

All Saints Magazine



July 2016

Free

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Friends

I came across this article on Facebook and thought I'd share it with you

What Priests Want You to Know

1. Your minister has a personal life. Just like your teachers in school and your doctor, ministers and priests have a life that existed long before they were ordained. So, just like you, they have family issues and car trouble and dishes that sit in the sink far too long and children who were up sick all night before the Easter Day services. Just like regular people, life can be joyous and overwhelming. And we often are not able to share that with parishioners. A quote I saw on a bumper sticker said, "Be kind, because everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle." Yes, indeed.

2. Sundays are long days for us. We are on, and I mean Beyonce at a concert on, from the time we step into the church until the last person leaves. We are responsible for the liturgy, the sermon, and the climate control (because no one in the church agrees on temperature). People tell us things, from random comments about the football game to significant news about their lives. We often are teaching a class, as well. A retired priest I knew said every hour clergy work on Sundays is the equivalent of working 2.5 hours any other day.

3. Clergy have to flip switches in ways that are not good. Every priest I know has many stories of going from a parishioner's hospital room where the family has gathered to say goodbye to a finance committee meeting. It is the nature of what we do. Remember when your minister takes a morning off, s/he may be giving herself or himself time to reflect on all that has happened because that's the only time she has.

4. We miss the parishioners we bury. Just because we're preaching the sermon and celebrating the liturgy like we're totally together doesn't mean we aren't crying on the inside. Clergy do not live day to day, week to week, month to month, and year to year with the people they serve and not grieve when those beloved people die. Again, grief needs her space and time, so allow your minister to take that time (or remind them to take that time.)

5. We are not particularly good at disappointment. Perhaps it's a personality type, but most clergy I know will work until their fingers fall off for the community they love and serve. Just a note - this is not good. God jerked my attention to this fact a week before Palm Sunday, when I just hit a wall. We cannot do everything we want to do. We only have a certain amount of energy, which means we, like the rest of the humanity, have to make choices about where and how our energy can be shared. This will always mean something that someone really, really wants to see done in the church will not be done. And we hate that, but there you go.

6. Life happens at the church every day of the week. A few things that happen when the flock is not at the church: planning liturgies, writing sermons, taking phone calls, meeting with people who need to be heard, visiting those who are sick, working with community groups, dealing with the physical plant, reading emails, and rearranging schedules when the unexpected happens, as it often does. Churches are busy, busy

places every day of the week. Which also means it's always better to make an appointment rather than just stop by if you really need to talk.

7. Many clergy only get one day off a week. For many of us, things happen on Saturday, so our Saturdays are not always a day off. And it's also a day for sermon-writing because often the week gets too busy for quiet time to write.

8. Church life is often feast or famine. Just like regular life, life in the church either seems to run at 100 mph or quite slow. There are weeks that 80 hours is not unusual for me, and I am quite thankful for the ones that require about 20. And when the slow weeks come, having a parish that empowers their clergy to take that time and relax is a gift. We really love what we do, but need down time to re-energize and reflect.

9. We don't remember what you tell us on Sunday. Please, email us or write it down.

10. We make mistakes. Yes, indeed. Forgive us when we do. Love us anyway.

God Bless.

Annette



All Saints sign up to Easy Fundraising!

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online—from your weekly shop to your annual holiday—you could be raising a FREE donation for All Saints, New Eltham.

There are nearly 3,000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Tesco & Sainsburys (including grocery shopping), M&S, Early Learning, Thomas Cook and countless others, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to All Saints to say thank you for shopping with them.

All you have to do is:

1. Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/allsaintsneweltham>
2. Sign up for free
3. Select your store/retailer and get shopping—the stores' donations will be collected by easyfundraising and automatically sent to All Saints.

It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything. There are no catches or hidden charges and All Saints will be really grateful for the donations you generate.

Please feel free to share this information with friends and family who shop online.

Thank you for your support.

Excursion to Sidmouth

In May Bob and I visited Sidmouth, a pretty, regency, Devonshire coastal town. The journey by coach took about six hours, including a stop for lunch in Salisbury, (unfortunately it was pouring with rain so we weren't able to explore much).

On arrival, the rain had stopped, and we had a beautiful view of the sea from our spacious hotel room.



Sidmouth has a selection of independent shops—no M&S or Poundland here—including Fields, an old-fashioned department store, rather similar to Grace Brothers, with polite and smiling staff who were helpful with purchases. The town also has the usual coffee shops, fudge shops and an ice-cream parlour with about 25 different flavours.

The seafront is on the South Devon Coastal Path and to the West of the front is a pathway that led under the cliffs to the next bay, where 26 beach chalets overlooked the sea. From there, a steep path takes you to the beautiful, cliff-top Connaught Gardens. It was busy during the day, but in the evenings only a few people were there. The views across the bays made the climb worthwhile. It is a very relaxed and relaxing place to be.

The next day we were taken to Exmouth for a boat trip around the bay and up the river Ex. Luckily, the thunderstorm we had driven through subsided by the time we got on the boat, so although windy, the sun was shining for an enjoyable trip.

We had been in touch with Jean Wadsworth and on Monday afternoon she picked us up from the hotel and took us to see Timothy, her sponsored donkey in the nearby Donkey Sanctuary. It's a very peaceful sanctuary and the donkeys are well cared for.



After that we went back to her house for a very welcome cup of tea (and cake!). Retirement has not diminished her sense of humour and the rest of the afternoon passed very quickly. Afterwards a twenty minute walk took us down into the town and back to the hotel.

The last full day was a visit to Honiton market, very disappointing, but the lace museum was unexpectedly good, then to Becton Park Botanical Gardens near Otterton with a miniature railway taking in most of the sights.

Then all back on the coach for the journey home, the pretty way, via Poole with a visit to the pottery.

Barbara Avery

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,
New Eltham, SE9 3TZ**

Family Fun Day!

**Saturday 2nd July
11am-2.30pm**

Bouncy Castle

Charity Stalls

Craft Stalls

CAKES

Refreshments

Admission FREE

Diary Dates for July 2016

Saturday 2nd	10.00–12.00	Parish Office
	11.00–2.30	Family Fun Day
Sunday 3rd	10.00 am	Holy Communion
	3.00 pm	Baptism
Thursday 7th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Saturday 9th	5.00–6.30 pm	Youth Club in Church Hall
Sunday 10th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
	12.00-3.00 pm	Deanery picnic Avery Hill Park
Wednesday 13th	10.30- 2.00	Fair Trade Café
	8.00 pm	PCC in Hall
Thursday 14th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 17th	9.30 am	Holy Communion (Quiet)
	11.00 am	Family Communion
	12.30 pm	Baptism Oliver
	1.30 pm	Baptism Albie
	3.00-5.00	Afternoon Tea at the Vicarage
Thursday 21st	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 24th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 28th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 31st	10.00 am	Holy Communion

Please check the weekly news sheet for any changes.

Parish Pump

100 Club

The 100 Club in May was won by Elizabeth Hinde.

Funerals

14th June, Betty Senechal

16th June, Mary Littlefield

Monthly Charity

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

Family Fun Day-2nd July

This year the family fun day is going to be a little bit different. The FREE games and activities, including the bouncy castle, will be in the grounds, weather permitting, as will be a plant stall and an opportunity to support Demezla the local Children's Hospice.

Tea/coffee and cakes and a number of craft stalls will be in the hall.

Once again the Church will be open to host the colouring competition, so there really is something for everyone to do between 11 am and 2.30 pm on the day.

Come and meet the local community, enjoy the grounds, and visit the Church.

Deanery Picnic

Sunday 10th July, 12pm-3pm Avery Hill Park.

Families are invited to come and picnic together, play games and enjoy the summer sunshine. Meet by the park cafe and playground from 12pm. Crafts and games available 1-3pm. All children must be accompanied by a parent or carer.

Future Events

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

The Unexpected.

From a parish mag. that popped through our letterbox t'other day:

I dreamt death came the other night
and heaven's gate swung wide.
An angel with a halo bright
Ushered me inside
There to my astonishment stood folk,
I'd judged and labelled
As quite unfit, of little worth
And spiritually disabled
Indignant words sprang to my lips
Never were set free
For every face showed stunned surprise
Not one expected me

A True friend has a generous heart,
A flair for knowing what to say,
Is someone you can call upon
At any hour of night or day.
Is someone thoughtful, caring, warm,
Who's journeyed often by your side,
Who's shared your triumphs, yet remained
A comfort in the times you've cried.

Is one with whom you'll laugh for hours,
And as you reminisce, you'll find
That countless memories are shared,
So tightly are your lives entwined.
And if you're blessed with such a friend
Who's dearly loved and always true,
Then there's no doubt they too, possess
A true and loving friend in you.

Emma Canning

Climate change

The major ports may have been smoky places in the days of Sir Francis Drake. After all, Plymouth, Portsmouth and the rest would have depended on coal, wood and oil for cooking, heating and industry.

He could have been referring to leaving such pollution behind when he wrote, "Losing sight of land, we shall find the stars." But actually he meant that God never takes us beyond our known limits without providing new guidance when we get there.

A comforting thought for the fabled sailor - and for each of us on our personal voyage.

The Friendship Book 2015

Its all relative.

When a ticket collector stopped beside Albert Einstein the embarrassed scientist, preoccupied with his work, rummaged through his pockets and briefcase without finding his ticket. The conductor said, "We know who you are, Dr Einstein. I'm sure you have a ticket, so don't worry about it."

Just as the conductor was about to move into the next carriage, he turned round. Dr Einstein was on his hands and knees looking underneath the seat. He walked up to him and said quietly, "Dr. Einstein, please don't worry about the ticket, I know who you are". He looked up and replied, "I, too, know who you are. What I don't know is where am I going!"

So often we live life at a frantic pace and sometimes we don't know exactly where we should be going and need someone to show us the way.

Remember when Jesus was comforting his disciples, saying that where he was going they could not follow Him. But afterwards he said that they could follow Him.

Not understanding, Thomas asked Jesus, "Lord, we do not know where You are going; how can we know the way?"

Jesus replied, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14: 5-6)

The Friendship Book 2014

Smile Lines

The New Minister

The new minister was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. Finally he took out a card, wrote 'Revelation 3:20' on the back and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, 'Genesis 3:10'. Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter.

Revelation 3:20 begins "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked."

Moses

Why did Moses wander through the desert for 40 years?

Because even than men wouldn't stop and ask for directions

Life and Death

The vicar was preaching a powerful sermon concerning death and judgement. In the course of the sermon, he said: "Just think – all of you living in this parish will one day die." At this, a man in the front pew began to laugh quietly.

After the service the vicar demanded sternly why he had found such a serious subject to funny? The man explained: "I was just happy, because I don't live in this parish."

Right Resting place

The new vicar was a bit of an efficiency expert, whose obsession was to move around the hymn books, the notice-sheets, the magazines, the guides, and most of the other portable things in his church, in search of the perfect place. From porch to display stand to table to vestry to side chapel – round and round various things went, week by week.

After several months, a visitor approached a harassed churchwarden before church one morning, and asked if he could tell her where the copies of the church guides were kept. "No, I'm sorry." He said wearily. "But if you just stand here a while, I'm sure you'll see them go by!"

From the Archives – snippets from the July magazine of 1936, price twopence

PERSONAL

We hope to welcome to our Staff in September, Mr. Francis Halliwell.

Mr. Halliwell expects to be Ordained by the Bishop of Southwark at the September Ordination. He is at present a student at St. Augustine's College, Canterbury. Before coming to England to prepare for Ordination Mr. Halliwell lived for some years in Bombay.

He is looking forward very much to joining in the work at All Saints and I am sure we shall give him a warm welcome. I ask for your prayers on his behalf that his ministry may be richly blessed.

'THANK YOU'

We recently discovered in Church a new book-case for Prayer and Hymn Books. It was so badly needed and we rejoiced to see it actually there. But how did it get there and where did it come from?

Upon enquiry we were told that one of our Sidesmen—our good friend Mr. Webb—seeing the need for it had made it and given it.

Then we rejoiced again, especially as we remembered that Mr. Webb had also taken off two doors that gave trouble and rehung them.

That's the spirit, it is a joy to have folk like that about, isn't it?

The PCC minutes for July 1976 record:

Gregory Memorial (Flower Fund). The Treasurer said that the £100 2.5% Consolidated Stock held a present market value of about £16.

Sponsored Sunflower Growing Contest. Mr Keable was thanked for his efforts in this connection. The Vicar would arrange for 200 copies of sponsor sheets to be prepared for use.

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