

All Saints Magazine



June 2015

Free

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Friends

I wonder what you dream about, what do you really wish for? I used to dream about libraries of un-read books just waiting to be read; an armchair big enough to squeeze into with my feet up; and calorie free but good tasting chocolate. Now however I wish for much simpler things; a good night's sleep; a meal that I can eat uninterrupted by phone calls, or children; and maybe half an hour to read, just for me.

Life seems to be so full that it takes an enormous amount of effort to squeeze in God space, to make time to pray, to spend the time we need to think and plan for what we do. And yet I bet we could all do with making time for God, with having a set time for daily prayer and/or bible reading and also taking time just to be with God, sitting or listening to what is going on.

It can be really hard sometimes to still our minds, and our hearts and souls too, especially when we think we should be getting on with things.

But God himself rested on the seventh day, Christ also went away from the crowds to pray and to rest.

Finding time to rest in God's love is really important. Finding time to have fun together is important too.

As a parish we have an awful lot going on in many ways but we do need to find some time for just being together and learning to socialise together. It is why after church coffee is as important as church and why, after the visitation on Wednesday 13th May, the going to the pub was just as important as the service and swearing in of our Wardens and PCC members.

Do take the time to stay after services, do come to our meals and events when you can, and do just have a chat or a cuppa with someone from our church family whenever the opportunity arises.

God Bless.

Annette

Christian Aid-Nepal — Anxiety and uncertainty in the earthquake aftermath

Anil Pandy's family home in Gorkha was destroyed when the powerful earthquake, the worst in 80 years, shook Nepal on 25 April.

Anil was working away in Kathmandu with his brother, Amrid, having travelled there in search of work last year, leaving behind their mother and two sisters.

Following the quake, they made the treacherous journey back to Gorkha to find their home demolished. Fortunately, their mother Laxmin and two sisters, Pramilla and Rasmilla, survived.



Anil with his family on the site of their destroyed home.

Food and water

Anil said: 'When my father died we were left with debt, which is why my brother and I travelled to Kathmandu to find work.

'If we had the money, we would rebuild [our family home] but at the moment, we just don't know what we'll do to survive.

Following the earthquake, the family lost vital kitchen equipment, including water containers, plates, cutlery, cups and cooking pots. They salvaged what they could, but have had to rely on the kindness of their neighbours.

Our partner PGVS has since provided the family with essentials such as food rations, water purification tablets, tarpaulins and a hygiene kit consisting of essentials such as soap, toothpaste, sanitary towels, nail clippers and cotton buds.

Safe shelter

For Anil and his family, life after the quake remains anxious and uncertain. Yet thanks to the generosity of our supporters, many families just like Anil's have received vital emergency support.

It's unlikely Anil and his brother will have a job to return to in Kathmandu. They will once again begin the search for work - this time in a country hit hard by two powerful earthquakes in as many weeks.

Anil says he will remain with his mother for at least a month, helping to clear the debris and construct a safe and sturdy temporary shelter for the family.

With your help, we can reach more families like Anil's; with the essentials they need to survive.

Smile Lines

A Pastor goes to the dentist for a set of false teeth. The first Sunday after he gets his new teeth, he talks for only eight minutes. The second Sunday, he talks for only ten minutes. The following Sunday, he talks for 2 hours and 48 minutes. The congregation had to mob him to get him down from the pulpit and they asked him what happened.

The Pastor explains the first Sunday his gums hurt so badly he couldn't talk for more than 8 minutes. The second Sunday his gums hurt too much to talk for more than 10 minutes. But, the third Sunday, he put his wife's teeth in by mistake.

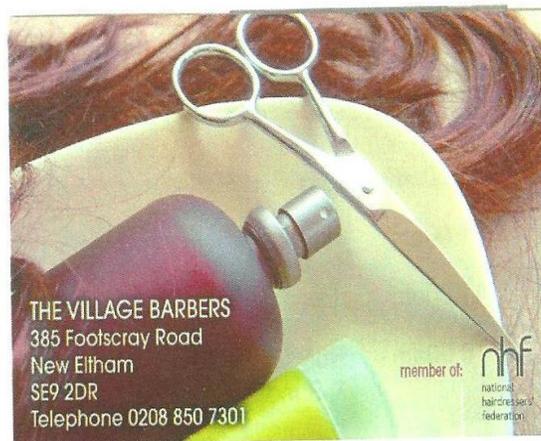
Hope For The Week

The Lord will be my lantern
To Lead me through the week,
To show the way when days are dark
And light the path I seek.

And when the shadows gather
Or hover round my door,
His light will lift and warm my heart
And give me hope once more.

The Lord will be my lantern
Through any stress and strife,
And guide me always, day by day,
Each week throughout my life.

Iris Hesselden



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Report of Deanery Away Day

On Saturday 16th May 4 members of All Saints attended the Deanery Away Day at The Old School Room, Greenwich Naval College. The event was a start to bring together all congregations in the deanery, to encourage thinking about the churches role in the needs of the local area, wider than individual parishes, and to see if parishes could share resources to make a difference.

The Vicar of Holy Trinity and Annette hosted the day and ran the Ideas workshop. There also were presentations on two issues previously highlighted, the effect of debt and high interest loans on the less well off, and the events and resources available to parishes for young people activities.

To address these issues the Vicar of St. Barnabas spoke about the Greenwich and Bexley Credit Union (*see separate article*), and the new Vicar at St. Lukes spoke about the new Diocesan Youth initiative, which she was co-ordinating. The Deanery young persons' picnic (*see parish pump*) resulted from this discussion.

The other highlight was the pre-lunch communion service for all attendees, held in the Naval College Chapel.

Greenwich & Bexley Credit Union (GBCU).

GBCU have been operating in Woolwich for over 15 years and have just opened a desk at the Eltham Centre on Fridays.

GBCU is owned by its members; is a local service offering a range of ethical and affordable financial services to suit everyone's needs; and here to help you with your money, not to make money out of you.

It works by you making a regular saving each week or month and when you have been saving for 3 months you can apply for a loan.

The amount you can borrow depends on how much you have saved and your ability to repay. You can borrow up to 4 times you savings plus £500 if saving by payroll deduction.

Most loans are charged at a fixed rate of 1% per month on the reducing balance (12.68%APR).

(See Treasurer for more details and application forms)

Diary Dates for June 2015

Thursday 4th	11.00 am 7.30 pm	Holy Communion Mass at Holy Trinity Church for Corpus Christi
Sunday 7th	10.00 am 12.00 pm	Holy Communion Baptisms of Freddie, Billy and Joey Cook
Monday 8th	2.00 pm	Funeral of Kenneth Pilbeam
Tuesday 9th	7.00 pm	PCC Standing Committee
Wednesday 10th	10.30-12.00	Fair Trade Café
Thursday 11th	10.00 am 11.00 am	Magazine Meeting Holy Communion
Saturday 13th	2.00 pm 5.00- 6.30 pm	Baptism of Hudson Asaf Youth Club in Hall
Sunday 14th	10.00 am	Family Communion
Thursday 18th	11.00 am 4.00 pm	Holy Communion Women's fellowship group in the Hall
Sunday 21st	9.30am 11.00 am	Quiet Holy Communion Pet Family Service
Wednesday 24th	10.30-12.00 7.30 pm	Fair Trade Café PCC
Thursday 25th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Saturday 27th	11.00- 2.00 pm	Family Fun Day
Sunday 28th	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 Sam French.

Baptisms

17th May, Matilda Lily Rose Holbrook. (Eda's Granddaughter)

Funerals

8th May, Joan Staples (Viv Boland's mother)

May, Val Syreed (Janet Johnson's Sister)

Our thoughts are with their families at this time.

Future Events

Wednesday 1st July—Deanery Synod, Holy Trinity.

Saturday 11th July—Deanery young persons' picnic, 2pm to 4pm Eltham Park South.

Saturday 5th September—Woolwich area conference 9.30 to 4pm.

Saturday 26th September—All Saints Michaelmas Fair.

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Family Fun Day — 27th June

This year the family fun day is going to be a little bit different. As well as all the usual tea/coffee and cakes in the hall, and free games and activities in the grounds, we are hoping that a number of special guests will be making an appearance. (see weekly newsheet for details). Additionally this year, in the church, there will be a table sale of quality items. So there really is something for everyone to do between 11 am and 2 pm on the day.

Congregation Poem

Following the May magazine tribute to our churchwardens in an extract from the poem Septuagesima by John Betjeman (1906-1984), printed here in full also recognizes other members who work on our behalf in our church.

Let's praise the man who goes to light
The church stove on an icy night.

Let's praise that hard worked he or she,
The treasurer of the PCC.

Let's praise the cleaner of the aisles,
The nave, the candlesticks, the tiles.

Let's praise the organist, who tries
To make the choir increase in size.
Or if that simply cannot be
Just to improve its quality.

Let's praise the ringers in the tower
Who come to ring in cold and shower.

But most of all let's praise the few
Who are seen in their accustomed pew
Throughout the year, whate'er the weather
That they may worship God together.
These, like a fire of glowing coals,
Strike warmth into each other's souls
And though they be but two or three
They keep the church for you and me.

The Church's Colours.

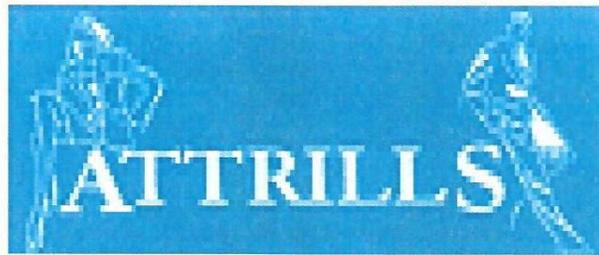
We appreciate the colours used in our Church Festivals.
These are the main colours and their meaning.

WHITE (or Cream and Gold): The joyful festivals, especially Christmas, Easter and Ascension. Also for saints other than martyrs.

RED: speaks of fire and blood, so is used for Whitsunday and for martyrs.

PURPLE: speaks of penitence and preparation — so Lent and Advent.

GREEN: the ordinary colour of nature, speaks of God's provision for our needs — so green is for ordinary, non-festival Sundays.



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Idioms and phrases

The subject for this final article of the expressions often used in everyday speech is colour.

...**red letter day**: a day to celebrate, a day of special significance. During the fifteenth century it became customary to mark all feast days and saints' days in red on the ecclesiastical calendar.

...**in the red**: to be in debt, overdrawn. Dating from the 1920s this idiom originated from America and comes from accounting where debit and negative balances were written in red ink. If possible to get *out of the red*, then the account would be *in the black*, black being the colour used to record credit.

...**red tape**: excessive bureaucracy, form-filling. This phrase originates from the practice of tying together papers and official documents with red tape. In modern usage it is associated with a person frustrated with officialdom.

...**to paint the town red**: to go out on a spree, to indulge in excessive revelry. American slang from the second half of the nineteenth century its origin is a mystery which has led to a number of colourful suggestions, one of which points out that red is a loud and cheerful colour that matches the mood of anyone out for a good time.

...**blue ribbon**: the highest distinction or quality, the pick of the bunch. The most coveted order of knighthood in Britain, established by EDWARD III in about 1348, is the Most Noble Order of the Garter, whose emblem is a blue ribbon. The honour is the gift of the sovereign and, apart from senior royals, is bestowed upon only 24 Knights of the Garter.

Since the mid-nineteenth century the term *blue ribbon* has come to denote the highest possible achievement.

...**blue chip**: reliable, giving the highest return. In the game of poker, counters or *chips* in different colours are used to represent money, with the *blue chip* having the highest value. In the early twentieth century, Wall Street began to describe stocks with stable growth and paying dividends as *blue chip*. Thus a blue chip investment is one that promises a good return and a blue chip company is considered financially secure.

...**once in a blue moon**: very rarely, hardly ever. In the sixteenth century to say that the moon was blue meant that an event was absurd and could not happen. As William Barlow, the Bishop of Chichester, ironically put it;

Yf they saye the mone is blewe,

We muct believe that it is true.

(Rede Me and Be Nott Wrothe. C1526)

...**white elephant**: an unwanted object of no great use or value. Royal white elephants of South-east Asia were sacred animals symbolising power. Death amongst the rare white elephants foretold disaster.

If a servant displeased the kings of Siam they would present them with a white elephant, the cost of maintaining the elephant which was not allowed to earn its keep as a working animal was excessive and gradually ruined its new owner.

Travellers' tales of the seventeenth century introduced the term *white elephant* and it began to be applied figuratively to 'something unwanted and without value' around the mid- nineteenth century.

Later during the twentieth century unwanted items would be donated to the *white elephant stall* at the local church bazaar or school fete, which continues today.

...**a whited sepulchre**: a hypocrite, someone or something outwardly presentable but inwardly corrupt.

This is a biblical expression coming from the words Jesus uses in Matthew 23.27 when he condemns the scribes and Pharisees for being outwardly orthodox and beyond reproach but inwardly corrupt , full of self-indulgence and greed:

Ye are like whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are full of dead men's bones and of all uncleanness.

(Authorised version)

For you are like white washed tombs , which on the outside look beautiful, but inside they are full of the bones of the dead and of all kinds of filth.

(New Revised Standard version)

From the Archives – we don't have a June 1935 magazine but here are some extracts of the time from Mr Pond's "Our Heritage" book.

As part of the Bishops' call to Evangelism for 1935, the preparation for a large Parish Mission is recorded as follows:

"It was planned that every house in the parish should be visited FOUR times before the Mission commenced in 1936. This entailed an enormous amount of work and sacrifice for those who were to do the visiting. In response for volunteers for visiting, a wonderful body of men and women came forward — sufficient to cover the whole parish"

It was planned that during the first visit each householder would receive a letter from the Vicar and Curate explaining the Mission Plans, together with a mission prayer, printed on a card. On the second visit, the visitors would deliver to each household in the parish, letters from the Bishop's of Southwark and Woolwich, commending the mission.

The parish population at that time was approximately 9,000 people in 2500 homes.

There are no entries in the "Church Logbook" for June 1975.

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



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