

# All Saints' Church Newsletter

Extending God's Welcome to All.

Committed to GROW: in Discipleship, Service & Numbers

March 2017

## *Jeremy writes ...*

AMAZING GRACE!

By grace you have been saved... (Ephesians 2:8)

On 10th March 1748, a 22 year-old mate on board the sailing ship "Greyhound" was struggling to caulk the tropic-dried timbers of the sinking ship as she plunged through mountainous seas in an Atlantic storm. In his desperation, as he faced the inevitable, he cried out: "Lord have mercy on us!". The young sailor stopped instantly, arrested by words he had only ever used before in absolute profanity.

Eventually, the storm abated and the "Greyhound" limped into an Irish port with no loss of human life. But the experience of being utterly cast on the mercy of God never left John Newton. Even though he was subsequently promoted to Captain of a ship involved in the slave trade, Newton became more and more conscious of a spiritual awakening and God's intervention in his life. In 1770 he penned the words of a poem entitled "Faith's Review and Expectation", which has become one of the best-loved hymns of many generations: "Amazing grace! (how sweet the sound) that saved a wretch like me!".

Today these familiar words slip easily off the tongue, and although popular musicians have composed a variety of accompaniments, we generally still sing it to traditional plantation melody. But there is deep theological meaning in this hymn, which describes how God, in his grace, reaches out and touches the life of an undeserving "wretch". For Newton, the realisation of God's forgiveness would have prompted memories of another hymn penned some 50 years earlier by Isaac Watts: "When I survey the wondrous cross", which portrays a vivid picture of the Saviour Christ on the cross: "See from his heads, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flowed mingled down; did 'ere such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?".

During the coming weeks we will be reflecting on the grace of God as we travel through Lent and into Holy Week. We will probably sing both these wonderful hymns. Once again, we will remember that one man's crucifixion on a cross made forgiveness and salvation possible for humankind. The Bible uses a range of pictures, types and metaphors to convey the centrality of grace in grand story of salvation history. The Old Testament describes ancient sacrificial systems and rituals, including, for example, a sacrificial "scapegoat" on which was laid all the sins of Israel before it was sent off into the wilderness as part of the ritual of the Day of Atonement, symbolising the ritual transfer of sins onto an animal that then carries them outside the camp. The New Testament introduces themes of healing and salvation through faith, and the idea of Christ giving his life as a "ransom" – the price to be paid to set someone free from their sins.

In Romans 3, Paul uses three different words to describe the work of Christ: justification, a legal term talking about doing away with guilt; redemption, used to describe the setting free of slaves; and sacrifice, which recalls the offering of blood on the altar. Newton's hymn centres on the theme of "grace" which somehow sums up the entirety of God's dealings with humankind. At its heart, the term has a connection with the idea of a "gift". Paul makes clear that our salvation is a matter of grace (Ephesians 2:8), and Newton certainly recognised that he neither merited nor could earn such grace, God's favour freely bestowed on undeserving humans because of the work completed by Christ upon the cross.

Our churches in the Sanderstead Team exist to proclaim the grace of God to our local community, and we should never lose sight of that – in all our many activities, services, preaching and future plans for ministry and buildings. I often like to describe grace using the letters that make up the word: God's Riches At Christ's Expense. Christ, the just and perfect Son of God became one "of us" and died "for us" (Romans 4:25; 8:32). For Newton, the realisation of this grace was nothing short of "amazing" – once I was lost, now I'm found; once blind, now I see!

## Future events :

**Family Fun Hour** this month will be on 19th March 3-4pm in the church hall. For more info or to get involved, contact Sue on: susanethomas@aol.com or 07870 318366

**Coffee Pot** is on 10th and 24th of March, 10-12pm. All are welcome for coffee, cakes and company.

**Fresh Encounters** will be on Sunday 19th March at 6pm. The theme for this term is "A Sacred Gaze: encountering Jesus through Art" - Meditations on paintings by Sieger Koder.

**Quiet Morning** Saturday 11th March 10.30am -12.30pm at All Saints church, "Finding God in All Things". Coffee will be available from 10am. Please let Penny Bird know of your intention to come.

**Mothers Union** invite you to join them for a meditative evening 'Lent - a time for Reflection , a time to Blossom'. Monday 13th March 8pm St Catherine's Aisle. Just come along.

**All Saints Spring Clean.** Friday 17th March from 9.30am till about 3 pm. Help would be welcomed for all or part of the day for this annual task of all those "extra" cleaning jobs in church. A bread and cheese lunch will be provided for those who can stay all day. Please contact Corrie Hibberd if you are able to help. 020 8657 4562 corinna.hibberd@gmail.com.

**Exhibition and Sale of Pictures by Local Artists** Saturday 18 March 10 am – 4.30 pm, United Reformed Church Hall, Admission 50p, 20% of picture sales and all other proceeds will be donated to The Children's Society. Now in its 43rd year, this exhibition is always a lively event with a wide variety of art to enjoy, both framed and unframed, from lovely landscapes to animal studies and a chance to buy original works for yourself, friends or family at very reasonable prices. Around 50 artists' work will be on display and 20% of all profits go towards the Society's work with disadvantaged children. There will also be a home-made cakes and preserves stall, plus tea and coffee to enjoy and a chance to win a raffle prize. Do drop in morning or afternoon if you have the chance. We'd love to see you.

**All Saints' AGM** will be 11.30am on 2nd April in the Large Hall. The APCM will be 11.45am 30th April.

**Litter Pick Day** Saturday 1st April 9.30am – 10.30am approx. Any helpers would be much appreciated to tidy up around the church before our Easter celebrations. Thank you. Ann Turner

## News :

**All Saints DCC policy on loan of equipment is:** Equipment can only be borrowed

1. For church activities
2. From the day prior to the day it is required (if this is a Sunday then the preceding Friday) and it must be returned on the first working day after its use.

The Sanderstead Light Projectors and Screens will NOT be available to be borrowed on the weekends that there is a Parish Praise or Sanderstead Light Service at All Saints (normally second and last weekends of each month). All equipment borrowed must be logged in the book held in the Parish Office and signed in and out. In addition the Parish Administrator will be keeping a diary of all equipment borrowed.

**Fairtrade Fortnight** from Monday 27 February - Sunday 12 March is an opportunity to show support for the farmers and workers who grow our food in developing countries. The Fairtrade Foundation licenses the FAIRTRADE Mark to thousands of products in the UK. The supply chain of each of these products must comply with Fairtrade Standards. Look out for the Fairtrade Mark when you shop.

Key Principles of Fair Trade are;-

- Trading practices are fair and not one-sided.
- Prices paid are fair and sufficient for producers and workers to earn more than enough to meet their day-to-day needs.
- Payments are often made in advance to ensure the supplier can fulfil orders.
- Producers and workers have a voice, whether organised into groups or involved in workplaces where there is freedom of association.
- Safe working conditions, non-discrimination and welfare of children.

If you want to see fair trade in action, take a look at [www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk)



**Lent Call** For many years, the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call has raised money for projects within our own Diocese and further afield. The theme for the 2017 Lent Call is 'I was hungry... .. I was thirsty', supporting projects from our Link Diocese in Zimbabwe which concentrate on food security. The projects in this Diocese seek to care for those in need of help with issues of homelessness and drug education. Alongside our giving is also a call to prayer for these projects and the needs they address. Do read the information on the missions board about the projects, and prayerfully consider how much you can give.

**Lent Groups** Here is a list of the Lent Groups being held in the Sanderstead area. You would be welcome to join one. The majority of groups are following the York Course 'Receiving Christ'.

St. Antony's + St. Edmund's Mondays 7.45pm - 9.15pm, *Receiving Christ*, Susan Atkinson-Jones 8657 5505

All Saints Mondays 10.30am @5 Cedar Court, *Pilgrim—The Lord's Prayer*, Jgadsby207@btinternet.com

Tuesdays 7.45pm @ Essenden Rd, *Receiving Christ*, ppennybird@yahoo.co.uk

Thursdays 8.00pm, *Receiving Christ*, Robingordon@waitrose.com

Thursdays 8.00pm in Kenley, *The Stations of the Cross*, sudanne@gmail.com

Purley URC Friday mornings, optional lunch @Purley URC, *Receiving Christ*, Daphne Topple 8660 4291

Tuesday mornings @ 13 Gresham Court, Pampisford Rd, *Receiving Christ*, Daphne Topple 8660 4291

Sanderstead Methodist Wednesdays 7.00pm Prayer Chapel at the Church, *Receiving Christ*, Faith Nyota

Warlingham Methodist Thursdays 2.30pm in the main hall, *Receiving Christ*, Faith Nyota 8660 0033

**Refugees, What can we do?** You will recall from the November Newsletter that I invited views on perhaps deploying 1 Addington Road, possibly for supporting refugees, once the new rectory in Glebe Hyrst has become occupied. I am grateful for all those who responded, with many encouraging offers of practical help. I have now received a response from the Archdeacon, explaining that, whilst it is still hoped to identify a suitable property in the Croydon area for the use of refugees, this will not be 1 Addington Road. The sale of this site is integral to the provision of good and appropriate clergy accommodation both in Sanderstead and beyond. The diocese has undertaken to continue to explore with us any ways in which our concern and desire to act can be harnessed. I am waiting to hear whether there are other ways we can support the diocesan response to this important issue and will keep you posted with any developments. In the meantime, thank you for your offers of help. Jeremy.

**'New Patterns for Worship?'** Thank you to all who have written to let me know your thoughts at this stage. It is very helpful to hear from you. Some have commented on the times of services; to clarify, IF we were to make changes, we would of course need to decide which of the two would come first: 9am (or whatever time) 'Classic', with choir; then 10.30am (or whatever time) 'Contemporary'? Or the other way round? Let me make some further comments on this. First, I hope we all realise that this is a vital issue for us as a church. When we meet for our worship services, we are almost entirely a congregation of over-50s, with almost no 20s, 30s, 40s or children. So we have to face the implication that our pattern of worship is not attractive to those who are not worshipping with us. Our Sunday services are good: they are scriptural, thoughtful, of a high standard and are prepared with a lot of care and commitment. In short, they honour the Lord. However, maybe we need to do something more. Secondly, this 'something more' will need to be new, separate from the old. Jesus said very clearly at Luke 5:37-39, No one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins and will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. Instead new wine must be poured into new wineskins. No one after drinking old wine wants the new, for he says, 'The old is good enough.' Trying to make one Sunday Service helpful for everybody is not the answer, as Jesus pointed out so long ago. The old and the new are best not mixed! Please do let me know your thoughts. Thank you, Martin

**Re-ordering Update** You may be interested to know what has been happening to the proposals for reordering the interior of All Saints since it is a little while since the last update. At our meeting with Archdeacon Chris Skilton at the end of November we were advised to concentrate on strengthening the case for change (the Statement of Need) in preparation for discussions with the Southwark Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) group which is being set up to assess and facilitate our faculty application. As part of the redrafting process we have been carrying out an informal survey of potential local community users of a reordered church. The responses to date have been positive with several organisations expressing an interest in making use of the more flexible space that reordering will provide.

We have also been looking at the DAC's earlier suggestions for amending our proposals for a new disabled toilet in the vestry block in order to provide for a second toilet and a platform rather than a stair lift as access from the church. These changes would be technically feasible though they would increase the cost of the whole reordering project by around £25k or 10%. There will be a further update for the congregation at the All Saints AGM on Sunday 2 April.

**Green Matters** The EcoChurch Green Communion service on 5 February was a great event. You can see photos of highlights on the All Saints website. We also achieved national coverage via the EcoChurch website <http://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/greencommunion> where All Saints is one of the dozen churches in England featured. Copies of the new edition of the Reuse and Recycling guide are still available at the back of the church along with the Green Group's earlier advice note on Living Sustainably.

**This Mothering Sunday Make a Mothers' Day.** Celebrate your mother in a very special way with an ethical gift to remember or say thank you to your mum - and help mothers around the world to flourish. Your gift will be a hand reaching out to mothers in countries like Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and the U.K. It will help women to learn to read and write, find a job or take an active role in their community, overcome inequality and violence or put a local church group at the very heart of change in their parish. You can choose a gift on line at [www.makeamothersday.org](http://www.makeamothersday.org) or phone 020 7227 0620 or pick up a catalogue by the Mission partnership Board. You will receive a card to give to your mum or an 'in memory card' if buying a gift in remembrance of your mother's life.

## Further afield :

**Vocations Events:** *All one in Christ Jesus: BAME Vocations Conference* , 17th March 6pm – 19th March 3:30pm at Wychcroft , *Here am I: Vocations Conference for Women* 8th April 10am -4pm, at Southwark Cathedral, *Open our hearts: Vocations Quiet Day* 17th March 10am-3:30pm, at Wychcroft.

**This year's UNLOCK London Walk** (the 34th) is on Saturday 29th April, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and covers the Battersea and Clapham area. The whole walk is approx. 7 miles long and there are 7 different churches to visit along the route. The aim of the walk is to raise money for Unlock's work in deprived urban areas across the UK, to raise awareness of the issues of exclusion, to showcase the ministry of churches in urban areas, to encourage churches in more affluent parts to support the work of their fellow Christians in the inner city, and finally to give hundreds of people an opportunity for an unusual and enlightening day out in London. More details, including quiz sheet, sponsor form and map, can be found on the church notice board or from the web site: [www.unlock-urban.org.uk](http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk).

## Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals at All Saints' :

12th February Thanksgiving for Dylan and Caleb Wortham

## March Calendar Dates

5th	<b>8.30am Holy Communion</b> <b>10am Parish Eucharist</b>
12th	<b>8.30am Holy Communion</b> <b>10am Parish Praise</b>
19th	<b>8.30am Holy Communion</b> <b>10am Parish Eucharist</b> <b>3pm Family Fun Hour</b> <b>6pm Fresh Encounters</b>
25th	Prayer Meeting 9-10am in church
26th	<b>8.30am Holy Communion</b> <b>10am Morning Worship in church</b> <b>10am Sanderstead Light in hall</b>