

All Saints' Church Newsletter

Extending God's Welcome to All.
Committed to GROW: in Discipleship, Service & Numbers

August 2016

Martin writes ...

The Prayer Meeting: the Importance of Asking.

I'm a great believer in prayer, so I regard it as wonderfully significant that we meet together every month on a Saturday morning to make our requests to God. Thank you to all those who make time to come – you do make a real difference for God's kingdom – and a warm welcome to others who may not yet be sure.

Here are two verses which teach us to ask God:

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. (Mark 11:24)

So I say to you: ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. (Luke 11:9-10)

Someone may ask, 'Why would we keep on asking God for what we need? Our heavenly Father knows what we need before we ask him (Matt 6:8). Doesn't repeated prayer show a lack of faith?'

Jesus very clearly taught that we need to ask in order to receive. This principle is shot through his teaching and ministry. James spells it out for us in no uncertain terms, 'You do not have because you do not ask' (James 4:2). The great 16th century French theologian and Reformer, John Calvin, said: 'We must repeat the same supplication not twice or three times only, but as often as we have need, a hundred and a thousand times'. In other words, don't stop asking and don't be afraid of persistently asking. Asking is God's appointed prescription for need.

Of course God, being God, could have designed prayer differently, in such a way that made asking unnecessary. But the Bible makes clear that our heavenly Father approves, welcomes and delights in the asking of his children. It is the asking that fosters our awareness of his presence and his sovereignty, that shows up our dependence on him. We don't have to understand before we decide to agree with God!

John Dunnett, director of CPAS, says, "If there is one thing that the... church needs to learn afresh (and there are probably many things!) it is to ask God. To ask that men, women and children might come to personal repentance and faith. To ask that God would pour out his Spirit on congregations and communities. To ask for his blessing on our leaders... To ask for a fresh Pentecostal blessing on his church. To ask for revival".

So, let us continue to ask together in prayer more and more, with boldness, persistence and expectation. Our monthly Prayer Meetings are vital; so do come if you can. Jeremy and I also think it may be time to hold another 'Prayer Evening' on similar lines to the one we held in 2015. Please tell us if you would be willing to support this.

I asked above whether repeated prayer might show a lack of faith. In fact, it is the very opposite. Repeated prayer encourages a firm faith in God, and demonstrates our willingness to be obedient to him.

Let us believe in prayer and do it together.

With best wishes

Martin

Future events :

Mothers' Union Join us as we pray for those dioceses linked to Southwark Diocese as part of the Mothers' Union wave of prayer on Thursday 1st September, 2.30pm in St Catherine's Aisle.

Summer in Sanderstead our "holiday-at-home" for older people, will happen again this year on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday **30th & 31st August, and 1st September**, in All Saints' Halls, from 10:30am - 3:30pm with a variety of activities to enjoy each day. A hearty lunch will be available and morning and afternoon refreshments to sustain us throughout. Book your place today!

St Mary's Celtic Eucharists will be on 7th August, 4th September, all at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church.

St Mary's Patronal Festival will be held on Sunday 11th September at 10am at St Mary's. Everyone is welcome to celebrate with us. There will be a bring and share lunch in the Church Hall afterwards.

Sanderstead Neighbourhood Care have a Quiz Night on Sat 24th Sept.

Churches Together in Sanderstead. After a vacancy lasting over two years, Sanderstead United Reformed Church now has a minister, Rev Martin Ferris. The next meeting of Churches Together will be at 4pm on Wednesday 14th September. This is an open meeting; all welcome. I hope as many as possible will support this. *Martin*

News :

Sanderstead Neighbourhood Care are looking for a befriender (ideally male, but anyone suitable would be considered) who would be willing to sit with a particular man for an hour or two to give his wife a break. Contact Debbie if you're interested. Tel:020 8657 8289

Fresh Encounters on 17th July; Worship in the Salvationist Tradition.

A small group of bandsmen and songsters from the Salvation Army came and led our worship on the theme of spiritual battle. We heard about the importance of prayer to William Booth *"For William Booth, our founder, it was a way of life and, he spoke of it as unlocking spiritual power to build the kingdom. He felt it was not his preaching, nor even his compassionate heart alone, his open secret was prayer."*

They explained some Salvationist distinctives: a reflection on the flag, a personal statement, explaining why they wear the uniform, and the crest, including the crossed swords of spiritual conflict. A collection was taken which raised £125 in support of The Bridge Project.



Penny Bird has been appointed as a volunteer Vocations Adviser and will join the Diocesan Vocations Team, working with others under The Revd Louise Ellis, The Revd Andrew Zihni and The Revd Canon Leanne Roberts. Penny will be undertaking training in September and helping Louise with a retreat for those exploring their vocations, before beginning to see people who are exploring the possibility of undertaking training to become a Priest, Deacon, Licensed Lay Minister or Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary.

100 years of Christian Care for Families in Sanderstead In 1916 a branch of the Mothers Union, already itself 40 years old, was founded in Sanderstead and in 2016 we were delighted to celebrate 100 years of caring for families in the neighbourhood, and much further afield. Members of the Sanderstead Branch led and took part in a service, looking back on the foundation of the Mothers' Union and remembering special people from our branch who nurtured and cared for us, and the many ways in which we have supported the Mothers' Union at home and abroad. Bev Jullien looked to the future of the Mothers'

Union and the many possibilities for continuing the role of the MU in this country and abroad, supporting families, helping them through difficult times, helping them to improve their own lives without depending on handouts, and maintaining a concern for families in all their wide variety. After the service most of the congregation continued the celebration with a meal of a ploughman's lunch, delicious desserts, tea and coffee, and a chance to chat to each other, in the hall which was decorated with blue and white flower arrangements with a display of information about the work of the Mothers' Union.

Over the 100 years of the Mothers' Union in Sanderstead, the focus of our membership has



changed and reflected the changing nature of society, but throughout we have continued to pray for families, to support each other and the MU projects at home and abroad, and help to fulfil Mary Sumner's dream of informed support for marriage and family life within the context of the Christian faith.

Mission Partners From mid August the Mission Partners' Board in the North Aisle will feature Sugandh. The organisation was formed in 1997 by Emma Greenfield with an aim to bring the fragrance of Christ to needy people in Delhi slums. Sugandh, means "fragrance" in Hindi and was formed in response to seeing the need of children living in desperate poverty in Delhi, often not going to school and instead working as 'rag-pickers' in the busy market, collecting the rubbish off the busy streets. Thus the Sugandh non-formal school was started, providing labouring children with a midday meal and basic education in reading, writing and numeracy. In due course other opportunities to improve life skills through vocational skills such as sewing, painting and card making was provided for young adults and teenagers. In 2004, the South Delhi slum where Sugandh had been working was demolished. Many of the residents moved to another slum in South Delhi, and others to a resettlement colony in North West Delhi, 45 km from their previous home. Being committed to these communities, the work of Sugandh also relocated to these two colonies.

Messages from the Green Team

Air travel—With the summer holidays now in full swing, we are encouraging those making journeys by air to consider offsetting the carbon cost of air travel. Most of the major airlines run offsetting schemes which calculate the amount of carbon dioxide emitted and invest your contribution in carbon reduction schemes such as renewable energy and reforestation projects. Alternatively you can use Climate Stewards which is a programme set up by the Christian environmental charity A Rocha which invests in worthwhile carbon saving schemes in developing countries. Further details can be found on the Climate Stewards website (www.climatestewards.org/offset/)

Garden tools collection—We will be running another garden tools collection in the early autumn. In a project organised by the Conservation Foundation, the old tools are taken initially to RHS Wisley and then on to HM Prisons where they are refurbished for use in school and community gardening projects.

Energy efficiency—With colder weather ahead this is a good time to start thinking about ways of reducing energy bills and at the same time helping the environment. The Energy Saving Trust website (www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency) contains impartial and up to date advice about making energy saving improvements at home including heating and hot water systems, home appliances, lighting and smart meters as well as suggestions about switching energy suppliers to get the best deal. There are also some energy saving tips in the Green Group's Guide to Sustainable Living - copies by the church door.

Faith Pictures Course If a friend asked you why you go to church what would you say? Recently at St Antony's and St Edmund's we were excited to run a new short course produced by the Church Army called Faith Pictures. It isn't a traditional Bible study or enquirers course rather it's designed to help

Christians talk naturally to friends, neighbours and colleagues about what they believe. The heart of the course is about helping people to identify a single picture or image that embodies something of their faith. For 6 sessions of 1 hour across 6 weeks, a group of members from the 8 o'clock and 10 o'clock congregations as well as members from both churches met to watch the short videos and talk together. Here is what some of those who took part have to say:

"I do have a Faith picture that works for me and the course has opened up for me several conversations at work, just talking about the course and how much I enjoyed it." Julia Rider

"This course has been an enjoyable experience... Watching the video snapshots then choosing our own subjects, themes and experiences to talk about with others as a lead into deeper matters seems so obvious - hopefully practice will make it easier to bring faith into everyday conversations now." Liz Lomax

"The Faith Pictures course appealed to me because it sounded quite informal and an opportunity to help me learn how to talk to people I meet about why I am a Christian & my faith journey." Gill Tobin.

"a real opportunity to step back and look at personal faith and our own journey to the current day through a different lens." Gill Pates.

Do check out more detailed feedback linked to the St Antony's and St Edmund's pages on the website.

Further afield :

Purley Classics music recitals. Dominant Fifth - Wind Quintet. Including a wind quintet by Cambini and arrangements of pieces by Mozart, Haydn, Handel and Gershwin. The quintet was originally formed in 2009 from members of the Croydon Orchestral Ensemble, who rehearse and give concerts at St Mildred's Church, Addiscombe. Wednesday 10th August, 1.15-2pm, at The Lounge, Purley United Reformed Church, Brighton Road, Purley. Open to all with a retiring collection to cover costs.

A quiet afternoon entitled 'Blessed, Chosen, Called' is to be held on Saturday 17th September at Sanderstead Methodist Church, 102 Limpsfield Road, Sanderstead, CR2 9EF from 2.00 to 4.30pm, with coffee from 1.30pm. It will be facilitated by Penny Bird and is offered to all by WAYS IN TO PRAYER an ecumenical group set up under the Anglican Diocese of Southwark. Not everyone can go away on retreat but it is good to take an hour or two to listen to God and to discover what it means to be his Holy People - Blessed, chosen and called to his service. To reserve your place please contact Jane or Penny j.hoskins233@btinternet.com or ppennybird@yahoo.co.uk or 020 8657 1176.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals at All Saints' :

9th July Burial of Ashes—Doreen Thompson
12th July Funeral—Sharon Grindrod
27th July Funeral—Ann Cross

10th July Baptism—Annabel Fryer
17th July Baptism—Giselle Stacey

August Calendar Dates

7th	8.30am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist
14th	8.30am Holy Communion 10am Parish Praise
21st	8.30am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist
28th	8.30am Holy Communion 10am Taste and See
27th	9am Prayer Meeting in the church