

# All Saints Magazine



February 2015

Free

## **Letter from our Vicar**

Dear Friends

This last week has been a traumatic one as we have been shocked by the shootings in France of journalists, policemen and Jewish shoppers. We have also seen huge numbers of deaths in Nigeria as Boko Haram have massacred a whole township of people, and here at home we have suffered once again the loss of a congregation member, Carole Whybrow.

It would be easy to be weighed down by these events and to ask ourselves "where is God?" and what is he doing whilst all this goes on.

But God doesn't make the bad things happen but he is there with us as we cry out in pain and fear and, if we reach out to him, then he will hold us and lift us back up again. The words of casting Crowns leave us with a good sentiment. Let's praise God through the storms of our life.

Amen

**Annette**

### **Praise You In This Storm**

I was sure by now  
God You would have reached down  
And wiped our tears away  
Stepped in and saved the day  
But once again, I say "Amen", and it's still raining  
As the thunder rolls  
I barely hear Your whisper through the rain  
"I'm with you"  
And as Your mercy falls  
I raise my hands and praise the God who gives  
And takes away

*[Chorus:]*

And I'll praise You in this storm  
And I will lift my hands  
For You are who You are  
No matter where I am

And every tear I've cried  
You hold in Your hand  
You never left my side  
And though my heart is torn  
I will praise You in this storm

I remember when  
I stumbled in the wind  
You heard my cry to you  
And you raised me up again

My strength is almost gone  
How can I carry on  
If I can't find You

But as the thunder rolls  
I barely hear You whisper through the rain  
"I'm with you"  
And as Your mercy falls  
I raise my hands and praise the God who gives  
And takes away

*[Chorus]*

I lift my eyes unto the hills  
Where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord  
The Maker of Heaven and Earth

## **Stewardship**

After the joy of giving and receiving at Christmas and the reality of the size of the credit card bill after the January sales, February seems like a good time to take stock of your finances; see whether you still have some week or month left at the end of your money; or you still have some to spare.

As the Church's financial year ends on 31st December we are in the same position.

Looking back to 2014 we ran "The responsibility Is Ours" (TRIO) campaign in response to the deficit of the previous year. The congregation responded well; by increasing the number of people attending church; by increasing their regular giving; and by making more use of Gift Aid. Although at the time of going to press we do not have the final figures, it seems that your efforts have turned the situation round and we appear to have made a surplus this year. So a great big thank you to everyone who contributed.

Looking forward to the rest of this year, unfortunately we are unlikely to be able to rest on our laurels, for although the recent announcements of the lowering of energy prices is to be welcomed, many other of the Church's expenses are going to increase well above the rate of inflation.

Following the 2013 insurance re-evaluation of the Church and Hall we know the premiums are due to rise by several hundred pounds.

Although we pay our employees above the minimum wage rate, the well publicised Archbishop of Canterbury's conviction that the living wage is more appropriate, will also mean above inflation rises.

With the Government seeming to also accept that "Britain needs a pay rise" to grow the economy, the knock on effect will be an increase in costs of services we have to buy in.

We also know that this is the last year of the "Fairer Shares" system for assessing how much of the diocese expenditure is due to be met by each church in the diocese, according to their calculated potential income. This expenditure includes diocesan administration and legal services as well as the upkeep of Vicarages and vicars wages and pensions. Based on the 2012 returns, our share of the diocesan quota will increase by over £3,000 this year.

2016 sees the start of a new system of meeting the diocesan quota for our church, whereby we will be encouraged to become more self sufficient, (this year's quota of £26,000 just covers half the cost of a vicar/vicarage, the range being £44000 to £60000). Meaning that we are still reliant on other churches in the diocese subsidising us.

Its been over five years now since the financial crash, and whereas before, investment income could be used to mitigate costs, with investments rates so low and the income thereof now negligible, it is my unenviable task to ask everyone to; review their church giving with a view to increasing their contribution; and encourage more of the local population to engage with their parish church.

**Bob Avery, Treasurer.**



## **Friends**

At our church of All Saints we seek both faith and friendship, the following poem is for all friends.

If nobody smiled and nobody cheered  
And nobody helped us along  
If everybody looked after himself  
And all good things went to the strong.

If nobody cared just a little for you  
And nobody thought of me  
And we all stood alone in this battle of life,  
What a dreary world it would be.

Life is sweet just because of the friends we have made  
And the things which in common we share,  
We want to live on, not because of ourselves  
But because of the people who care.

It's giving and doing for somebody else  
On all that life's splendour depends,  
And the joy of this world, when it's all added up  
Is found in the making of friends.

Great thinkers have, for centuries, tried to define just what makes a friend. Yet no matter how deep their insights or how good they are with words, a friend always seems to be more than their definition.

Today, it is our old friend Anon, who has defined the essence of being a friend in these wise words:

“A friend is someone who sees your first tear fall, catches the second, stops the third and turns the fourth into a smile!”

## **Smile Lines**

From the Friendship Book 1989.

A Northamptonshire Women's Institute ran a competition to find “The most useful gadget in your kitchen”. It was won by a lady who submitted a photograph of her husband!

**Diary Dates for February 2015**

Sunday 1st		<b>CANDLEMAS</b>
	10.00 am	Holy Communion with Penny & Juan Carlos de Marcés preaching
Thursday 5th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Saturday 7th	10.00 -12.00	Parish Office
Sunday 8th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 10th	2.00 pm	This Christ we share
	7.00 pm	This Christ we share
Wednesday 11th	10.30 -12.00	Fair Trade Café
Thursday 12th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Friday 13th	12.30 am	Funeral of Carole Whybrow
Sunday 15th	9.30 am	Quiet Communion
	11.00 am	noisy Family Communion
Tuesday 17th	2.00 pm	This Christ we share
	7.00 pm	This Christ we share
Wednesday 18th		<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>
	11.00 am	Holy Communion
	8.00 pm	Holy Communion for Ash
Wednesday		
Sunday 22nd	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 3rd	TBA	Lent Course TBA
Wednesday 25th	10.30 -12.00	Fair Trade Café
Thursday 26th	11.00 am	Holy Communion

Please check the weekly news sheet for any changes.

## **Parish Pump**

### **Funerals**

13th January, Carole Linton

20th January, Marie Kingwell – Mayor of Greenwich

22nd January, Josephine Mcpepple Ja Ja

It was good to see Shelia Cooper back in Church after her recent operation, adding to our “bionic” congregation.

Thanks to Kate Eaton, who has stepped down as PCC Secretary, for all her hard work in this area and her support over the past few years. Welcome to Louise Dix who has to take on this role. We wish her well.

Welcome back to Andrew Witham, who has stepped back into his role with our Choir and as our main organist. He will play in conjunction with Michael Sherwin and Aaron Mather.

Welcome to Geoff Ellis who has taken on organising the grass cutting rota for the coming year.

### **Future Events**

In the spring (date TBA) we hope to have a Nearly New Sale. We will give further details after Christmas but if you might be interested in buying a table please speak to Sheila Cooper or Barbara Avery.

### **Did You Know**

That you can use your suncream to protect your skin against the cold too?

### **Carole Whybrow**

It is with great sadness that we report the sudden and untimely death of another member of our church family, Carole Whybrow, who passed away in the early hours of 10th January. She was our Sacristan, erstwhile choir member and helped out with NSPCC events, the Sunshine Club, and in the kitchen at Church Events. She will be sadly missed by her daughters Alison and Jocelyn, grandchildren and great granddaughter Nicola. Our only consolation is that she is now at peace with her beloved Allan.

Perhaps, if we could see  
The splendour of the land  
To which our loved one called from you and me  
We'd understand.

Perhaps, if we could hear  
The welcome they receive  
From old familiar voices – all so dear  
We would not grieve.

Perhaps, if we could know  
The reason why they went,  
We'd smile – and wipe away the tears that flow  
And wait content

**Anon**

### **February Facts and Trivia.**

February is the most misspelt of all months.

Princess Elizabeth became Queen on February 6th 1952; the coronation in June 1953 was the occasion for a display of public pageantry and loyalty unsurpassed in living memory.

February is the only month which has an extra day every four years, in a Leap Year 29 days not the usual 28.

On February 8th 1587 Mary, Queen of Scots was executed.

February 8th is also the birthday of the great Victorian novelist Charles John Huffam Dickens, born in Landport, Portsmouth in 1812. He died on 9th June 1870 and is buried at Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey. Dickens' work, still popular today, has been praised for its realism and concern for social reform.

February 10th 1962, Astronaut John Glen Jr. became the first American to orbit the earth.

St. Valentine's Day falls on the 14th February. St. Valentine is the patron saint of love and romance. Valentine symbols shown on cards and gifts are red roses, cupids and hearts to signify romantic love.

## **A Day in Town**

One bright and chilly day in November and unusually having no other commitments, we decided to visit Westminster Abbey. The last time I visited was just before the wedding of Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson but then we were unable to go in. We walked from Waterloo, over Westminster Bridge, which was packed with tourists.

The Abbey is vast and spectacular and although we were there for nearly four hours, we feel that we did not see it all. This magnificent building houses some historic artifacts passed down the ages for one thousand years. The Coronation Chair was first used to crown William the Conqueror in 1066 after the defeat of Harold at the battle of Hastings, and has been used in every coronation since, except for Edward V, who was one of the princes murdered in the Tower of London and Edward VIII who abdicated in 1936. The Abbey also houses the tombs of Elizabeth I, Mary Queen of Scots, poets, writers, musicians and politicians. Some of the plaques are only commemorative, with the bodies buried elsewhere. It was all fascinating and informative.

We walked back down Whitehall, past the Cenotaph, where the poppy wreaths still laid. Several police Officers were on guard at the entrance to Downing Street and further along two resplendent mounted guards, from the Blues and Royals Regiment, were on duty at Horseguards. They were very popular with the tourists taking photographs. On to Trafalgar Square, where Horatio Nelson looks down Whitehall to the sea from his majestic column.

We have a rich history - let us embrace it.

## **Smile Lines**

I really need a day between Saturday and Sunday.

I named my dog five miles so I can tell people I walk five miles every day.

God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world. Then He made the earth round... and laughed and laughed and laughed...

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

#### ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 1934

I have just received the accounts and am able to make a few comments. On the whole they show a very satisfactory year's work and we finish up with a balance of £4.

Last year we had a £30 balance, so that we have used £26 of this to enable us to keep straight this year, but last year we took £100 from the Sale of Work for Church Expenses. This year, 1934, we have taken nothing from the Sale for Church Expenses. This is the first time we have kept our Church Expenses straight without assistance from the Sale of Work. This is excellent and is as it should be. Now let us see to it that we keep it up! This satisfactory result freed Sale of Work money after paying off the Building Fund debt, £166 for necessary repairs, and so kept us from getting into debt. £90 was used for underpinning the Vicarage and £49 on decorating the Hall and £8 on cupboards for the Hall.

The magazine shows a profit of £20. Congratulations to Miss Steel and the distributors and to Mr Mousley on this excellent result. The Duplex Free Will Offering Fund has produced £385 on the home side, a fall of about £5, and £89 on the overseas side, an increase of nearly £1. The decrease on the home side, although it is only £5 is disappointing as the parish is still increasing and this is the first time we have had to record a decrease since the Duplex Scheme was commenced — some eight years ago. However it should be easy to put that right this year.

We have given £35 to Hospitals. £7 10s. to the Gresford Mine Disaster Fund, £6 to the Deanery Rescue Home at Woolwich and £6 to the Deanery Church Extension Fund.

Our Quota, £45 we paid in full.

We extend our grateful thanks to our auditor, Mr. A. H. Field, and to our treasurers, Mr. Salinger and Mr. Norman Harding, for their valuable work in connection with the accounts. Also to our Duplex Committee who endeavour to keep up interest in the Free Will Offering Scheme and especially to the Duplex Secretary, Mr Allnutt.

*Nothing specific is recorded in the "Church Logbook" for February 1975, however the second 1975 entry reads:*

Fr. Allen Hounsome and Fr. Brian McMurray transferred to York Diocese.

*Historical Notes:* The Vicarage at the time was 471 Foots Cray Road and the Duplex Scheme was the forerunner of our Planned Giving Envelope Scheme.

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