

All Saints Magazine



November 2014

Free

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Friends

This morning when I got up I had to put the light on for the first time since last winter. I then thought how dependent we are on readily available light – mainly from our electricity supply: unlike our ancestors who relied on candle light to lighten their darkness. For hundreds of years churches were lit by candle light not only for symbolism but to enable lessons to be read and hymns to be sung. In fact, candles were a real essential in peoples' homes as well. Candles are also lit for special events such as birthdays and anniversaries.

Today when a baby is baptised he or she is presented with a candle to symbolise that Jesus is the light of the world. The baby is said to have passed from darkness to light at the beginning of the Christian journey. At the end of a life, at a funeral, candles are lit to symbolise the end of an earthly life and the beginning of new one with God. At Easter the Paschal Candle is lit to remind us that Christ came into the world to bring light. Every Sunday candles are lit to emphasise the presence of Jesus at the Eucharist. Votive candles enable people to concentrate on their prayers and remember friends and families. There are many ways in which we are reminded of the Light of Christ. At All Saints our beautiful stained glass windows are from St Aidan's Church and show some of his life's journey.

Whenever I see the sun shining through our windows I am reminded of the little girl who visiting a Cathedral for the first time asked her mother who the people were depicted in the stained glass. They are Saints said her mother people who have done good things for others. The little girl thought for a moment and then said "I understand now who they are – saints are people whose light shines through".

This story is an old one but it made me think. At a baptism we ask the baby or whoever is being baptised to 'be a light in the world'. Candles and stained glass are there to remind us that the light of Christ is all around us but we need to make sure that we are also lights to the world. lights to the world. All of us should show our friends and neighbours that our light is shining. What we do outside the church is really important. If we do not carry that light what we do inside the church is merely symbolic.

We have a duty to proclaim the gospel in the way we live our lives.

Is your light shining?

God Bless

Annette

Please share the magazine with your friends and neighbours and take them copies to read.

WWI Centenary.

As a response to Germany's invasion of Belgium and proposed military domination of France, Britain declared war on Germany on August 4th 1914.

So in 2014 we mark the centenary of the beginning of the First World War – the war to end all wars – as wars have been part of human experience since time began, but of course there have been other worldwide conflicts since.

The following 1914 entry has been gleaned from Mr. Pond's (Churchwarden) church archive book: –

The Vicar at the outbreak of the war was the Rev. L. W. Lang. Because Woolwich Arsenal was one of England's greatest arsenals, munitions workers from all parts of the country came to work there, and had to be housed as near to the Arsenal as possible, and New Eltham accommodated a large number of workers. With their erratic working hours, parish life was disorganised until parishioners adjusted to the changes.

The Church hall was in constant use and Sunday School and Bible Classes well attended.

Many ordained men enlisted in the Forces and All Saints was without a resident curate for a long time and clergy from other parishes came on Sundays.

Volunteers had to pass certain physical tests, be taller than 5'3" and aged between 19 and 38.

Both my Grandfathers served in the First World War. My maternal grandfather was a Sapper (Signals Corp of the Royal Engineers) in France and kept a diary of each year. Unfortunately these were not detailed enough to publish but it's lovely to own them. My sister has gathered some other information and is making a book from the diaries. My grandfather settled in New Eltham in 1929 in Cadwallon Road and lived there until his death in 1978.

My paternal grandfather served in India, but like so many men who returned, did not speak about his experiences.

We were lucky enough that both returned safely, thousands did not, members of the forces and civilians alike.

It is to them we offer our grateful thanks.

A few years ago we visited Ypres (Leper) and went into the "In Flanders Fields Museum", located in the famous Cloth Hall in the main Square. There were a lot of items on display that I remembered seeing at my grandfather's house in New Eltham. Later, we went to some of the war cemeteries and it was very moving to see how young these soldiers were 18-23, the graves beautifully maintained by the War Graves Commission. We also visited the Menin Gate where the names of 56,000 men are listed, but we were sorry not to have been able to stay for the evening playing of the Last Post.

Remembering The Great War 1914-1918 in the works of the poets.

“In Flanders Fields” written by John McCrae, in May 1915 is one of the most moving and well known and was inspired by his friend Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, 1st Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery.

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae died at Base Hospital 1918

Maturing

In the orchard, apples growing,
Storing goodness from the sun.
Round the trees are children playing,
Running, laughing, having fun.
Each, receiving warmth and nurture,
Grows more perfect every day,
All fulfilling their good purpose,
As summer grass makes winter hay.
While the season cools to autumn
Apples ripen on the bough.
Children, in from carefree playing,
Learning from their teachers now.
In due season comes the harvest
When the bounty's spread abroad.
Apples yearly, children grown up,
Share the goodness of the Lord.

Norman Lindsey.

Diary Dates for November 2014

Sunday 2nd	ALL SAINTS DAY & ALL SOULS DAY
	10.00 am Holy Communion With Tony Crowe followed by bring and share lunch
	4.00 pm All souls service of recollection
Thursday 6th	11.00 am Holy Communion
Sunday 9th	REMEMBRANCE
	9.30 am Holy Communion
	10.30 am Act of Remembrance
Wednesday 12th	10.30-12.00 Fair Trade Café
Thursday 13th	11.00 am Holy Communion
Sunday 16th	10.00 am Holy Communion
Wednesday 19th	8.00 pm PCC Meeting
Thursday 20th	11.00 am Holy Communion
Saturday 22nd	4.00 pm Wedding Blessing
Sunday 23rd	10.00 am Holy Communion 12.00 pm Baptism Dexter Gibbs
Wednesday 26th	10.30-12.00 Fair Trade Café
Thursday 27th	11.00 am Holy Communion
Sunday 30th	ADVENT SUNDAY
	10.00 am Holy Communion
	4.00 pm Christingle Service

Please check the weekly news sheet for any changes.

Parish Pump

The 100 Club

The 100 club was won by Pam Piper

Baptisms

Omime Kessington on 12th October
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Debby Olajumoke Matami on 12th October
Dorothy Olapeju Matami on 12th October
In the Presence of Archdeacon Alistair Cutting.

Remembrance Sunday

Please note the earlier start time of our Communion Service. This is because Churches Together in New Eltham are making a special effort in this centenary year to recognise the sacrifices of the residents of New Eltham in WWI, by an Act of Remembrance at our war memorial at 10.30. This year we will be joined by our Catholic and Methodist friends, local councillors and members of other clubs and associations in New Eltham. It is a public event so let you neighbours know about it.

The Lime Tree

The large lime tree at the front of the Church, which shed a large branch earlier in the year, has been surveyed, found to be largely hollow, and thus potentially dangerous. Whilst it is a shame to have to remove such a beautiful feature of the churchyard, the PCC now has permission to have the tree felled and hopes to have the work undertaken before any more comes down unexpectedly.

Future Events

Churches Together in New Eltham Carol Service.

This year's joint carol service will be hosted by the Methodist Church on Sunday 21st December, starting at 6 p.m.

If anyone wishes to advertise their services in the magazine or knows someone who would then please let us know. Rates are negotiable and reasonable. If the magazine is to remain free then we do need a couple more sponsors.

Events

Talents Fund Raising

The return of the talents money was due at the Harvest Service. Of the £280 handed out earlier in the year, £200 has been returned, along with a magnificent response of £604.10 profit so far.

It was very impressive to read about the innovative ideas that the congregation came up with to raise money from their talents: coffee mornings, lunches, and cake sales were popular ideas; but there was also giving lifts to friends to hospital appointments or the hairdressers; making soup for neighbours; making blankets for sale and other sewing/craft jobs undertaken.

Even the children got involved with; a guess the number of beans in a jar; decorating fir cones for Christmas; and making Loom Bands for sale.

We also had a raffle at the Family Fun Day and somebody very kindly donated their 100 club winnings. What a clever lot we are.

Quiz Evening

The Quiz evening on 18th October was a good evening, raising £189 for church funds. The winners were the Eaton family and friends.

Community Players 50th Anniversary Celebration

The New Eltham players, who are the core of the entertainments at the Methodist church, celebrated 50 years of entertaining us all with a production of Pride and Prejudice.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Community Players on producing a very enjoyable show to celebrate their 50th anniversary. Their production of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice gave us an enjoyable evening and also some food for thought. The whole theme of the story is about the desperate efforts of the Bennett family to marry off their four daughters as the girls could be homeless if their father dies. Thank goodness women have a better deal these days. Our favourite characters were Mr. Collins and the overworked butler!

Dusk In Autumn

Enjoying the flame-streaked darkening sky,
I wander up the shadowy lane;
Sweet evening birdsong fills the air -
Another day is on the wane.
The air is sharp with autumn chill,
The silhouetted trees quite bare
Their leaves in flurries at my feet
All crunchy in the frosty air.
An acrid bonfire smell pervades
The senses, woodsmoke drifts around;
A hunting owl calls from the woods,
Its cry a lonely, eerie sound.
I lean upon a frost-rimed gate
And catch a fox's scent of musk;
To me it's such a magic place -
A country lane in autumn dusk!

Eileen Hay.

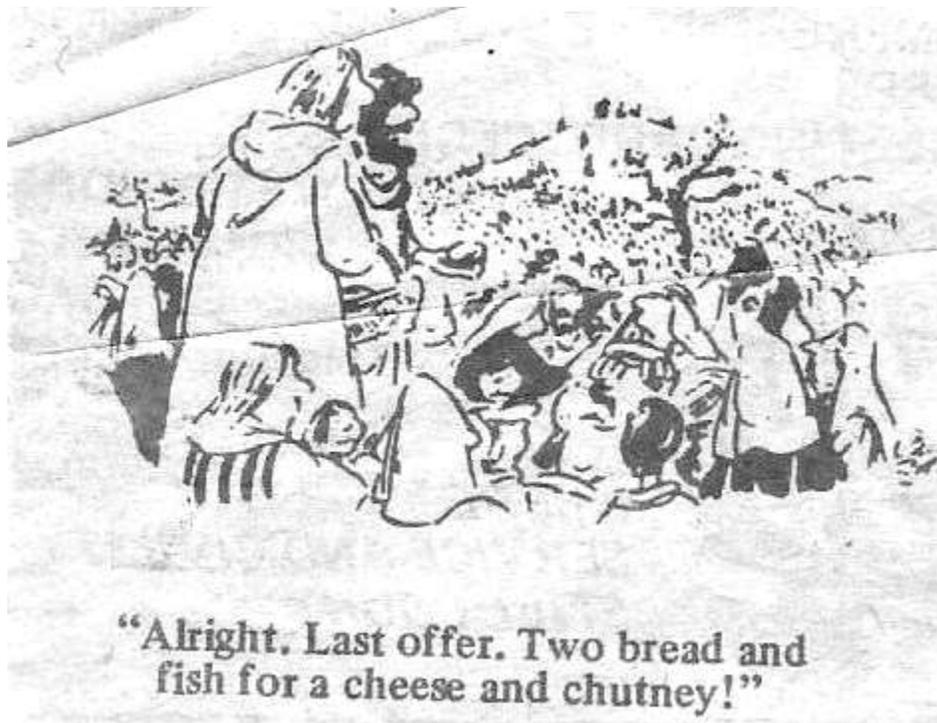
Smile Lines

Quiet Communion

When my older brother was very young, he always walked up to the church altar with my mother when she took Holy Communion. On every occasion, he tugged at her arm and asked, "what does the priest say when he gives you the bread?" Mum would always lean over and whisper something in his ear. Imagine his shock many years later when he learned that the priest doesn't say "be quiet until you get back to your seat".

One Chimp to another

How did you know the one legged monkey was poor?
He hadn't got two ape knees to rub together!



Traditions and Customs – November.

All Saints Day and All Souls Day are celebrated on the 1st and 2nd of November respectively.

At Antrobus in Cheshire and the country round, starting on October 31st and continuing into November, a group of mummers perform a traditional “souling” play, involving King George, the Black Prince, a quack doctor and a hobby horse.

On the second Saturday the Lord Mayor/Mayoress makes stately progress through London in a gilded coach preceded by mace bearers and escorted by cavalry.

Remember, remember the fifth of November, gunpowder, treason and plot.....The anniversary of the arrest of Guy Fawkes in 1605 is observed with bonfires and fireworks.

Remembrance Day, the Sunday nearest November the 11th, when the Armistice was signed in 1918, commemorates the dead of the two world wars and also today those of later conflicts. The wearing of red poppies-the flowers which grew on the Flanders battlefields was organised for war charities in 1921. This year 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the conflict 1914.

The festival of St. Andrew, patron saint of Scotland falls on the 30th. It was a holiday in Scotland and the menfolk would go out rabbiting for the evening feast, which included haggis and toasts to Scotland and the saint.

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

TEACHING CONVENTION

The Teaching Convention to be conducted by the Rev. R. Hooper, of St. Alban's, Holborn, will commence on November 1st, All Saints' Day, and will be continued until Thursday, November 8th.

Once again we urge you to make full use of this opportunity for learning more about the Faith. The Convention will begin each evening at 8 o'clock with a hymn and prayers followed by instruction. It will last about an hour. As the teaching will be consecutive it will be a great advantage to follow it through. We hope, therefore, that as many as possible can will try to come every night. If this is quite impossible then try to get in as many nights as you can. Full details of all Patronal services will be sent to you together with Fr. Hooper's letter, which we ask you to read carefully. Here I want to draw your special attention to some important events: —

1. Blessing of Fr. Hooper, and sermon by the Lord Bishop of Southwark, Wednesday, October 31st, at 8 p.m.
2. Sung Eucharist, All Saints' Day, Wednesday November 1st, at 6.30 a.m.
3. Special Service for Servers, Sunday School Teachers, Guilds and Confirmation Candidates at 3.45 p.m., on Sunday, November 4th.
4. Special Service for Women on Wednesday, November 7th, at 3 p.m.
5. Convention Service EVERY NIGHT at 8p.m, from November 1st to 8th.

Please Note—The Bishop will bless the Rev. R. Hooper and preach on Wednesday, October 31st, 8p.m. This will be our Bishop's first visit to us. It is also a very solemn and important occasion, when we should all join in praying for God's blessing on the Rev. R. Hooper who will be blessed by the Bishop for his work as conductor of the Teaching Convention. May we hope for a church full of people praying for Fr. Hooper and his work among us?

There were no entries in the "Church Logbook" for November 1974.

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