

All Saints Magazine



November 2015

Free

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Friends

I have, this month, been reminded how important it is in life to be gracious with those around us. To share God's love, understanding and grace with all whom we meet, and to be pleased and grateful that we have all that we have. Often we look at those who are less fortunate than ourselves and remark 'there but for the grace of God go I'. But do we truly appreciate God's grace in our lives or do we take all that we have for granted.

We cannot help where we are born or the circumstances in to which we find ourselves but we can choose how to react to them and how much we appreciate what or where we are.

We can choose to be annoyed or cross with those who cross us or we can choose to let things go, move on and get on with life. That doesn't mean that anger in the right place cannot be useful but how often is our getting angry or upset causing only us distress and the reason for our anger has gone or is oblivious.

I am trying to be more generous with my thoughts and my energy why don't we all try to be more gracious with each other and all whom we meet.

God Bless

Annette



Aid trip to Calais – by Mike Sole

On 3rd October 2015 I went to Calais with my friends James Flanagan and Robin Townsend to deliver aid to those in need.



Mike Sole

James Flanagan and Robin Townsend

Many local people donated items to take – this is our story.

It was early in September when James & I decided that we wanted to do something to help refugees at the migrant camp in Calais. We were aware that the issue of refugees and migrants is a controversial issue but for us it was all about doing what we could to help deliver humanitarian aid to those in need – people that were facing the winter without adequate shelter, clothing or food.

James contacted charities working on the ground to find out what they needed and then we set about asking friends and neighbours for winter coats, fleeces, shoes, socks, gloves, hats, trousers and scarves. The demand was for men's clothing. We had been told that tents and sleeping bags were needed. I was sceptical about getting any but James said we should ask anyway.

The donations quickly began to come in, and to my surprise we did get tents – in fact we received 25 tents in total including one large six man tent.

It was soon clear that we would have more than enough to fill one car and at the same time Robin asked if we needed more help.

Before we went we sorted all of the clothing out into labelled sacks and then loaded the cars.

We had arranged to meet a charity contact at a warehouse in Calais. When we arrived it was very busy. A large lorry had just arrived from Cork with building supplies on. Whilst much of the warehouse was organised a lot of well meaning, but unsorted and unsuitable clothing was also arriving. It was taking volunteers a long time to sort out things like high-heeled shoes, summer dresses and children's clothing. These items were then being taken away to other charities.

Fortunately we met a group of volunteers from Dorset outside the warehouse who had been working in the camp for a few days. They had come to collect supplies from the warehouse but having seen what we had in our cars asked us to accompany them to the "The Jungle".

The size of the camp is quite overwhelming. No one knows exactly how many people are there. Whilst figures of 4,000 – 6,000 have been mentioned, helpers on the ground believe that it could be as many as 10,000 people, all living in tents or shelters made from pallets and tarpaulin. Many of these shelters will not survive a harsh winter.



We began by taking a bag each from the car, and while people silently and patiently queued we gave out coats, fleeces, hats, gloves etc. Shoes are in very short supply, especially those of the right size. It did become a bit of a scrum when we came to distribute shoes, but whilst there was some pushing and shoving it was quickly resolved.

With about half of the clothing distributed we then transferred the tents and camping items into a minibus before driving further into the camp. We had to park up as the road narrowed before carrying these items for another 10 minutes to the church that has been erected in the camp.

These were then safely stored for the pastor to distribute, mainly to those newly arriving without any shelter.

It was here that we met a group of Dutch musicians who had arrived to volunteer for a few days. After an impromptu game of football, they then helped us distribute the remainder of our clothes in that part of the camp.

Further on in the camp is a mosque but we did not have time to visit there. Within the camp all faiths are working together to help those in need.

As we made our way back to the cars we met a group of "Nuneaton Muslims" who had arrived with two vans of over 500 food parcels. We spent the next hour helping them distribute these parcels.



Mike helping deliver

A single line queue of hundreds of people waited patiently for their bag of rice, oil, spices and other cooking and sanitary essentials.

As we unloaded a Sikh community from Walsall turned up with further aid – a true coming together of faiths, all wanting to help.

We finished our day by visiting a new school in the Sudanese area of the camp. Here we met a young man who told us about the school and the good work that was being undertaken by a Marguerite, a French teacher who we later met. The school was in despite need of exercise books and art materials.

It was disappointing to all of us that we had nothing to give.

Here we also saw an “Art Centre” and had a final kick about with a football.

Throughout the day we talked to many people – some had been at the camp for over a year, others recently arrived. We talked to those who had risked their lives getting here and were now risking their lives trying to get to the UK.

We saw despair and loss of hope, yet we also saw compassion and what we were doing and the donations that we took with us were all appreciated and will help people keep warm and dry this winter.

But this is not a holiday camp. When the rain comes it will become a quagmire. Sanitation facilities are poor or nonexistent. There is some running water but no drainage. Cooking is mainly carried out on camp fires, although there are now a few gas canisters.

We met Afghans, Eritreans, Syrians and Iraqis. We also met those who might be considered “economic migrants” from Egypt and other African countries. As individuals we cannot stop the wars and unrest throughout the world. But as individuals, with the help of those who donated goods to us, we helped improve the lives of those, who for various reasons, find themselves without the basic essentials of life that we take for granted.

Thank you to everyone who gave us items to take with us.

Mike Sole

Remembrance Day.

Remembrance Day, the Sunday nearest November 11th, when the Armistice was signed in 1918, commemorates the dead of the two world wars. The wearing of red poppies-the flowers which grew on Flanders Battlefields was organised for war charities in 1921.

Memorial plaques to the All Saints parishioners who made the ultimate sacrifice can be seen at the entrance to the Chancel.

Carol Reed recalls the dismantling of the poppies from the Tower of London in 2014.

My daughter-in-law Helen, was lucky enough to be picked to help with the installation of the poppies at the tower of London, but I left my application too late, so missed out. However when the time came for the de-installation we both applied and were lucky enough to be picked, so on the 12th November we arrived at the tower for the very first shift. You may not recall the 12th but I can assure you the weather was awful, torrential rain, so by the time we arrived we were already well and truly soaked.

As we were the very first group everything was slightly chaotic, but eventually we were split into smaller groups and our group was assigned to putting together trolleys to transport the parts of the poppies. Unfortunately the heavens opened yet again and the instructions for assembling quickly turned to a soggy mass, totally unreadable, but we soldiered on. Everything was going quite well until it came to the tightening of all the nuts, of which there were many, and it turned out that there was only one alum key between four groups making trolleys. The chap who had the key in his group had made a real pig's ear and had tightened all the nuts before finding it was not right and so had then undo all said nuts and start again. Having wasted so much time, it was decided that we should all stop and start dismantling the poppies. We were to clear a path to the installation that rose up the wall of the tower so that it could go on tour of the country.

Dismantling the poppies involved removing the washer in the centre, taking the poppy head off and then removing all the other nuts and washers. The only problem was that the washers had corroded onto the metal rod and were extremely difficult to remove, and once more the heavens opened.

It may sound as if it was a disaster but it was a very very happy day, there were all ages, but a lot of young people and the camaraderie was brilliant, I was continually having young men offer to help me when I was struggling.

The ground had now turned into a quagmire and struggling with poppies had covered us from head to toe with mud. My son had offered to take us for lunch after we had finished and we had to find a very dark pub as I do not think we would have been allowed in many places.

However the memory will live on for a long time especially because of the young man from New Zealand, who when asked why he was there said that he had never known anyone in the great war but felt that he owed all those who fought a tremendous sense of gratitude.

Diary Dates for November 2015

- Sunday 1st **ALL SAINTS DAY**
10.00 am Holy Communion, followed by bring and share Lunch.
- Tuesday 3rd 2.00 pm CTNE at Methodist Centre
- Thursday 5th 11.00 am Holy Communion
- Saturday 7th 10.00-12.00 Parish Office
 Diocesan Synod at St. Johns Waterloo
- Sunday 8th **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**
9.30 am Holy Communion
10.45 am Shared Act of Remembrance
4.00 pm All Souls Service
- Wednesday 11th 10.30 -12.00 Fair trade café
 8.00 pm PCC meeting
- Thursday 12th 11.00 am Holy Communion
- Sunday 15th 9.30 am Holy Communion
 11.00 am Noisy Communion
- Tuesday 17th 7.30 pm Women's group
- Thursday 19th 11.00 am Holy Communion
- Saturday 21st 11.00 am Baptism Lilah Grace Gatter
- Sunday 22nd 10.00 am Holy Communion
- Wednesday 25th 10.30 -12.00 Fair trade café
- Thursday 26th 11.00 am Holy Communion
- Sunday 29th **ADVENT SUNDAY**
10.00 am Holy Communion
4.00 pm Christingle service.

Please check the weekly news sheet for any changes.

Parish Pump

100 Club

The 100 Club prize in October was won by Carol Reed.

Baptisms

17th October, Shay, Summer & Sky Donovan, Ollie James King, Chloe Donovan and Lauren Barton.

18th October, Eve Leigh Lockyer.

Funerals

14th October, Marjorie Chiltern

29th October, Yvonne Callendar

Thanks

Thank you to all who made our Harvest celebration the joyful celebration that it was, All the children who took part, all the leaders of our youth organisations, all the cooks and bottle washers and all of you for being there too.

Thank you to all who came to our Michaelmas fair. To all who were stall holders and all who contributed. Especial thanks to Ruth Fancett for organising us all. We made an excellent £1,043.95.

Well done all.

Church Lighting.

Last month the light bulbs in the Nave and North Aisle were changed for energy efficient fluorescent bulbs. Have you noticed any difference to the light in the Church?

We are hoping that the change will result in the reduction of the electricity bill, sufficient to afford to be able to change the Chancel lights in due course.

Up and Coming events

29th November, Christingle Service, 4.00 pm in Church

20th December, CTNE Carol Service, 6.00 pm in Church.



Remembrance

The opening lines of Rupert (Chawner) Brooke (1887-1915) moving Sonnet V written in 1914 are familiar, the poem in full less known, it is printed here complete.

V. THE SOLDIER

If I should die, think only this of me:

That there's some corner of a foreign field

That is forever England. There shall be

In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;

A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,

Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,

A body of England's, breathing English air,

Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,

A pulse in the eternal mind, no less

Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;

Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;

And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,

In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

The above is from Brooke's 1914 Selected Sonnets published in 1915, he was criticised by fellow poet Charles Hamilton Sorley for being too sentimental.

Brooke died in 1915 of blood-poisoning *en-route* to the Dardanelles and was buried at Scyros.

Harvest Festival.

During the harvest service the Sunday School displayed their specially made hats representing harvest produce.



The donations (*below*) at the harvest service this year will be split between the local food bank and the Falconer Trust orphanage in Zambia.

With thanks to Maddison's Bakery, Bexleyheath for the donated wheatsheaf centre piece, and rolls for the lunch that followed.



The Church building tells its story.

To continue our appreciation of All Saints the focus is :

Altars have always been the focal points of Christian churches as the setting for the Mass. This originates from Roman times when early Christians are thought to have celebrated the Eucharist at wooden domestic tables.

Later in the 5th century stone altars were used until the Reformation under Edward VI. The High Altar covered with a cloth of pure white linen extending downwards on both sides is symbolic of the shroud that covered Christ. The **frontal fabric** is of Liturgical colours, following the Green of Harvest, and Purple for Advent is White for Christmas, when we have a depiction of the Nativity scene created and beautifully sewn by Sheila Cooper.

Behind the **font** covering what was the original entrance to All Saints is the **Peace Hanging** embroidered and donated by a former parishioner Mary Putt.

It shows the dove descending from Heaven symbolic of the Holy Ghost and of purity and peace, this first appears in the story of the baptism of Christ. (John1:32) and is present in representations of the Trinity, the Baptism and the Annunciation to Mary.

On either side of the font are **two pictures** celebrating Easter showing the central figure of Christ drawn by Michael Lewis and decorated at Messy Church by the children using the technique of pasted and screwed tissue paper, resulting in a bright colourful background and striking pictures.

Paintings representing the Stations of the Cross are also placed in the main body of the church at Eastertide.

In the Lady Chapel is a reproduction of The Sistine Madonna painted by Raphael (1483-1520) at the end of his life, a beautiful picture of a serene Mother and Child.

Banners record the Centenary of All Saints 1898- 1998 and the flags of children and youth organisations can be seen in the Chancel.

Finally the **flower arrangements** which bring ever changing bright colour to the Chancel are arranged and looked after by the flower ladies led by Lisa and Debbie.

In conclusion there are many treasures in our church and this has been an appreciation of a small selection.

Michaelmas Fair

Once more the hard work of the stallholders paid off to make this major fund raising effort a success. The breakdown of the takings are as follows:

Kitchen	£78.30
Raffle	£95.00
Sunday School	£5.20
Bottles	£91.00
Cosmetics	£70.90
Cakes	£138.70
White Elephant	£91.75
Crafts	£141.60
Children's Toys	£26.50
Books	£25.80
TV Raffle	£38.00
Donations	£241.20
Total	£1043.95

Smile Lines

A church member complained to his minister, after yet another financial appeal had been made, "The trouble with this church is that it's Give! Give! Give! all the time."

The minister looked for a moment at the complainer and then said quietly, "Thank you. That's the best definition of Christianity I have heard."

Yes and not just of Christianity but of life itself; nor of course, is it just a matter of money. Life's richness is not in getting and having, but in giving and sharing—happiness, friendship, good counsel, experience.

What a lot we all have to give!

Friendship

It takes two to make a friendship, but perhaps only one to start it. This little rhyme will show what I mean.

*If after church you wait awhile,
Someone will greet you with a smile.*

*Though if you quickly rise and flee
We'll all seem stiff and cold maybe.*

*The one beside you in the pew
Is, perhaps, a stranger, too.*

*All here, like you, have fears and cares.
All of us need each other's prayers.*

*In fellowship we bid you meet
With us around God's mercy seat.*

Friendship Book 1985

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

PATRONAL FESTIVAL SOCIAL

A social evening in connection with the Patronal Festival will be held in the Hall, on Thursday, November 7th, at 8 p.m.

Admission will be by ticket at the small charge of 6d. We feel it is better to have tickets so that we may get a rough idea how many to cater for, but our aim is first and foremost *social*, not financial. There are so many new residents still coming into our parish, and there seems little opportunity for them to get to know people. We want this effort to be a sort of *Get Together Social*, and one that will give a real opportunity for social intercourse and getting together. We appeal to all to unite in making it a real success and a “family gathering.”

Mr. Willson, the conductor of the New Eltham Choral Society, has kindly promised to arrange some musical items, and we shall conclude with a few dances.

BOYS' CLUB

A Club for boys of 14 years of age and over meets in the Hall every Tuesday, from 8 to 10 p.m. Mr. Pond had kindly taken charge of this very necessary and important bit of work. All boys over 14 in any way connected with the Church will receive a welcome.

ADVENT MISSIONARY BOOK

Our Bishop recommends a Missionary Book for reading each year during Advent. This year the book is “Consider Africa,” by Basil Mathews. It is a new book first published in September, and costs 2/-. Copies may be obtained in Church.

The “Church Logbook” for November 1975 records:

Collections at the 8 a.m. and 9.15 a.m. Mass re-introduced to supplement the Parish Planned Giving Scheme.

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