

All Saints' Church Newsletter

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

September 2016

Jeremy writes ...

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances..." (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18)

I recently read about a journalist who had been assigned to the Jerusalem bureau of his newspaper. He got an apartment overlooking the Wailing Wall. After several weeks he realised that whenever he looked at the wall he saw an old man praying vigorously.

The journalist wondered whether there was a publishable story here. He went down to the wall, introduced himself and said: "You come every day to the wall. What are you praying for?"

The old man replied: "What am I praying for? In the morning I pray for world peace, then I pray for the brotherhood of man. I go home, have a glass of tea, and I come back to the wall to pray for the eradication of illness and disease from the earth."

The journalist was taken by the old man's sincerity and persistence. "You mean you have been coming to the wall to pray every day for these things?"

The old man nodded.

"How long have you been coming to the wall to pray for these things?"

The old man became reflective and then replied: "How long? Maybe twenty, twenty-five years."

The amazed journalist finally asked: "How does it feel to come and pray every day for over 20 years for these things?"

"How does it feel?" the old man replied. "It feels like I'm talking to a wall."

I wonder if you've ever felt like that? You may have been praying about something for years, yet - in the words of Deuteronomy 28:23 - the heavens seem like brass and the ground beneath as iron. I think the Old Testament prophet Daniel must have felt like that when he prayed on behalf of a disobedient nation day after day after day. There he was, pleading with God, face to the ground - and there seemed to be no response. Yet in Daniel 10:12 we read about an angel, who came to him and reassured him that, from the very first day, God had heard his prayer. Interestingly, we also read that the evil one had blocked an answer for no fewer than twenty-one days!

We are encouraged to pray persistently and continually (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18). On Friday 16th September we will have another opportunity to pray together as a church, at a half-night of prayer. We will pray for each other, for our church, for our community here at Sanderstead, and for our nation. May I encourage you to come along, even only for half an hour. Yes, it may sometimes feel as if we are praying at a wall. But come along to the wall, like that faithful old man, because we know a God who can move mountains. So overcoming a wall is no problem to Him! Jesus reminds us as much in Mark 11: 22-25. God really does hear - and respond to - whatever we ask for in prayer.

As we enter a new season of service to God in our church, let's rejoice in everything that God has done among us! We are rejoicing in the rebuilding of our work with children and families - this month will see the rebirth of a Sunday School for primary school age children, known as JIGSAW (Jesus Is Great, Super And Wonderful); we are rejoicing in a new coffee morning on alternate Fridays in the church hall; we are looking forward to seeing our re-ordering plans move to the next stage. There is so much to thank God for!

Finally, thank you again for the many kind messages of support and good wishes on the recent occasion of my ordination as priest. Sandra and I are feeling so blessed to be among you, and it still feels as fresh and joyful as the very first day we stepped into All Saints. Sometimes, you just know when something is right, don't you!

Future events :

Mothers' Union 12th September, 8pm at St Edmund's, William Goddard Room, beetle drive evening. Holy Communion 10am, Sept 29th at St Mary's. Prayer Group, 9am at 7 Borrowdale Drive Sept 19th.

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, 7pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets £8.00 per person in advance (book by calling 020 8657 8289) or £8.50 on the door, 6 people per table. Ticket price includes a ploughman's & dessert but please bring your own glasses and drink.

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

Harvest Lunch will be on Oct 23rd after the 10am service.

Fresh Encounters (6pm at All Saints') The programme for the autumn will be entitled Dwelling Places ...

On Sunday 18th September ...a place of blessing (Psalm 23)

On Sunday 16th October ...a place of rest (Psalm 84)

On Sunday 20th November ...a place to contemplate (Psalm 27/Psalm 63)

Children's Society Race Night, Friday 28th October. Our annual Race Night event will be held at St Antony's Church, at 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start. Races are screened throughout the evening with a chance to bet on each one, either on the Tote or on an individual runner. Tickets – which include a supper of fish, sausage, chicken or pie & chips plus an ice cream dessert – are £10 but please bring your own drink and glasses. Please book in advance by Monday 24th October, either via your Children's Society representative or Race Night organisers, Pam and Jeremy Dearden (jeremydearden@blueyonder.co.uk, tel: 020 8657 3432). It's an exciting evening with a chance to make a profit and also contribute to the Society's important work with disadvantaged children. Do come; we're sure you'll enjoy it!

News :

Church stonework & roofing repairs will commence on Monday 19 September with completion due (depending on the weather) by early in the New Year. The Church will be available for normal use during this time although the entire exterior will be scaffolded and protected with a hoarding.

We are fortunate to have James Cooke (of JSC Cooke Construction Ltd) from Beckenham as our builder again; it was he who carried out the South Porch and North Aisle ramp works for us 18 months ago and we look forward to working with him once more.

Whilst the works are in progress, the north side of the Car Park will be given over to the builder for his compound and he may also use one of the empty garages to the flats. Please take care when parking and be aware that lorries will be delivering and will require turning space in the Car Park and I would ask that you comply with the builder's requests if your car is blocking access.

When you need to access the Church, please make sure the builder is aware so that your presence is known about and safe entry and exit can be given. There may be occasions when access may be difficult or dangerous during the builder's working hours, so please be understanding if you are requested to wait until it is safe to enter. Access along paths through the Churchyard may be unavailable. Please do take care for your personal safety and comply with the builder's instructions – we don't want any accidents.

If you have any issues with the builder, would you please contact the Churchwardens or myself in the first instance. Please refrain from giving the builder any instructions without authority, except of course in an emergency situation. If you have any Health & Safety issues please contact Paul Shipley in the Parish Office or, if he is not available, the Churchwardens or David Chillman 020 86577397 or 07870978844.

We look forward to a new and brighter look to our already beautiful Church, and we give thanks to God for all his blessings that have enabled us to undertake these works.

Mission Board Sugandh, the mission currently featured on the North Aisle Mission Board continues until September 18th when CMS (Church Missionary Society) will be featured.

CMS began more than 200 years ago with a group of Christians whose hearts were stirred to put their call into action. This group included people like William Wilberforce, John Venn, and John Newton. Together they worked to abolish the slave trade, they fought for the rights of oppressed people at home and they

launched out on dangerous seas to share Jesus with the world. The effects of their efforts – as well as the work of thousands of men and women who have followed in their footsteps are still seen and felt across the globe today. Currently, there are Church Mission Society people in 40 countries across Africa, Asia, South America, the Middle East, Europe and the UK. Some have been sent from Britain and Europe, some have been sent by their local church in partnership with CMS, some through sister societies CMS-Africa and Asia CMS. The Society is committed to helping Christians worldwide and in the UK. Do visit the Mission Partners' Board in the North Aisle to find more about CMS and Sugandh.

Autumn House Groups. Would you like to meet in a small friendly group to share and discuss issues that impinge on our faith or to find friendship within a smaller group than in church? There are house groups that meet in evenings and one during the day. Some are using study material from the Pilgrim Course and others the book *The Joy of the Gospel* by Paula Gooder and another Mark Meynell's book on Colossians. Our house groups start again in the week commencing 19th Sept. If you are interested to find a group or explore the idea further Jeremy Groombridge or Rosemary Kempself will be happy to talk to you about a group that would suit you best. Jeremy 020 8668 7795 jeremy@sanderstead-parish.org.uk Rosemary 020 8657 0482 rosemary@kempself.freeserve.co.uk

Family Fun - Helpers needed! Thank you to all of you who helped us with the Family Fun afternoons, over last year. Judith, Sue and Emma value the time you give to meet the families and be part of the afternoon activities and also preparing and serving tea. The next dates are Sundays at 3:00pm on 18 Sept, 16 Oct and 20 Nov. If you would like to be involved please write your name and contact details on the sheet at the back of the church or contact Sue Thomas: susanethomas@aol.com 07870318366.

Growing in Faith and Life is the new Bishop's Certificate Course in Discipleship introduced in 2015 to support the ministry the whole people of God across the diocese. The course will give people confidence in speaking about faith, deepening a life of prayer, reading the bible with more understanding, broadening theological understanding and reflecting on their calling and mission. It is most suitable for those who have a grounding in faith that they want to enrich and actively pursue. For more information see <http://www.southwark.anglican.org/ministry/Growing-in-life-and-faith>

Dave Barnes has returned to work, but only on light duties.

Confirmation in the Church of England is an opportunity for a person to affirm as an adult the Christian faith into which they were baptised as an infant; to be welcomed by the Bishop into the world-wide Church; and to receive prayer for the fullness of the Holy Spirit. We all need the Spirit, so we can follow Jesus, grow in our relationship with God and know His guidance in our lives. On 18 Sept at 6.30pm, Giselle Stacey will be confirmed by the Bishop at Emmanuel Church, South Croydon. Supporters are welcome! Another Confirmation service will be held at St Andrew's Coulsdon on 6 Nov.

JIGSAW Sunday School. It is great that, from 4th September, we are able to re-launch a children's Sunday School at All Saints. Do join in praising God for this. So, on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month (usually), primary aged children will have their own teaching, learning, worship and fun during the 10am Parish Eucharist service. 'JIGSAW' stands for: Jesus is Great, Super And Wonderful. Thank you to Sandra Groombridge and Sue Thomas for accepting my invitation to lead this; and thank you to all who have been praying for God's blessing. Do please continue to pray. We have many contacts with children and families, and want to continue to extend God's welcome to them, and others as well.

When Jesus found adults who wanted to exclude children, he said: 'Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children' [Matthew 19:14]

A house for the Rector and family. Many of you know something of the long saga of the Diocese of Southwark trying to provide a suitable alternative Rectory, and how progress down the years has been painfully slow! We are very pleased to let you know that a very nice detached house in Glebe Hyrst has been purchased for us. Some repairs and sorting out are planned and, once these have been carried out, we look forward to moving in. The present Rectory at 1 Addington Road, with its land, will then be sold by Southwark Diocese. As I write, we do not know how soon we shall be able to move.

On Placement We look forward to welcoming among us for the next four months Mrs Sue Bosley, as she considers the possibility of ordination. Sue is the Pioneer Minister for Children and Families at Springfield Church in Wallington. Sue works for Springfield on a full time basis and is responsible for children and families work both on Sunday mornings, and during the week in the community. She currently leads a team who run Footsteps, supports the Tiptoes toddler group and works closely with a

local primary school with assemblies, family craft and pupil mentoring. Springfield church began as a Church plant and now meets on Sunday mornings in Wallington Girls' High School, as they do not have their own church building. By spending some time with us, Sue will get a broader appreciation of the Church of England. I know you will give Sue a warm welcome.

Rector's Sabbatical in autumn 2017. The bishop has granted me a three month period of sabbatical leave in 2017, from September to November. The purpose of a sabbatical is to give an extended time for study, for reflection, for rest and 're-envisioning'. God's call on a priest in the church, given at their ordination, is threefold: to nurture their own Faith in Christ and to grow in that faith; to be a living example of Faith; and to help, encourage and nurture others in their own Faith journey. I am grateful for this opportunity. I have some ideas of themes in the bible I might like to study, and will develop further ideas in the months to come. Incidentally, this sabbatical will give our curate, Jeremy, an experience of being 'in charge' of the daily life of All Saints' church. This will be of great benefit to him in the development of his ministry.

Wendy Holt has been a Church of England Reader (otherwise known as a 'Licensed Lay Minister' in St Edmund's church for 25 years, and is still going strong! We congratulate her. There are a number of opportunities for lay people to undergo training to develop their ministry, in different fields. If you are interested in knowing more, do contact me (Martin) so we can talk it through.

Further afield :

Purley Classics music recitals. Horizon Piano Trio (violin, cello and piano), music by Shostakovich, Ryuichi Sakamoto and Astor Piazzolla. Wednesday 14th September, 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.

Wychroft Quiet Day 'Everybody's got to be somewhere' will reflect on the importance of place in our lives and how place shapes our being, our prayer, our relationships. Oct 18th, 10am-4pm led by Chris Skilton, £26.50 including lunch and refreshments. Contact Chris Chapman, 020 7939 9474.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals at All Saints' :

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| 8th Aug Funeral of Patricia Elizabeth Stinton | 8th Aug Funeral of Paul David Derrett |
| 14th Aug Baptism of Harry Preston | 16th Aug Burial of Ashes of Ann Penelope Haynes |
| 17th Aug Burial of Ashes of Jean Burkinshaw | 27th Aug Wedding of Scott Donovan and Cheryl Terry |

September Calendar Dates

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| 4th | 8.30am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist |
| 11th | 8.30am Holy Communion 10am Parish Praise |
| 18th | 8.30am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist |
| 24th | 9am Prayer Meeting in the church |
| 25th | 8.30am Holy Communion 10am Sanderstead Light in the church hall 10am Morning Worship in the church |