

All Saints Magazine



January 2015

Free

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Friends

We begin this new year with some changes to what we are doing together, which I hope will benefit us all and enable us all to worship God with joy, and hearts on fire.

On the third Sunday of the month we will be having two services and they will be very different.

The first will be a quiet communion at 9.30am. This will be a service with space for reflection and emphasis on listening for Gods voice in the stillness.

At 11.00am we will be having a Noisy Communion with all our families taking part and joining in. They will be stewarding and praying and reading and singing. Expect a lot of joy and a lot of noise too.

It is hoped that we can all find space to worship in a way that works for us and that we can come before God in all our diversity and be united in our prayers and our humility before the cross of Christ Jesus.

We will be having a getting to know God and each other course based on the material 'This Christ we share' which gives us different images and visions of Christ from around the world.

Let's work together this year to make All Saints even more of a special place than it already is

Amen

Annette

A New Year Resolution

Never take people for granted,
Each one has their stress and their strife,
Reach out to each other-at New Year
And welcome them into your life.

Happy New Year.

A farewell to THE OLD YEAR

The Old Year's gone away
To nothingness and night
We cannot find him all the day
Nor hear him in the night
He left no footstep mark or place
In either shade or sun
Tho' last year he'd a neighbours face
In this he's known by none

All nothing every where
Mists we on mornings see
They have more substance when they're here
And more of form than he
He was a friend by every fire
In every cot and hall
A guest to every hearts desire
And now he's nought at all

Old papers thrown away
Or garments cast aside
E'en the talk of yesterday
Are things identified
But time once torn away
No voices can recall
The eve of new years day
Left the old one lost to all

John Clare (Written 1845.)

A welcome to THE NEW YEAR

“What can be said in New Year rhymes,
That’s not been said a thousand times?

The new years come, the old years go.
We know we dream, we dream we know.

We rise up laughing with the light,
We lie down weeping with the night.

We hug the world until it stings,
We curse it then and sigh for wings.

We live, we love, we woo, we wed,
We wreath our prides, we sheet our dead.

We laugh, we weep, we hope, we fear,
And that’s the burden of a year.”

Ella Wheeler Wilcox (Date unknown)

Answers to the FIND THE CHRISTMAS WORD quiz

1. What the young and young at heart look forward to at Christmas. SNOW
2. Some of us enjoy this under the mistletoe at Christmas. KISS
3. A good way to travel at Christmas, and no petrol costs either. REINDEER
4. The French have a word for it, and there’s plenty around at Christmas. ALE
(The French have a word for everything! for ALE its BIÈRE)
5. What the romantic love will give his sweetheart at Christmas. RING
6. At Christmas especially we all like to ____, Drink, and be Merry. EAT
7. We love to sing these at Christmas. CAROLS
8. It’s not only the turkey we roast at Christmas. CHESTNUTS

Taking the initial letter from the answer to each of the above questions makes the Christmas related word: CRACKERS

Congratulations to the eight who got the word right, but as none got all the same answers as above, the first name out of the hat was Beryl Garson, who won the box of chocolates. Thanks to all who took part. £33 was raised for Church Funds.

Blessings

It began with an overheard snatch of conversation in the street one day. One woman was speaking to another:

“It’s all very well saying I should count my blessings but...”

And then they were gone out of earshot.

Well, all the way home that partial sentence stayed with Agnes so she spent an hour searching her memory and later, her bookshelves. What she came up with were these words from Lord Allton:

“If you have never been in war, imprisoned or suffered from starvation, then you are better off than five hundred million other people. If you can read, then you are better off than the two billion who are unable to do so, If you can attend a church without fear of harassment, or worse, then you are better off than three billion people in the world.”

“If you have food in the fridge, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, then you are richer than three-quarters of your fellow human beings. If you have money in the bank or your wallet or purse, then you are among the top eight per cent of the world’s wealthy.”

When it comes to counting your blessings - there is no “but.”

Diary Dates for January 2015

Saturday 3rd	10.00 -12.00	Parish Office
Sunday 4th		Epiphany
	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 6th	2.00 pm	This Christ We Share
	7.30 pm	This Christ We Share
Thursday 8th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 11th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 13th	2.00 pm	This Christ We Share
	7.30 pm	This Christ We Share
Wednesday 14th	10.30 -12.00	Fair Trade Café
Thursday 15th	10.00 am	Magazine Meeting
	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 18th	9.30 am	Quiet Communion
	11.00 am	Family Communion
Tuesday 20th	2.00 pm	This Christ We Share
	7.30 pm	This Christ We Share
Thursday 22nd	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 25th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
	4.00 pm	CTNE service for the Week of prayer for Christian Unity at New Eltham Methodist Church
Tuesday 27th	2.00 pm	This Christ We Share
	7.30 pm	This Christ We Share
Wednesday 28th	10.30 -12.00	Fair Trade Café
Thursday 29th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
	8.00 pm	Deanery Synod

Please check the weekly news sheet for any changes.

Parish Pump

The 100 Club

The 100 club was won by Linda Cooper

Baptisms

23rd November, Dexter Edward Gibbs

Funerals

21st November, Lilian O'Conner

25th November, Dorothy Keirle

4th December, George Peacock

5th December, Dorothy Withers

Thanks for all your support over Christmas. All our services were well attended and our Christingle broke all records with 137 adults and 104 Children. Particular thanks to the Keirle family who prepare all those oranges and count all those pennies for the children's society.

Sheila Cooper is doing well and recovering. She has a long way to go but thanks you all for your prayers and support so far.

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, Carole Whybrow or Barbara Avery.

George Peacock

All Saints owes much to the Peacock family, who for decades have been legendary lynchpins of all that goes on in our neighbourhood, both parochially and communally. For his close-knit and much cherished kindred George is irreplaceable: for the rest of us as close to irreplaceability as it is possible to be. Lovers of opera will have no difficulty in discerning in him a 21st century Figaro, a factotum whose expertise in an unrivalled variety of roles was vast: electrician: plumber: fence builder: tree surgeon: roof tiler and repairer: path and cement layer: and landscape gardener par excellence. (By way of example the parish magazine for August 1991 pays rightful tribute to George's wholesale renewal of the leaky botched up water main and pipes leading from Bercta road to the church and hall "work which saved us many thousands of pounds" he's given us works of similar value ever since).

George combined his great practical skills with imaginative invention and unquenchable optimism: his temporary repair of our organ armed solely with a stapler gun and a piece of rag was a wonder to behold. To outstanding stamina and vigour he added the boon of being the most cheerful and encouraging of workmates- embarking on any joint enterprise with him was always a pleasure. Ever a kind and generous chap, unflinching ready to help anyone in trouble, his resolute courage and indomitable will in the face of grave illness earned the respect of all.

Admirers of the work and buildings of Sir Christopher Wren were advised by way of memorial to look about you: and if we were to do that at All Saints' we would see George's Legacy in almost every nook and cranny. All of us who deeply mourn the loss of our modern Figaro can unite whole heartedly in according him the very loudest of "Bravissimos!". And if there's a motorbike shed in heaven we can be sure he's already at work in it – it will be his idea of resting in peace.....

Many thanks George. God bless

Brian Everness

There is so much that could be said of George, our friend, but Richard Rose said it all.

Dear God
Please look after George in Heaven
We will miss him very much

Amen

Dorothy Withers

Dorothy Grace Withers was born on the 17th September 1921 the first child of Maude and James, Her brother David was born two years later. She went to a small church school and then to the famous Mary Datchelor School, she was a good student. When she left school she got a job at the Bible Reading Fellowship, the lady in charge was very strict and would say “there’s only one way to do things and that was the proper way” and Dorothy continued to do this all her life.

Dorothy and her family moved to New Eltham in 1938. Dorothy’s father had a stroke just before they were about to move and Maude’s family suggested the move should be put off but she was determined they were going, so at 18 Dorothy and her family moved into 48 Tiverton Drive, it would be her home for the next 68 years.

Just after the War started Dorothy was drafted into the Civil Service Petroleum Division, she was one of the brave ladies going into London every day during the bombing, sometimes not able to get home as the trains were not running, she did volunteer work with her friends after work, all part of the war effort she said. Her job was top secret, nobody talked about what they were doing, not even knowing what the people on the next table were doing.

When the War was over Dorothy continued to work in the oil industry doing a variety of jobs, personal secretary, executive secretary, mentor to the younger secretaries eventually being a private secretary to Dr Paul Frankel a world-renowned figure in the oil business. When he started up his own consultancy she went with him, they were a formidable team. I’m told Dorothy was very efficient and clever doing the work of four people, organising seminars foreign travel and dealing with people from all over the world. She stayed there until she retired.

In the sixties and seventies Dorothy travelled extensively to far flung places like Moscow and Czechoslovakia but the place she love the most was Italy, especially Venice and Lake Garda, she went most years and loved every inch of it.

Within months of retiring she became secretary of a committee raising money for a scanner for the Brook Hospital, it took them seven years to raise the money and install the scanner. She was secretary of the Eltham Lady Conservatives and also volunteered at Conservative office. For nine years she was secretary of the PCC at All Saints Church she was also the stewardship treasurer and organised the Christmas bazaars—being very successful and secretary of the Towns Women’s Guild, at the same time looking after her Mum, who was over 100 when she died.

Dorothy had a dry sense of humour, a great sense of fun and a giggle that was full of joy. She loved the theatre, films, books, and reading the paper, keeping up with the news was very important to her. Going out for lunch and dinner, as well as the odd Gin and Tonic.

When in 2006 David decided to move to Roman Court after the death of his wife he asked Dorothy to go with him and without a second thought she did, she told me how lovely it was that, even though they had their own apartments, David came down for breakfast every morning, they hadn’t done that since before the War. They went out discovering the local area she was so happy to be with him, sadly David died in 2010.

Dorothy kept in touch with all her friends many of them who she worked with and their children, some from All Saints Church and so many others.

Dorothy did so much for so many charities her whole life she felt she should help people less fortunate than herself, in life as in death most of her money has been left to the Saint Christopher's Hospice and the Demelza House Children's hospice.

When Dorothy walked in the room she had a presence, she never lost her zest for life. She was a very special lady and we loved her.

Diane, Alan & Karen Mills

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

NEW YEAR THOUGHTS

A Happy New Year to all our readers. Some New Year Thoughts—I hesitate to say Resolutions.

I will not let a Sunday pass without joining in the worship of the Church.

I will put into practice the Churchman's obligation—to be present at the pleading of the Holy Sacrifice EVERY Sunday.

I will help to build up and strengthen, by my regular attendance, the 11 a.m. Sunday Eucharist.

I will attend one of the week-day early Communions, Tuesday, 7 a.m., Wednesday, 6.45 a.m., of Friday, 7 a.m.

I cannot manage every week—so I will have a fortnightly or even monthly rule about the daily Eucharist.

I will do a bit—or a bit more—for Missions.

I will help to get that £50 for Georgetown, British Guiana.

I will join the Duplex Free will Offering Scheme and so help to save the Vicar from having to beg and the Treasurers and Church Council from having to worry about £ s. d.

I will sign up on the Electoral Roll.

I will come to the Annual Meeting and take a more live interest in the parish.

I will offer myself as a Visitor for one road or street.

I will put my British reserve in my pocket and for Christ's sake do a spot of Evangelistic work.

I will set a good example myself and show that religion really matters.

I will sometimes BRING my children instead of always SENDING them. They may think it really is important if they see me setting the example.

I will lend a hand when and where I can, and if I cannot, at least I won't grouse!

I will cease to say (because it is so very feeble—in fact even silly) "Yes, I'm Church, but I don't go!"

And then the Vicar woke up, and behold it was a dream. I suppose he had been dreaming the Old Year out and the New Year in—anyhow it must have been a dream and strange things happen in dreams. Being awake and no longer dreaming he merely asks, "Well, what about 1935?" Truly he is a troublesome and disturbing creature, never satisfied

Nothing specific is recorded in the "Church Logbook" for January 1975, however the first 1975 entry reads:

Re-wiring of the Church undertaken and completed.

Historical Note: the £50 for Georgetown refers to Fr. Hughes Missionary appeal in November.

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