

All Saints Magazine



October 2015

Free

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Friends

October is almost upon us and it's harvest time here at All Saints. The harvest however is often in and collected by the end of August and certainly by mid-September. If you are a farmer, Harvest festival is traditionally at the end of September or the beginning of October so that all the harvest can be in and sorted and accounted for before we give thanks.

Here in New Eltham many of us grow fruits and vegetables but thankfully few of our livelihoods depend upon this.

Growing things is not for the impatient and doesn't yield immediate results. You do have to plant your seeds and water and wait and water and wait and then you may get something. You can sometimes add plant food, and weeding may help too. Some seedlings need replanting and they often need tending and removing stray stalks and leaves too.

It is definitely a time consuming exercise and you can do it all right and get nothing sometimes and you can haphazardly sow and sometimes get an abundance.

This is such a metaphor for life because we never know what life is going to give us and we all experience ups and downs in different ways and places. Some of us are married, some are not; some have children, some do not; some are rich, some are not; what God asks of us is to do the best we can with what we are given; to trust him in the good times and the bad times; to lean on him when we need to; and to share his love with all whom we meet.

Often as one chapter in life closes another opens and we need to sometimes stand back and thank God for all that has been and to thank him too for what happens next.

God Bless

Annette

Harvest Festival

Held on or near the Sunday of Harvest Moon, that is the full moon that occurs closest to the autumn equinox. In two years out of three the Harvest Moon comes in September but in other years October.

The modern tradition of Harvest Festival began in 1843 when Rev'd Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a Thanksgiving Service at his church at Morwenstow Cornwall as a celebration of food grown on the land.

Harvest Festival reminds Christians of all the good things God gives them and to share with those less fortunate.

Gifts of food and fruits of the harvest are presented at the altar at Sunday worship and food parcels are distributed to those in need, a tradition that continues to this day.

All Saints Harvest Festival is to be held on October 11th this year.

The Lord's Prayer

You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer,
And even once say "I";
You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer,
And even once pray "My".

Nor can you say the Lord's Prayer,
And not pray for another,
For when you ask for Daily Bread,
You can't miss out your Brother;

For others are included
In each and every plea.
From beginning to the end of it
It does not once say "Me".

From the Friendship Book 1985

My Faith

I can't see the wind, but I know it's there,
the rocks on the moon, or the scented air,
why then should I doubt there's a God up above,
who shares all my thoughts and gives me his love?

Flowers that bloom in the garden so fair
Are blessed every day by his tender care,
For every small sparrow that falls to the ground
A place up in heaven will surely be found.

God knows all the answers, hears every need,
Whatever your country, colour or creed.
To young and to old, the message is clear,
Just open your heart and he will draw near.

From People's Friend magazine.

The Church building tells its story.

To continue our appreciation of All Saints the focus is:

The pulpit a platform for teaching from which sermons are delivered is a wooden structure entered by steps, raised and facing the congregation enabling the preacher to be seen by all.

The Reformation brought an increase in preaching, with

Edward VI charging churchwardens to make sure they had “a comely and honest pulpit” from which to preach God’s Word.

All Saints pulpit, like the font, is shaped halfway between a circle representing God and a square representing earthly things and is therefore appropriate for introducing children and adult worshippers to God.

Images and artwork can convey meaning. The carving on our pulpit at All Saints is quite simple. The panels have a design of triple windows, an ornate border of vines and a carved inscription “ IN LOVING MEMORY of ALFRED EDWARD BOAKES and MARIA DELIA HIS WIFE who entered into REST 1932”. We understand who these worthy people are as a wooden tablet in the Lady Chapel commemorates ALFRED BOAKES as “First peoples Warden of this Parish. Who for Fifty Years laboured for the completion of this Church”.

Pulpits are often carved with images of the four evangelists; Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, since they too were charged with spreading the word of God, and the artwork seen in churches has a symbolic meaning, as in centuries past churchgoers would have been familiar with this symbolism.

Stained glass windows with the sun shining through the bright and vivid colours have long been used to depict saints and tell stories. We are fortunate to have such a window in the Lady Chapel in our church. It was brought from the daughter church St. Aiden’s when it closed on 31st December 1974.

The window in five sections features; St. Aiden (Saints day 31st August), the Irish Monk who brought Christianity to Northumbrian communities who died in 651AD, known for his peace, charity and humility, he is the Cubs and Scouts patron saint; St. Columba (Saints Day 9th June); Christ in Glory; and the lower panels below depict the Good Saints teaching the young.

Please view the display at the back of church to see imaginative and colourful pictures of stained glass windows designed by the children.

The **Chancel** at the east-end section of the church contains the choir stalls and the **High Altar** above which is the **Centenary Window**, commissioned to celebrate 100 years at All Saints and depicts a 6ft 6ins figure of Christ. Christ is facing the church with arms by his side and with open hands inviting all peoples to draw near. It is quite a challenging figure differing from the familiar Victorian style. Artist Caroline Benyon together with her husband Tony worked on the window for two months liaising with Pat Everness, who was one of the window co-ordinators, the cost of £5000 was paid for by donations and fundraising over a period of three years.

Diary Dates for October 2015

Thursday 1st	9.30 am	Dulverton year 2 class in Church
	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Friday 2nd	1.45 pm	St Olave's Harvest Service
Saturday 3rd	10.00 am	Parish Office
	7.00 for 7.30 pm	NSPCC Quiz evening
Sunday 4th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 8th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
	7.30 for 8.00 pm	Deanery Synod in Church
Sunday 11th		HARVEST FESTIVAL
	10.00 am	Holy Communion
		Followed by Harvest Lunch (tickets from Social Committee in Advance)
Wednesday 14th	10.30 -12.00	Fair trade café
Thursday 15th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Saturday 17th	1.30 pm	Baptism Donovan Family
Sunday 18th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
	12.30 pm	Baptism Eve Wright
Thursday 22nd	11.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 25th	10.00 am	Holy Communion with John Francis Friendship
Wednesday 28th	10.30-12.00	Fair trade café
Thursday 29th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 1st November		ALL SAINTS DAY
	10.00 am	Holy Communion

Please check the weekly news sheet for any changes.

Parish Pump

100 Club

The 100 Club prize in September was won by Victoria Wainwright (nee Ellis.)

Baptisms

27th September, Mia Quinn Wayt.

Weddings

19th September, Leah Daish & Peter Hodgkins.

Interment of Ashes

19th September, Carole & Allan Whybrow.

19th September, Tom and Doris Blake.

20th September, Joan Vera Staples.

Events

Thank you to all who supported Re New NEW Eltham, it was a really good day enjoyed by all. A special thanks to John Killick and Nuala Geary of CANE who organised everything.

Harvest Festival

For Harvest this year we will be once again collecting jointly for the foodbank and for the Falconer Trust, an orphanage in Zambia.

Future Events

November 1st—All Saints Day, patronal festival.

November 8th—Remembrance Sunday.

November 29th—Advent Sunday and our Christingle service.

December 20th—CTNE Carol Service at All Saints, 6pm.

Updating the Church Estate.

Church Lighting.

When the EU banned filament bulb production it looked like we would have to change all the light fittings in the church, at an estimated cost of £12,000, as the replacement bulbs, at the time, would not fit.

Fortunately we had acquired a stock of the old bulbs which has enabled us to take advantage of the advances in lighting technology so that replacement fluorescent bulbs are now available, and with an adapter that is also now available, we could use the new bulbs in the old fittings, thus saving having to have new fittings.

Sadly the stock of old bulbs has diminished to the point where replacement with the new bulbs is necessary; two bulbs have already been replaced.

Although the new bulbs are more expensive than the old ones were, the good news is that they last ten times as long, so we don't have to get up ladders to change them so often, also they are more energy efficient so the church electricity bill should reduce as more bulbs are replaced.

Hall

Consultation is still continuing regarding the upgrade of the hall toilets to facilitate full disability compliance, we are now on the seventh set of proposals.

A decision will have to be made soon if the final plans are to be drawn up and builders' quotes received in order for the work to go ahead this December.

Meanwhile the main door has been painted, and the outside window sills are due to be painted.

Hopefully when all this work is done our rate of hiring will increase, as the main hall is still vacant on Thursdays, so if anyone knows of a group looking for somewhere to meet, let us know.

Church Roof

Some may have noticed that there are more slipped tiles on the church roof. Estimates for repairs are being sought before any more internal water damage occurs.

Parish Support Fund

You may or may not know that each parish is called upon to make contributions towards the overall costs of the diocese known as the Diocesan Quota.

(The diocesan costs include the legal and administrative costs of running the diocesan office and services but are primarily due to the diocese paying the stipends (pay/pensions) and the housing costs of the clergy. On average a parish costs £70,000 pa)

Since 1980, the diocesan quota has been levied on parishes based on estimates of the 'potential giving' of the congregation. Many of the congregation will remember the "Fairer Shares Scheme" and being asked to complete the triennial anonymous earnings surveys upon which these estimates were based.

The Fairer Shares Scheme was therefore based upon charging parishes what it was thought they could afford rather than the actual cost of running the parish, which meant that poorer parishes, including ours, were being subsidised by the richer ones. (Our quota for 2015 is £25,878 pa)

Five years ago, coinciding with the financial crash, it was realised that the Fairer Shares Scheme was not working, as parishes struggled or failed to meet their quota payments and, even after reducing the number of administrative staff to the bone, the diocese was paying for five more clergy than they could afford on an on-going basis.

The pressure from then on was for parishes to look at ways to become more self-supporting, and after three years of consultation a new system called the "Parish Support Fund" was designed to replace the Fairer Shares Scheme as a method of determining the diocesan quota.

The Parish Support Fund now asks for parishes to "make an offer" to the diocese based on all the parish's income streams, not just congregation giving, to support the diocesan costs.

The Parish Support Fund starts for us on 1st January 2016 with our quota rising to £28,500 pa. Still a long way from self-sufficiency, so we shall have to work hard to raise the extra to retain a parish vicar, rather than become part of a team ministry.

On the 10th of October

Leaving summer days behind the season of **Autumn** brings changes to the weather which is reflected in the plants and trees. The following is a poem by Philip Henry Savage describing the effect on familiar trees.



You'll not believe the Aspen leaf
(whose season you would say was brief)



Hangs long and greener on the tree,
Than Sycamore, than Hickory.

The Elm- leaf crumbles brown; the Oak
Is even sooner grey and broke.

The Maple reddens, and the Ash
Leaps up and falls at Autumns lash;

The Aspen leaf will longest stay,
Be sure I saw them green today

On the tenth of October.

Smile Lines

Technical trouble.

The vicar at a local church experienced some technical problems with the sound system one Sunday. Instead of starting the service as usual with "The Lord be with you", he said: "There's something wrong with the microphone."

Not hearing this, the congregation responded: "And also with you".

Keep it short.

The minister stood up and said: "Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. You'll be glad to know that when I asked my secretary to type this sermon out for me I asked her to eliminate anything that was dull or confusing. So in conclusion...."

Descriptions.

Dust: mud with the juice squeezed out.

Inflation: cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

Raisin: grape with sunburn.

Mosquito: an insect that makes you like flies better.

Beauty Salon: where women curl up and dye.

Cannibal: one who is fed up with people.

Committee: a body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

It's Sad, the Old, and the Bad.

Should we place the elderly in prison because they will get:

A shower every day

Video surveillance in case of problems

Three meals a day

Access to a library, computers, T.V. and gym

Doctors on site

And free medication if needed.

Should we put criminals in care homes and they'll get:

Cold meals

Lights out at 7 p.m.

Two showers a week

Live in a smaller room

And pay rent at £2,000 a month.

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

THE CHURCHYARD

The Church Council is most anxious to improve the general appearance of the Churchyard. A considerable sum has been spent in felling trees and erecting a fence, etc. The Council is arranging for the necessary digging, cleaning, etc., after which it is hoped to plant suitable trees and flowering shrubs. It would be a great help and save expense, if members of the congregation who have any spare shrubs and bushes would let us have them. Perhaps those who have not may like to share in this work by providing the cost of one shrub. That would be a great help.

RESERVATION

Some two months ago a discussion took place at our Church Council meeting on Reservation and the Council decided by sixteen votes against five to apply for a faculty to place an Aumbry in the wall of the Lady Chapel in which the Sacrament could be reserved. No action has yet been taken and before the matter is proceeded with we are anxious that the whole question of Reservation should be clearly understood.

Reservation is the term applied to reserving some of the Sacred Elements after a Celebration of Holy Communion for the purpose of Communicating invalids in their homes. The Sacred Elements so Reserved are usually kept in an Aumbry, An Aumbry is a small cupboard let into the wall. It usually has a metal door with a lock and the door is generally covered with a white silk hanging. The usual place for an Aumbry in most churches is in the North wall of the Lady Chapel.

The "Church Logbook" for October 1975 records:

Planning permission received for developing the remaining "free" area of the Church grounds for homes for the elderly.

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