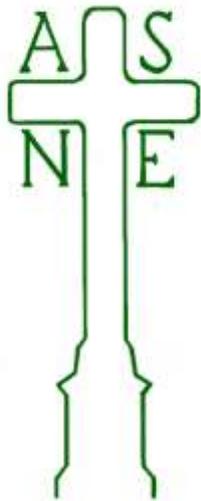


All Saints Magazine



February 2014

Free

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Friends

As we move beyond Candlemas and look towards Easter we have unusually three weeks of ordinary time this year before Lent begins.

Most of our everyday lives have great periods of ordinary time and often we just get on with life, going to work, feeding the children and/ or the cat, cleaning, washing, shopping, gardening doing all those routine things which just keep us living and breathing. Without these periods of downtime we wouldn't really have the strength or the ability to recognise the special events and celebrations in life when they are there.

It is often however in the boring routine everydayness that God can be found. St Ignatious urges us to find God in the everyday, and several saints have found that routine and the simplicity of the everyday can be pathways to prayer.

As George Herbert (1593-1633) reminds us in his timeless hymn, whatever we do, if we do it for God, then it becomes divine.

Teach me, my God and King,
In all things thee to see;
And what I do in anything
To do it as for thee!

A man that looks on glass,
On it may stay his eye;
Or if he pleaseth, through it pass,
And then the heaven espy.

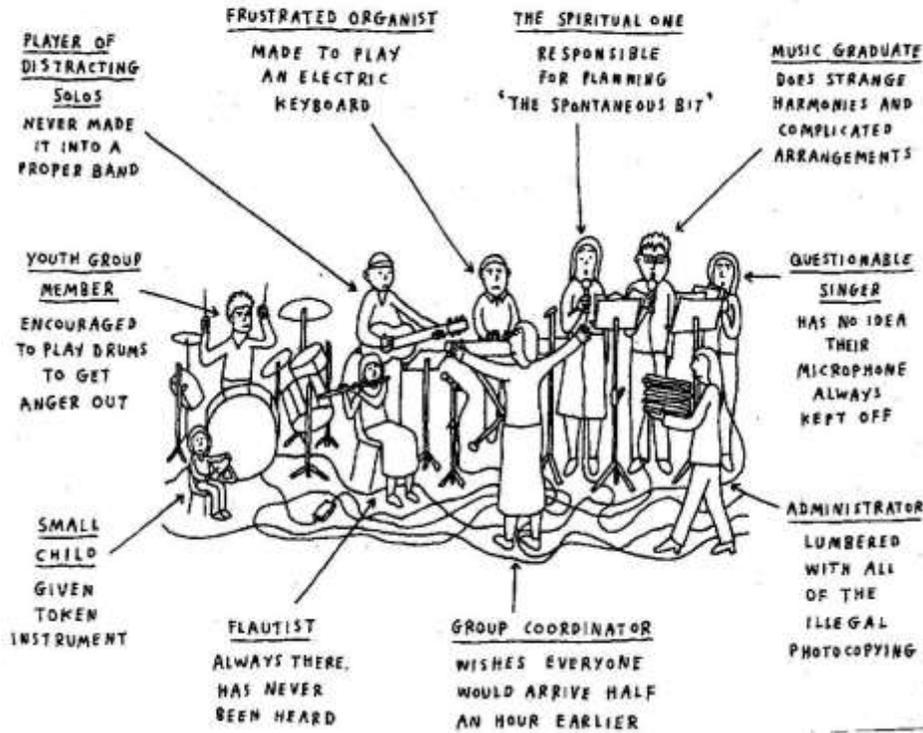
All may of thee partake;
Nothing can be so mean,
Which with this tincture, "for thy sake",
Will not grow bright and clean.

A servant with this clause
Makes drudgery divine;
Who sweeps a room, as for thy laws,
Makes that and the action fine.

This is the famous stone
That turneth all to gold;
For that which God doth touch and own
Cannot for less be told.

Annette

THE MUSIC GROUP



A Perspective on a Sheep Drive across London Bridge from a Liveryman and Freeman of the City of London

For centuries it has been the ancient right of Freeman of the City of London to drive sheep across London Bridge.

There are many theories as to why this right exists but it is most likely based on how the Guilds of London controlled standards of work, tradesmen and apprentices, and London Bridge being the only road passage across the river Thames.

Freeman of the City of London had a right to carry the 'tools of their trade' into the City across London Bridge with 'free passage'. The tools of the Worshipful Company of Woolmen were obviously 'sheep' and it became synonymous with them as they drove their sheep to market in the City.

It is not such a well-known fact that if a tradesman's work did not come up to standard, the Guild in question could destroy their tools as well as their work. This role was normally carried out by the Beadle, one of the oldest offices in the City of London, which I have the honour to hold for the Worshipful Company of Joiners and Ceilers. It was normal for the offending tradesman to leave the City and go to the nearest place where he would not be known, normally at least 100 miles from the City of London, i.e. Coventry, hence, being sent to Coventry.

I had the privilege of 'driving my sheep' across London Bridge on Sunday 29th September 2013, courtesy of the Master of the Worshipful Company of Woolmen, along with over 300 other Freeman, this also had the blessing of the Lord Mayor Roger Gifford. The event was well organised with one side of the bridge being closed, the RSPCA and other welfare organisations in attendance including the police and many cadet forces acting as marshals. We crossed in groups of 12 each with our own sheep but I hesitate to say we were not 'driving' them. As with many City events the prime objective was to raise money for Charity being the centre of the Livery Companies and the City of London's ethos.

A Freeman of the City of London has many other privileges, the right to carry a drawn sword within its boundaries, the right to be hung with a silk rope and to be escorted home by a police officer if suffering from an over indulgence of alcohol. There are also other rights which are best left unmentioned. Of course other than driving sheep across London Bridge those mentioned are now in name only.

To become a Freeman of the City of London, is either by special invitation of the Court of Common Council, parentage, being a Freeman of a Livery Company, or by being proposed and seconded by two active Liverymen. All applications must be approved by the Court of Common Council.

It is my hope to add to this short history of London with some other articles about the Livery Companies and the Lord Mayor's Show in the near future.

February - Traditions and Customs.

One reason for keeping old customs alive is for a sense of purpose and enjoyment shared with earlier generations.

February 2nd is Candlemas Day, and an old custom is of the specially blessed church candles being taken home afterwards as a protection against lightning.

Since 1814 every February at Dalston church, traditionally dressed clowns attend a service in memory of Joseph Grimaldi who left his name Joey to clowns in general.

Crufts Dog Show was first staged in 1886.

St. Valentine's Day on February 14th is traditionally the day for lovers, and in a leap year on the 29th a woman may ask a man to marry her. In the 13th century the Scottish parliament laid down that any man refusing should be fined £1.

Smile Lines

The stoplight on the corner buzzes when it's safe to cross the street. I was crossing with an intellectually challenged co-worker of mine.

She asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red.

Appalled, she responded, 'What on earth are blind people doing driving?!'

My daughter went to a local Kentucky Fried and ordered a Mexican taco. She asked the person behind the counter for 'minimum lettuce.'

He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg lettuce.

I live in a semi rural area. We recently had a new neighbour call the Highways Department to request the removal of the DEER CROSSING sign on our road.

The reason: 'Too many deer are being hit by cars out here! I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing anymore.'

Diary Dates for February 2014

CANDLEMAS

Sunday 2nd	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 4th	8.00 pm	Fundraising committee
Wednesday 5th	8.00 pm	Deanery Synod at St Edwards
Thursday 6th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Saturday 8th	10.00-12.00	Parish office
Sunday 9th	10.00 am	Holy Communion with speaker Helen Powell from Embrace the middle east
Wednesday 12th	10.30 -12.00	Fair Trade Café
Thursday 13th	11.00 am	Holy communion
Sunday 16th	10.00 am 12.00 Noon	Holy Communion Baptism of Nicola Bennett
Thursday 20th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 23rd	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 26th	10.30 -12.00	Fair Trade Café
Thursday 27th	11.00 am	Holy Communion

Parish Pump

The week of prayer for Christian Unity went well and we had a good service with our Methodist friends here at All Saints. We plaited a ribbon of friendship during the service to show how we are stronger together and all entwined. A big thank you to Pauline Lyons who organised this service and to Barbara Calvert who preached so ably.

100 Club

This was won by Pam and Colin Piper

Funerals

17th January Lillian Graham

6th February Stephen Vaughn Forrester

Growing our church

(suggestions from the January Family Service)

Thank you for all your suggestions which the PCC will look at and we can move forwards with these in mind

Improvements to Church

Have a better loud speaker system
Move forward with the disabled legacy
Make the chancel bigger

Changes to Services

During prayers encourage children to sit quietly
Family service to be more interactive and for them to use props to tell the story
Have less hymns
A shorter service
Go up to the front more often

Events

Have more special events to get new people into church Advertising events better
Advertise church events at the library and at the local shops Garden party
Family trip out
Couples night
Barn Dance
Beetle drive
Musical evening
Church karaoke competition
Quiz
Ask Trussell trust to give a talk about the food
Play football

Youth Activities

Kids Gathering
Getting the young interested in Christ
Consider restarting youth group
More Colouring

Fund Raising

Gift Day
Jumble sales
Cake sale
Charity bounce
Cancer research bounce

Church Mission

Bible lessons/ explanations
Online Bible lessons
When helping others make them aware that the church is here to help

Encourage more adults to be part of church
Talk to local groups about Church (those already meeting in New Eltham)
Reach out to the community
Womens group
Mens group

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

(from the Churches Together in New Eltham Service, for the week of Christian Unity-
19th January)

These intercessions follow the themes of the United Nations' Eight Millennium Goals.

Let us remember those suffering in poverty and hunger.

Nearly one billion people go to bed hungry every night and two million children die from malnutrition every year.

Gracious God, we pray for an end to such suffering, in justice and peace. Hear our prayer, and, in your love, answer!

Let us remember those striving for universal education.

Around 69 million school-age children are not in school.

Gracious God, we pray the thirst for knowledge throughout the world is quenched so that the potential of all children is realised. Hear our prayer, and, in your love, answer!

Let us remember those promoting gender equality.

Women constitute half the world's population, perform nearly two-thirds of its work-hours, receive one tenth of the world's income, and own less than one hundredth of the world's property.

Gracious God, we pray we honour your image in all people. Hear our prayer, and, in your love, answer!

Let us remember those working to improve child health.

Nine million children still die each year before they reach their fifth birthday.

Gracious God, we pray we always care for people of all ages as if caring for Christ. Hear our prayer, and, in your love, answer!

Let us remember women who bear new life.

More than 350,000 women die annually from complications during pregnancy or childbirth, almost all of them – 99% – in developing countries.

Gracious God, we pray care is provided to end this needless loss. Hear our prayer, and, in your love, answer!

Let us remember those who combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

Every day over 7,400 people are infected with HIV and 5,500 die from AIDS-related illnesses. Malaria kills a child in the world every 45 seconds.

Gracious God, we pray for those for whom illness robs hope and diminishes dignity. Hear our prayer, and, in your love, answer!

Let us remember the consequences of our poor care for creation.

Nearly 17,000 species of plants and animal are currently at risk of extinction, and the number of species threatened by extinction is growing by the day.

Gracious God, we pray we be wise in our ways with the world in our care. Hear our prayer, and, in your love, answer!

Let us remember those working for global partnership.

We have the resources to end poverty it will take the work of all of us to make this happen.

Gracious God, we pray we rise to the challenge together. Hear our prayer, and, in your love, answer!

From the Archives – snippets from the February magazine of 1934, price twopence.

FINANCE

At the time of writing the accounts are not ready so I cannot comment upon them. We hope, however, to include them in this issue of the magazine so that you can study them for yourselves. One thing I do know, and that is that the Building Fund debt has been reduced during 1933 by £466, of which £75 was a grant from City Parochial Charities. That, in itself, is a splendid bit of work.

I also hear a rumour that the Duplex Free Will Offering shows an increase of £50 over 1932, and also an increase of £12 in Missionary contributions. The actual building debt is now £220 and should be cleared this year. We also hope to undertake the interior decoration of the Hall this year.

You may have noticed that our temporary West End has been painted and repaired. We did not wish to spend money on this but as it is a temporary structure it has to be licensed by the London County Council and the licence must be renewed every five years. The L.C.C. insisted upon repairs as a condition of renewing the licence. This work is costing, I think, £8. When we are all clear and free from debt, perhaps the new permanent west end may be the next thing to work for.

Our Diocesan Quota of £42 has been at that figure for some few years, and I think it would have been increased before now but for recognition of the fact of our big task of new building.

The population has increased considerably and it is only fair that our Quota should be reconsidered. It has now been raised from £42 to £45, a small increase which I am sure we shall feel is justified.

GOOD NEWS

As we go to press we hear from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners that they have £32 16s 10d. for our Building Fund. This reduces the Building Fund debt to £190.

The first entry in the "Church Logbook" for 1974 records:

Headquarters of the New Guinea Mission established at the rear of the Church.

Historical Notes: The "Duplex Free Will Offering" is the equivalent of our Planned Giving Scheme. The New Guinea Mission Headquarters was a hut at the side of the current Lady Chapel.

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