

All Saints Magazine



April 2016

Free

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Friends

April is rather strange this year, being after Easter in its entirety.

We begin this month knowing that Christ is risen, and so we are already for the coming of spring, the new life held in promise by the earth, as we see the spring flowers, the blossom on the trees and the new lambs, we can feel the promise of the summer that is to come once more.

We are all promised new life in Christ and we rejoice in that. New life however doesn't always mean an easy life, a simple life or a pain free one. What it does mean is that Christ walks with us in all that we go through the good and the bad.

Sometimes it seems like the onslaught of bad stuff is unending and it is at such times maybe we need to be reminded to count the good things and remind ourselves just how lucky we really are whatever we may feel at the time.

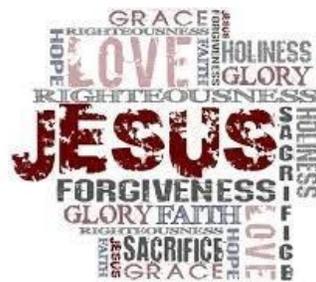
So thank God that we have homes and roofs over our heads; that we have food on our tables; that we have access to running fresh water; that we have inside toilets and bathrooms; that we have clean clothes to put on and a choice of what to wear; and that when we go out we have shoes and coats and hats and gloves.

We have choices we can make where others have none and we often forget that in the day-to-day struggles of life.

This April take a bit of time to thank God, to count your blessings and to pray for those in need.

Amen

Annette.



April, looking back at Easter

Easter Day preceded by Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday fell early this year during March, and we have celebrated this our greatest of Christian festivals in the traditional way by attending services, exchanging gifts and enjoying Simnel Cake and Easter eggs.

Around the world Easter is also a time for celebration, in **France**, church bells ring every day of the year except for the three days of Easter. Belief is that the bells have gone to Rome to be blessed and they return on Easter Day and go round the country leaving chocolate eggs as they go, in each and every garden. After midday children search the garden for the gifts left by the blessed bells.

In **America's Washington DC** it is traditional for the White House to open the lawns for Easter Egg Rolling, a visit from the Easter Bunny and an afternoon of story telling, a tradition that began in 1878 and continues.

Easter Baskets are the main tradition in **Germany** where each child receives a basket, put together by their parents, containing eggs, chocolate, toys and other gifts. The basket is hidden and the children hunt for it after church. In the countryside families go on a meadow or woodland walk and hide their 'Osternest' (Easter Nest) and the children hunt for it during the walk.

In **Spain** Easter is celebrated throughout the country with a carnival atmosphere. Seville in Andalucía has 52 different brotherhoods whose members hold processions through the streets with floats covered in flowers, traditional sweet cakes and dancing.

Fun, food and festivity is the theme for **Sweden**, on Easter Saturday the children dress up as good witches give out cards and letters in exchange for eggs, which are later rolled to see which can go furthest, sweets and coins.

Scotland also does the traditional things associated with Easter, attending church and festive meals. Eggs are boiled and painted in colourful designs and egg-rolling takes place. This event is symbolic of the rolling away of the stones at Jesus tomb.

Eggs therefore are symbolic of life, prosperity, eternity and good fortune.

April 1st

April 1st – All Fools Day. Dr F. W. Boreham used to say that it was a pity that the mediaeval jesters – the professional fools – ever went out of fashion. "If now and again," he wrote, "a mediaeval fool – a Wanda or a Touchstone of a Gobbo – could frisk his way, waving his wand and jingling his bells into a Cabinet Meeting, a Synod Hall, an Industrial Tribunal, a Law Court or even a conclave of the League of Nations (as it was then) . . . he would make men see that their pompous wrangling, far from being sublime, is supremely ridiculous.

Another writer, Thomas Carlyle, said that we are mostly fools! April 1st is a good day to examine some of our own follies and foibles and have a good laugh at ourselves.

The Friendship Book 1985

St. George's Day, April 23rd

The Union Jack, our National Flag, is so called because it combines the crosses of three countries united under one Sovereign - the Kingdom of England and Wales, and of Scotland and Ireland - although since 1921 only Northern Ireland has been part of the United Kingdom.

The flag consists of three heraldic crosses.

The cross of **St. George**, patron saint of England since the 1270s is a red cross on a white ground. After James 1 succeeded to the throne, it was combined with the cross of **St. Andrew** in 1606. The cross saltire of **St. Andrew**, patron saint of Scotland, is a diagonal white cross on a blue ground.

The cross saltire of **St. Patrick**, patron saint of Ireland, is a diagonal red cross on a white ground. This was combined with the previous Union Flag of St. George and St. Andrew after the Act of Union of Ireland with England, Wales and Scotland on 1st January 1801, to create the Union Flag that has been flown ever since.

When the present design was made official in 1801, it was ordered to be flown on all the King's forts and castles, but not elsewhere. It is today flown above Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and Sandringham when the Queen is not in residence. On news of a Royal death, it is flown at half-mast.

The flag is flown at all State, Royal and Military occasions and also today at major sporting events.

The term 'Union Jack' possibly dates from Queen Anne's time (1702-1714) but is of uncertain origin. It may have come from the 'jack-et' of English or Scottish soldiers, or from a proclamation of Charles II that the Union Flag should be flown only by ships of the Royal Navy as a jack - a small flag at the bowsprit!

The Welsh dragon does not appear on the Union Flag because when the first Union Flag was created in 1606 the Principality of Wales was already united with England and was no longer a separate principality

St. George

St. George of Cappadocia was born of Christian parents in the second century before the reign of Constantine. He suffered martyrdom at Diospolis, in Palestine, and has come to represent the triumph of right over oppression and wickedness.

Many different legends are related about his life. One story told in Golden Legends tells of a terrible dragon that, in the country of Lydia, terrorised the people, who offered human sacrifices to please the beast. Cleolinda, the daughter of the king, was chosen, but St George, a tribune of the Roman army, chanced to ride by on his charger and, in the name of Christ, turned to help the princess. Making the sign of the cross he fought the dragon and slew it with his sword. The King and all his people who had witnessed the struggle were converted by this sign of the power of the Lord and were baptized into the Christian faith.

St George continued his journey to Palestine where, after defying the edict of the Emperor Diocletian against the Christians, he was seized and beheaded.

A favourite subject of Renaissance artists, numerous pictures of St. George can be found. He is usually represented as a young knight, clad in shining armour emblazoned with a red cross, mounted on a charger. He is portrayed in the act of slaying the dragon with his sword, with a broken lance on the ground.

St. George is not only the patron saint of England, Venice and Ferrara in Italy but also of all soldiers and armourers and in his portrayal as patron saint, he is clad in armour and holds a shield, lance, or broken lance and sword.



St. George and the dragon, by Raphael c.1504, in the Louvre Paris.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

The APCM is an open meeting for the whole congregation and is the opportunity to review the previous year and set up the church organisation for the year(s) to come.

The meeting is in two parts, and starts with a "Vestry meeting" at which the two Churchwardens, who have to have been previously nominated, are elected for the next year.

The APCM then starts with a presentation by the electoral roll officer, followed by elections to the PCC. Usually a third of the PCC will have completed their three year term, and although eligible to re-stand, there are going to be several vacancies this year which are vital to be filled if the church is to make progress on its mission.

After appointing the Stewards, stewardship committee, fundraising committee and coffee rota helpers, there is a presentation on the church finances. Your chance to see how your money was spent and grill the treasurer.

There are then appointments to external bodies that the church supports, The Children's Society, Marces Mailings and CTNE upon which All Saints is currently under-represented. The Clergy then present their annual report on the church's achievements during the year and their hopes for the year to come.

Of course, for any of this to happen it requires you to attend and take part.

Bexley Foodbank (Trussell Trust)

I would like to thank all the people who leave items at the back of the church to be taken at least once a month to Avery Hill Christian Fellowship for distribution amongst the community.

The regular contributions were boosted greatly from the Harvest Festival celebrations both at All Saints and Dulverton Primary School.

Please continue to support this worthwhile cause in this time of desperate need.

Simon Garson

Letter From Beryl

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you for all my friends at All Saints for the wonderful support and friendship during my recent health problems.

It is comforting to know that people are remembering me in their prayers and helping in practical ways whenever they can.

Simon has driven me to countless appointments and has developed his skills as a chef considerably. I do not know what I would do without him.

People at All Saints are a loving community and we are thankful to be a part of it.

We both enjoyed the recent fellowship of the Agape Meal and are looking forward to Easter.

God Bless You All.

Beryl Garson

Diary Dates for April 2016

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	9.30 am 11.00 am	Quiet Holy Communion Family Service
Thursday 21st	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 24th	10.00 am	Holy Communion followed by APCM in Church Hall
Wednesday 27th	10.30 -12.00	Fair Trade Café
Thursday 28th	11.00 am	Holy Communion

Please check the weekly news sheet for any changes

This month's chosen charity is "Meningitis Now", please place your donations in the wall safe by the main entrance. Thank you.

Parish Pump

100 Club

The 100 Club prize in March was won by Graham and Louise Dix.

Baptisms

13th March, Elsee Rose Hayes

Weddings

27th March, Cathy Pickett and Tom Taylor.

Agape Meal

Nearly 30 members of the congregation met in the Church Hall on Saturday 19th March for our Agape.

Tables were laid in the form of a cross with lit candles arranged down the centres. We started the service with prayers and readings before a shared Eucharist, which continued with a delicious and varied bring-and-share meal. As usual there was plenty to go round.

The Agape is a service of quiet reflection, so if you have never been before, it is a very pleasant way to spend a couple of convivial hours in praise of God.

The proceeds of the meal raised £31.93 for the Bishop's Lent Appeal.

Future Events

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.

Visit to Hong Kong

After almost a nine-hour flight from Brisbane we landed in Hong Kong. Unfortunately, it was pouring with rain so we borrowed an umbrella from the hotel and set out to explore the local area. There were many small shops and cafés. We found a café with the menus in English outside (this was unusual) so we decided to go in and have lunch. It was crowded with both adults and school children. The tables were Formica topped and the chairs plastic. We were shown to a table where a man and his small son were sitting. We quickly discovered that they didn't speak English, but the little boy showed us how to use chopsticks! After lunch we continued to explore the local area. The first thing we noticed was that everywhere was crowded with people - just like the rush hour at home - except this appeared to be like this at anytime of the day or night.

The next day we took the hotel shuttle bus to the harbour area of Hong Kong. We then took the star ferry across to the other side of the harbour, from Kowloon to Hong Kong Island.



We were going to visit the Man Mo Temple, one of the oldest temples in Hong Kong. It is dedicated to the God of literature (Man Tau) and the God of War (Mo Tau). After a short walk from the ferry terminal we went on the Mid Levels Escalator. This is the longest escalator in the world and consists of three moving walkways. It was an interesting twenty minute experience. You can get on or off at various points. The Man Mo Temple was quite large with many people coming and going saying their prayers. They wrote them on special paper which was then burnt in an incinerator outside.



Later we went back to Kowloon and explored the shops. There were many designer shops as well as smaller market stalls in the alleyways. Some of these were no bigger than a cupboard.

The next day we decided to venture onto the metro. This was an experience, as when the trains arrived at the platform they were all crowded, so the only thing to do was to barge your way on, just like the locals. We managed to get on and went a few stops to visit another temple. This was Wong Tai Sin, a Taoist Temple. There were many halls, again all very crowded.

It was very colourful with plenty of statues including one of Confucius. Outside there were many stalls selling incense sticks as well as those where you could have your fortune told. We returned once more on the metro, again very crowded. In the evening we went to the ladies market, but there were stalls selling other things as well as ladies clothes. Again this was very crowded and colourful.

The next day we said goodbye to Hong Kong and took the eleven hour flight to Heathrow and home.

Gerald and Rita

Wordsworth's flower

Which was William Wordsworth's favourite flower? Most people would unhesitatingly reply, "The daffodil!" But in spite of his famous poem about the "host of golden daffodils" his favourite was, in fact, a tiny yellow flower called the lesser celandine.

He liked it because it is so common it is rather taken for granted, but especially because it appears in earliest Spring before the trees are in leaf:

*Telling tales about the sun,
When we've little warmth, or none.*

It's nice to remember that these lowly, humble flowers were loved and celebrated by one of our greatest poets.

The Friendship Book 1985

Calm poem

I was walking one day, in a leisurely way, through the leafy by-ways of the town.
As I thus strolled along I was charmed by the song of the birds ere I sat myself down.
And the sparrows, so tame, gaily chirped as they came for the crumbs that I spread at
their feet.

And it seemed as a balm that could every fear calm, as I found this contentment
complete.

If each day in the week, simple pleasures we'd seek, there would never be room for
despair.

And the sorrow and strife that can come in this life would be left far behind with its care.
For the trusting soul sees in the flowers and the trees and the song that the lark gaily
sings.

A lesson so clear and a message to cheer, that our God has a hand in these things.

Friendship Book 1963

Smile lines

Can You Get Married in Heaven?

On their way to get married, a young Catholic couple is involved in a fatal car accident. The couple find themselves sitting outside the Pearly Gates waiting for St. Peter to process them into Heaven.

While waiting, they begin to wonder: Could they possibly get married in Heaven?

When St. Peter showed up, they asked him.

St. Peter said, "I don't know. This is the first time anyone has asked. Let me go find out," and he leaves.

The couple sat and waited, and waited.

Two months passed and the couple are still waiting.

As they waited, they discussed that if they were allowed to get married in Heaven, what was the eternal aspect of it all.

"What if it doesn't work?" they wondered, "Are we stuck together forever?"

After yet another month, St. Peter finally returns, looking somewhat bedraggled.

"Yes," he informs the couple, "you can get married in Heaven."

"Great!" said the couple, "But we were just wondering, what if things don't work out? Could we also get a divorce in Heaven?"

St. Peter, red-faced with anger, slammed his clipboard onto the ground.

"What's wrong?" asked the frightened couple.

"OH, COME ON!", St. Peter shouted,

"It took me three months to find a Priest up here! Do you have any idea how long it'll take me to find a Lawyer?!"

Unintended headlines from American papers.

"Man Kills Self Before Shooting Wife and Daughter"

"Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says"

"Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers"

"Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over"

Answers to the March Quiz sheet

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. THAT GREAT CHARMER | Margaret Thatcher |
| 2. I'LL CRUNCH THIS NOW | Winston Churchill |
| 3. THEN ANNOYED | Anthony Eden |
| 4. WELL BANDY SAINT | Stanley Baldwin. |
| 5. A HOODLUMS SACRILEGE | Sir Alec Douglas-Home |
| 6. I CHARM ALL, OLD MAN | Harold Macmillan |
| 7. THE HATED | Ted Heath |
| 8. TORY IN LAB | Tony Blair |
| 9. I LED DOGGY OVER LAD | David Lloyd George |
| 10. CLASH A JAM ANGEL | James Callaghan |
| 11. DISHONOR WALL | Harold Wilson |
| 12. MAD RASCAL MONDAY | Ramsay MacDonald |
| 13. TALL CEMENT TEE | Clement Attlee |

From the Archives – as we don't have a copy of the April 1936 magazine, so here is an extract from Mr. Pond's archive book for the time.

The Rev. H. J. Davis and Father Norledge were friends for many years. In October 1930, the Rev. H. J. Davis, a retired school master (latterly known as Father Harry in the Parish) was appointed curate at All Saints. It was a great relief to Father Norledge who had been working single handed for the past five years, to have such a capable and reliable assistant.

The Rev. and Mrs Davis and their daughter Madge, were a happy trio in the parish. He remained in the parish ministering until he died in 1950.



Rev. Francis Halliwell Rev. H. J. Davis Rev. Arthur C Norledge

Francis Halliwell, a student at St. Augustine's College, Canterbury, was ordained at Southwark Cathedral in September and came to the parish of All Saints. The Rev. Halliwell's arrival coincided with Father Harry's (Davis) semi retirement. The Rev Halliwell remained at All Saints for three years. He then returned to his home town Delhi, India. In later years Canon Francis Halliwell was attached to his home cathedral in Delhi.

The "Church Logbook" for early 1976 records:

Negotiations continue for the sale of Priest in Charge's house at No 1 Brownspring Drive. Also for the sale of the former St. Aiden's Church/Hall on the Edgebury Estate.

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