

All Saints Magazine



October 2016

Free

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Friends

At the end of October, we have each a Sunday dedicated to the reading of the bible and to sharing the stories there with those around us. This is called simply BIBLE SUNDAY and that is really what it is all about.

Reading the bible is something which however much or little you do you could always do a bit more.

It truly is a remarkable book and the history of God and his people contained there has every genre you could think of, romance, mystery, children's tales, scandal, murder, horror, stories about boys and girls, men and women, animals, angels, giants, ogres, witches, magicians and many more.

Even more remarkable is that it has been translated into thousands of languages and still seems to speak to us today.

The liberation theologians of south America taught that the bible needed to be reinterpreted for each new generation and that is how and why we can find meaning.

Use this October to find refreshment in the bible, read a new bit you haven't tried before and see what God is saying to you this time

Amen

God bless

Annette



“I can’t believe it, you’ve graduated!”

3 years and 21 grand later and all I have to show for it is a certificate in the post. This piece of paper confirms that I hold a BSc in Computer Science. Science is a weird word isn't it? Cambridge defines science as:

(knowledge from) the careful study of the structure and behaviour of the physical world, especially by watching, measuring, and doing experiments, and the development of theories to describe the results of these activities.

By the time you have reached the age and stage of life that I am in, as early as it is, you start to do a lot of reminiscing. Simple things like my first day at secondary school or how church used to be when I was younger. A lot of children will at some point experience a clash between their religion and what they are taught at school, just like I did. At some point I had to choose between what the Bible told me and what my science teacher said in 4th period. I still don't really know what my final decision is.

On one hand I find it hard to believe that there isn't some kind of higher power controlling the world around us but on the other hand I was taught not to simply believe something without tangible evidence. I'm not sure how it was back in the day, but youngsters in the 21st century are told all kinds of conflicting things; follow your dreams unless it means you won't focus at school, always be yourself unless that person puts their elbows on the table. In a time where everyone seems to have something to teach you it's hard to know who to believe sometimes.

But perhaps that's the point of believing, you should never have to force yourself to believe in something because it can only be true if it comes from you. Is there concrete evidence confirming every word of the Bible? No. Will I ever find physical proof that Jesus died for us and ascended to the heavens? No. I'll be honest I didn't find myself turning to God when times were hard because I didn't believe he would help me. I felt like I had been left to deal with difficult situations, alone. Besides the physical world can sometimes be a miserable place, why would he want to be here with me?

But sometimes it's not about the physical, it's not about the fancy piece of paper with my name on it. It's about the skills I learned and the friends I made, it's about the memories and the emotions which will stay with me forever. When I come to church with my family, I still believe. I believe in the people I see around me, I believe we will always be there to help each other and I believe in the feeling of love, safety and forgiveness when I walk through those doors. You don't get that just anywhere and if that isn't sacred I don't know what is.

J Siregar.

Harvest Time

It's Harvest Festival time again! But do you know that the festival as we celebrate it today was "invented" as recently as the mid-1840s? Although part of the church calendar since medieval times, it had gradually been forgotten until Robert Stephen Hawker, the vicar of Morwentstow in Cornwall decided to change things.

To call Rev. Hawker an eccentric would almost be an understatement, for his behaviour was as colourful as his very non-clerical clothes. He talked to birds, excommunicated his cat for mousing on Sundays, and kept a large pig as a pet.

He was, however, also greatly loved by his parishioners so when on 1st October, 1843 he invited them to a new kind of harvest festival, they were happy to approve his efforts, which had included decking the church from top to toe with vegetables, flowers, fruit and bread. Indeed so popular was Rev. Hawker's version of Harvest Festival that it soon became accepted everywhere.

Today it remains one of our favourite festivals - and this time when we join in the praise, let us give thanks not just for the harvest, but for the work of Robert Stephen Hawker, whose joy of living enriched so many lives.

The Friendship Book 2014

All Saints Harvest Festival

This year our harvest festival takes place on Sunday 9th October. As last year, your gift offerings at the 10am Service will be split between the Greenwich food-bank and the "The Falconer Trust", an orphanage in Zambia.

The harvest festival lunch, which starts about 12 noon, will be bring and share this time. We also hope to raise funds for "The Falconer Trust", this month's chosen charity as their recent newsletter quotes £1,400 a time to transport their bulk aid packages from their Norfolk base to Zambia. We have supported this charity for many years and know that any lack of funds delays the goods reaching their destination.

Even if you are not coming to the lunch you can support the monthly charities by placing your donations in the wall safe by the main entrance. Thank you.

Diary Dates for October 2016

Saturday 1st	10.00 –12.00	Parish Office
Sunday 2nd	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 4th	9.30 –11.00	Dulverton School
Thursday 6th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 9th	HARVEST FESTIVAL	
	10.00 am	Holy Communion Followed by Harvest Lunch, (bring and share)
Tuesday 11th		Bishops day for clergy
Wednesday 12th	10.30–12.00	Fair trade café
	7.30 pm	Deanery Synod, St. Andrew's Mottingham,
Thursday 13th	10.00 am	Magazine Meeting
	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 16th	9.30 am	Holy Communion (Quiet)
	11.00 am	Holy Communion (Noisy)
	12.30 pm	Baptism Arthur Killick
	1.30 pm	Baptism Elizabeth Sparrow
Thursday 20th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 23rd	10.00 am	Holy Communion with John Francis Friendship
Wednesday 26th	10.30–12.00	Fair trade café
Thursday 27th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 30th	ALL SAINTS DAY CELEBRATION	
	10.00 am	Holy Communion
	12.00 pm	followed by bring and share Lunch

Please check the weekly news sheet for any changes

Parish Pump

Baptisms

28th August, Albie Cockerell (Not Archie Warner as reported last month)

4th September, Georgi Harper Banks

11th September, Clarkson Benjamin Cox

100 Club

The 100 Club prize was won in September by Elizabeth Macdonald.

Quiz Results

The August Quiz prize of £13 was won by Brian Leech, whose entry was picked 'from the hat' from the correct ones received.

Michealmas Fair

The Michealmas Fair on 24th September, our major fund raising effort, was a busy and enjoyable couple of hours, with all stalls doing a good trade as follows:

Bottle Stall £76.20

Soft Toys £26

Raffle £106.20

Bric-a-brac £54.83

Toys £14.10

Cakes £104.45

Toiletries and Scents £43.20

Books £24.50

Christmas Gifts £36.25

Knitted Goods £73.65

£1 Jars £62.06

Ornaments £40.00

Refreshments £88.70

We raised a total of £750.14 plus a further £160 in donations, including the extra sales on the Sunday.

Thanks to all those who organised, helped and supported us.

Future Events

6th November, at 4.00 pm All Souls Service of recollection

13th November, Remembrance Sunday Service at 9.30 am, followed by Act of Remembrance at 10.45 am.

27th November, Advent Sunday, 10.00 am Holy Communion, 4.00pm Christingle Service.

18th December, Carol Service at New Eltham Methodist Church.

24th December, Crib Service 4.00 pm, Midnight Mass 11.30 pm.

25th December Family Communion 10.00 am.

Easy fundraising update

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 other big name stores, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to All Saints to say thank you for shopping with them. You can even access donations by downloading iTunes or ordering a takeaway!

Easyfundraising also alerts you to special offers and discount deals, so you could save money too. All you have to do is:

1. Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/allsaintsneweltham>
2. Sign up for **FREE**, Don't forget to download the Donation Reminder on a laptop or PC so you will never forget to collect a **FREE** donation.
3. Select your store/retailer and get shopping—the stores' donations will be collected by easyfundraising and automatically sent to All Saints.

Or: if you have a smart phone or tablet, you can download the **FREE** easyfundraising **app** from the App Store or Google Play Store and follow the instructions on how to sign up.

Alternatively: you can safely register debit or credit cards with easyfundraising. Visit a participating high street retailer. Make an in-store purchase and easyfundraising will do the rest. Any donations you raise are in addition to any rewards from your card provided and it won't stop you getting any cash back.

It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything. There are no catches or hidden charges.

All Saints is really grateful for the growing number of supporters who have already signed up and for over £28 in donations you have generated so far.

Even if you don't shop online but know of family or friends who do, please feel free to share our "cause page" (link above) with them on facebook or twitter.

Thank you for your support, every penny counts.

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 the 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

Smile Lines

Social Media

Love the idea of the bloke without a computer who heard about Twitter and Facebook. He decided to apply the principle and started telling passers-by what he'd eaten and how he felt. He gave them pictures of his wife, his dog, him doing the gardening and sitting by the pool. He'd listen to them and tell them he "liked" them. He also shared his opinions with them whether they were interested or not. And it works, he has four people following him – two police officers, a social worker and a psychiatrist.

Andrew Parker, Newsshopper

Cucumber

A small boy asked his mother for a cucumber to take to Junior Church. A slightly puzzled mother complied. Later she asked what it had been used for. "Sorry mum," he confessed

Answers to the September Quiz sheet



1 Nipper



2 Gromit



3 Huckleberry
Hound



4 Toto



5 Sweep



6 Scooby Doo



7 Shep



8 Rin Tin Tin



9 Dougal



10 Snoopy



11 Hooch



12 Lassie



13 Pluto



14 Muttley



15 Beethoven

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

THE HEATING APPARATUS

Upon my return from holiday I was greeted by the Parochial Officer with the news that the boiler was worn out and that a new one was a necessity for the coming winter. An emergency council considered the matter at a meeting on Wednesday, September 2nd. I am not yet able to give details, but perhaps a little general information may be useful.

The old boiler has been in use 11 years and was given by the late Sir James Kemnal while the Rev. F. B. Allen was in charge of All Saints'. Having in view the fact that the church was to be enlarged, Sir James Kemnal provided a boiler of sufficient capacity to heat the new building.

The Church Council has many times discussed the question of the heating of the Hall. As many of you know, the Hall is heated by gas and it is a very expensive item. Reference to the accounts for 1935 shows: Gas £58 16s. 0d., and for 1934, £50 10s. 2d. Taking an average for some years back, the Hall gas bill is over £1 per week.

The Council feels that now is the time to consider the possibility of heating the Hall from the Church boiler. If this can be done—once the initial outlay has been covered—it should considerably reduce our expenses for Hall heating. Your Council is at present carefully considering the possibilities. Should such arrangements be thought advisable, then the question of proceeding with the work of the West End becomes involved owing to the necessary extension of piping etc., from the Church to the Hall and, in order to get the extension to the Hall working as soon as possible, proceed with the work of the West End as soon as practicable.

There is nothing recorded in the "Church Logbook" for October 1976:

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