never goes to family gatherings or joins in family celebrations

And even if you're still not sure what you think about all this Christian stuff, getting a bit more involved is the best way to find out more about it.

It's also a great way to make some really good friends.

There's an old fashioned word sometimes used in church circles- fellowship. It actually means something that cannot be summed up in any other way, something deeper than ordinary friendship. Indeed, it's something that can at times be shared with people you hardly know.

It's the sort of human relationship that begins when people have accepted Jesus challenge to Love one another as I have loved you (John 15:12). It thrives among people who understand themselves to be sinners, among those who know themselves so loved by God that they don't have to prove anything to anyone else. It's a risky business this fellowship. Demanding both vulnerability and availability. But if you find it, then you will have found what church is truly about.

Remarkably, even among the buttoned-up British, even among moderation in all things Anglicans, even among people who sometimes bicker and whinge and struggle with small talk, such fellowship can be found. It's amazing what God can do with unpromising material. So think what he could do with you.

Going to church is fine. Being church is better.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

The writer of this little book is a lady called Hilary Brand, who is also the author of 'The sceptics guide to the bible', and a lent course, 'Christ and the Chocolaterie'. The burb on the book tells us that she enjoys life in a Surrey village and it's parish church, and also likes going to the movies, walking long-distance footpaths and keeping chickens.

**Fr. Derek Robinson**

### **John Wesley 1703-1791**

I had the chance to visit John Wesley's house, now a museum, in City Road London. The chapel alongside is a lovely Georgian building from 1778, with beautiful interiors and windows. (The altar rail was later enlarged for communion as a gift from Lady Margaret Thatcher, who was married there.)

There are countless flags exhibited from the countries and states he visited, one of which is Savannah. He and his brother Charles had a chapel built there with a balcony interior as the one in the city road.

John Wesley was well known for his fire and brimstone sermons and would berate the ladies for wearing frivolous bonnets. However, he did fall in love with a local lady and when she turned down his proposal, he banned her from communion. This contributed to a break in relationship with his brother. I understand he didn't stay much longer, returning to England.

I was pleased to hear our guide say she would love to visit Savannah, as I was able to say that I had been there, having already been to the Old Rectory where he was born, in Epworth, Yorkshire. There hangs a painting of him preaching one of his fiery sermons and looking quite demonic. There was much more to John Wesley than I realized.

### **The Peace prayer of St Francis**

Lord make me an instrument of your peace  
Where there is hatred let me sow love  
Where there is injury, pardon  
Where there is error, truth  
Where there is doubt, faith  
Where there is darkness, light  
And where there is sadness, joy

This is a beautiful prayer but whenever I read it, I hear it in the modulated tone of the aforementioned Lady Thatcher, but I don't recall where she was reading it, nevertheless it has great meaning.

**Brenda Whyte.**

## **Diary Dates for June 2016**

|                |                      |   |
|----------------|----------------------|---|
| Thursday 2nd   | 11.00 am             | Holy Communion  |
| Sunday 5th     | 10.00 am             | Holy Communion  |
| Wednesday 8th  | 10.30-12.00          | Fair Trade Cafe   |
| Thursday 9th   | 11.00 am<br>8.00 pm  | Holy Communion<br>Archdeacons Visitation at Southwark Cathedral. All<br>are welcome to come |
| Sunday 12th    | 10.00 am<br>3.00 pm  | Family Communion<br>Picnic in Southwood Park CTNE   |
| Tuesday 14th   | 1.30 pm              | Funeral of Betty Senechal at church   |
| Thursday 16th  | 10.00 am<br>11.00 am | Magazine meeting<br>Holy Communion  |
| Sunday 19th    | 9.30 am<br>11.00 am  | Quiet Holy Communion<br>Noisy Communion   |
| Wednesday 22nd | 10.30 -12.00         | Fair Trade Cafe   |
| Thursday 23rd  | 11.00 am             | Holy Communion  |
| Sunday 26th    | 10.00 am             | Holy Communion  |
| Tuesday 28th   | 7.30 pm              | Deanery Synod at Holy Trinity   |
| Thursday 30th  | 11.00 am             | Holy Communion  |

Please check the weekly news sheet for any changes

## **Parish Pump**

### **100 Club**

The 100 Club prize in May was won by Julie Price.

### **Baptisms**

1st May, Bluebell Ripley Marshall

8th May, Daniel Rios Martin

### **Funerals**

4th May, Bob Jones ( Robert Leslie Jones )

24th May, William Arthur Letherun

We are sorry to have lost our sister Betty Senechal - Mum of Ruth Fancett. Her funeral will be in Church on Tuesday 14th June at 1.30 pm please pray for Betty, and for Ruth, Graham, Sarah, Tom and Emily in their grief

### **APCM**

Church wardens Peter French and Steve Keirle were re-elected for a further year at the Vestry meeting on Sunday 24th April.

At the following APCM, Yvette Fofar and Neil Long came off the PCC after three years, the vacancies were filled by Liston Siregar and Lily Hutchins.

### **Monthly Charity**

This month's chosen charity is "Fircroft Trust", a mental health charity. Please place you donations in the wall safe by the main entrance. Thank you.

### **Future Events**

Sunday 10th July, Deanery Families and Young Persons Summer picnic. Eltham Park South, 12-3 pm.

12th October, Deanery Synod, St. Andrew's Mottngnam, 7.30 pm.

### **In Memorium:**

We were saddened to hear recently of the unexpected death of one of our most active members, Someone Else. Someone Else's passing creates a vacancy which will be difficult to fill. Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results. 'Someone Else' we would say, 'can work with that group.' When there was a job to do, a meeting to attend or a class to teach, we all knew that Someone Else would do it.

"It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the largest givers in the parish. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone assumed that Someone Else would make up the difference."

"Someone Else was a wonderful person often appearing to be superhuman. But a person can only do so much. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone. Who is going to do the things we were too willing to let Someone Else do?"

## Heaven's Grocery Store

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago  
One day, I saw a sign that read "Heaven's Grocery Store",  
As I got a little closer, the door came open wide,  
And when I came to myself, I was standing inside  
I saw a host of ANGELS. They were standing everywhere.  
One handed me a basket and said; "My child shop with care".  
Everything a Christian needed was in the Grocery Store,  
And all you couldn't carry, you could come back the next day for more.  
First, I got some PATIENCE, LOVE was in the same row,  
Further down was UNDERSTANDING, you need that everywhere you go.  
I got a box or two of WISDOM, a bag or two of FAITH.  
I couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST for it was all over the place.  
I stopped to get some STRENGTH and COURAGE to help me run this race.  
By then my basket was getting full but I remembered some GRACE.  
I didn't forget SALVATION for SALVATION is free,  
So I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.  
Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill,  
For I thought I had everything to do my MASTER'S will.  
As I went up the aisle I saw PRAYER and I just had to put that in,  
For I know when I stepped outside, I would run right into sin.  
PEACE and JOY were plentiful, they were on the last shelf.  
SONG and PRAISES were hanging hear so I just helped myself.  
Then I said to the Angel, "Now, how much do I owe?"  
He just smiled and said "Just take them everywhere you go".  
Again I said, "How much do I really owe?"  
He Smiled again and said:  
"MY CHILD, JESUS PAID YOUR BILL A LONG, LONG TIME AGO!"

## **Thank You**

How can one say "thank you" for such a world as ours?  
The mountains and the meadows, the forests and the flowers,  
The snowflakes and the starlight, the seas and shining sand,  
No world could be more wondrous, no gift more vast or grand,  
So how to show our gladness? What ways to best employ?  
The best and finest "thank you" is simply to – enjoy!

**Margaret Ingall**

Before he died at the age of fifty-six, Steve Jobs, who co-founded the successful Apple company, said "Being the richest man in the cemetery doesn't matter to me. Going to bed at night knowing we've done something wonderful, that's what matters to me".

We can't all establish a world-famous firm, but we can strive to do something meaningful each day. And having done this, we can sleep easily in our beds knowing we have achieved something worthwhile.

**The Friendship Book 2015**

## **Answers to the May Quiz sheet**

1. The foxy Rocky **Sylvester Stallone**
2. Child actress in "Tiger Bay" with a famous actor father and sister  
**Hayley Mills**
3. The 42nd President of the USA  
**Bill Clinton**
4. The "Millionaire" from Tiswas  
**Chris Tarrant**
5. Ex MP who had a "Major" fling!  
**Edwina Currie**
6. The 4th of the 6 official James Bond actors  
**Timothy Dalton**
7. Bearded Swedish musician and composer who was married to Anna-Frid  
**Benny Andersson**
8. Little blonde country singer from Tennessee  
**Dolly Parton**
9. His father was President of the USA too!  
**George W Bush**
10. Singer, born Cherilyn Sarkisian  
**Cher**
11. Top film director and producer with Oscars for "Schindler's List" and "Saving Private Ryan"  
**Steven Spielberg**
12. Played both Purdey and Patsey  
**Joanna Lumley**
13. Vocalist and guitarist from "The Dark Side of the Moon"  
**Dave Gilmour**
14. Outspoken American, Republican Presidential Candidate  
**Donald Trump**
15. "Cabaret" performer with an even more famous mother.  
**Liza Minelli**

**From the Archives** – snippets from the June magazine of 1936, price twopence.

#### BUNHEADS

Some very interesting facts about Queen Victoria Bunhead pennies were published recently in "The Children's Newspaper".

The article said that during the 35 years the bun pennies were minted, 258,437,600 of them were struck, and 108,000,000 of these being worn and thin have been withdrawn from circulation. Allowing for the odd 437,600 having been lost there would still be 250,000,000 bun pennies. If these were all found and given to the various charities that are collecting them it would amount to a gift of over a million pounds. Out of every 200 pennies that pass through our hands 15 should be bun pennies.

Our bun collection has reached £3 10s.

Please keep your bun pennies and put them in the box provided for them in the church. There is money in this scheme, especially if all will help.

#### WAIFS AND STRAYS SALE.

A Sale on behalf of the Waifs and Strays will be held in the Vicarage Garden, Eltham, On Thursday, June 25th, 3 to 10 p.m.

Stalls are being provided by the Eltham parishes and we are hoping to arrange a stall from All Saints.

#### CHILDREN'S CORNER

Our grateful thanks to Miss Look, who, as a result of the Dancing Display given by her children at the parish hall, Eltham, in April, has handed in £4 for the Children's Corner.

*The "Church Logbook" for June 1976 records: The Gift Day.*

*Historical Notes:* 1. The bun pennies were so called as Queen Victoria's hair was up in a "bun" on her profile on the head side of the coin. 2. The Waifs and Strays Charity later became the Children's Society.

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