

# All Saints' Church Newsletter

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

December 2016

## *Martin writes ...*

First, let me bring you up to date with two recent clergy appointments.

On Sunday 23 October, Rev Louise Ellis was welcomed at All Saints, following her licensing by the Bishop, as Associate Priest in the Sanderstead Team of Churches. Louise's main work is as Southwark Diocesan Discipleship & Vocations Missioner, so she is not always able to be with us at Sunday services. We thank God for all that she brings, with her gifts, character and cheerfulness. Please pray for her, and for husband Nick and children Jessica and James, that they will fully enjoy being with us.

On Wednesday 23 November, Rev Grant Cohen was licensed by the Bishop as Priest-in-Charge of St James' Riddlesdown, while continuing as Vicar of St Mary's. Grant came to Sanderstead in 2014 and through his prayerful ministry, St Mary's has been growing and flourishing. This new responsibility presents a new challenge, and I do hope you will uphold him in prayer. It does also raise questions about the structure of the Sanderstead Team of Churches. Whatever the church councils of St James' and St Mary's separately decide, for the time being ministry and mission will continue as normal. The Archdeacon is fully supportive and will be present to help us work out the best way forward to serve Christ and promote God's mission to the neighbourhood. Please speak with me if you have any questions.

## Countdown to Christmas!

If an alien visited the UK in December, he might not notice anything to do with the birth of a special baby. Few Christmas cards have anything to do with God or Jesus, and he could experience all the tinsel, trees, parties and fun of "Winterval" then return home without ever hearing the Christmas story. For it's a fact that many in Britain will simply ignore Jesus at this time, while some are even hostile. While we in the Churches want to 'put Christ back into Christmas', others want to kick him out! Christianity does not have the support of the majority of the population, so we must hold onto faith in Jesus with determination. Read, again, the Christmas story in the Bible, sing the carols, go to Church for worship. Join with others and find encouragement for your faith.

I do hope you will come along to one or more of our ADVENTure evenings. They are a great opportunity to meet with others to focus on the real meaning of Christmas. Thank you to all who have been working, preparing and inviting neighbours. God bless you all.

## The Alpha Course Welcome!

Alpha begins on Tuesday 17 January, 7.30pm, and everyone is invited, whether you feel completely new or you have been in the church for many years. What is the point of life? What happens when we die? What relevance does Jesus have for our lives today? How do we deal with guilt? If you'd like to know the answer to any of these questions, then Alpha is for you. Alpha is for everyone: for those interested in investigating Christianity; those who are new and want to make friends; those who want to brush-up on the basics; those interested in Baptism or Confirmation. Take an application form or speak with the clergy. You won't regret it.

## Christmas Services

18th Dec 6.30pm—**Carol Service**—Collection for Croydon Refugee Service + Crisis

24th Dec 3pm, 5pm—**Crib Services**—Collection for Children's Society/Mothers' Union/Home for Good

24th Dec 11.30pm—**Midnight Communion**—Collection for Croydon Refugee Service + Crisis

25th Dec 9.30am—**Christmas Day**—Collection for Croydon Refugee Service + Crisis

## Future events:

**Christmas Family Fun** 3.15-5pm on Wed 7th December in the church, for crafts and card making, carols, activities and refreshments. For more info or to get involved, contact Sue on: susanethomas@aol.com or 07870 318366

**Coffee Pot** 10-12pm, Dec 9th and Dec 23rd. All are welcome for coffee, cakes and company.

**Christmas Tree Festival** St Mary's are once again holding their Christmas Tree Festival on Saturday 10th December 2016 from 2pm to 6pm. This year plans are well underway to make it bigger and better than ever before! We have a wonderful afternoon of music planned and will have a bigger Christmas Market and designated refreshments area, we really hope to see you all there. For more information contact St Mary's Office on 020 8657 9232 or email [stmarys.office@sanderstead-parish.org.uk](mailto:stmarys.office@sanderstead-parish.org.uk)

**Christmas Day Lunch is back!** If you know anyone who would like an invitation to our Sanderstead Parish Christmas Day Lunch in All Saints' Hall, or you yourself would like an invitation, please ring Fanny and Marc Smith on 020 8657 2967, or leave a name and address in the Parish office. Lifts will be arranged if required. Helpers needed! If you would like to help with the lunch, organising or on the day – we'd love to hear from you. Fanny and Marc

**Mince Pies for after the Carol Service** Could you make some mince pies to go with the mulled wine for after the Carol service on December 18th? If so please sign up on the list at the back of church and bring them to the hall kitchen before the Carol Service. Thank you

**1st January** We are having a Parish Team service at 11am at St Mary's. There will be no services at All Saints' that day.

**Holiday at Home Workshop Saturday 28th January** Those who are interested in taking over from Gerie the organisation of Summer in Sanderstead may be interested in the workshop taking place at Trinity House on Saturday 28th January 2017. It will be run by Marc Richeux and Sylvena Farrant. "The Holiday at Home workshop will offer practical advice on planning, programming and running a Holiday at Home for older members of our communities. Both the speakers are experienced organisers of Holidays at Home. To book Email [Caroline.Wakelam-Jones@southwarkanglican.org](mailto:Caroline.Wakelam-Jones@southwarkanglican.org) or phone 0207 9399475

## News :

**ADVENTure** Thank you to everyone involved with ADVENTure. Leaflets have been delivered to everyone in the parish but if you live outside the parish or have mislaid yours, or want one for someone else, do take one from the back of church. Information is also available on the parish website: [sanderstead-parish.org.uk](http://sanderstead-parish.org.uk) Please share information about it on Facebook and tweet if you are on Twitter, but most of all please come and support. This is our opportunity to share something of the real meaning of Christmas with our neighbours - and it is FUN! (6-7pm each evening)

4th—Old Saw Mill, 16 Limpsfield Rd

5th—9 Cedar Court

6th—8 Beechwood Road

7th—16th Purley Scout HQ, Cranleigh Close, 6.30-7.30pm

8th—84 Norfolk Avenue

9th—7 Buttermere Gardens

10th—2-6pm, St Mary's

11th—15 Glebe Hyrst

12th—10 Onslow Gardens

13th—20 Essenden Road

14th—5 Cedar Court

15th—25 Ellenbridge Way

16th—3 Days Acre

17th—5 Onslow Gardens

18th—Carol Service

19th—18 Tandridge Gardens

20th—3 All Saints Drive

21st—Priscilla's

22nd—Scout HQ Farm Fields

23rd—13 Sanderstead Court

**Weekly Notice Sheets, Monthly Newsletter and Rotas** are the responsibility of Alice Price, the Rector's Administration Assistant. Alice is happy to receive any news or notices from you, and will include them in either the notice sheet or the monthly newsletter. Anything that you would like to be included in the weekly notice sheet should be given to her by the end of Wednesday. The deadline for inclusion in the monthly newsletter is the Monday before the 1st Sunday of the month.

It will soon be time for Alice to compile the church rotas for February to April. If you would be interested in serving the church in any of the following ways, please contact her. Alice compiles the rotas for Wardens, Stewards, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Intercessors, Servers, Children's Area and Coffee. If you're already on the rota, please let Alice know your availability for February to April 2017 by the end December. Thank you. [alice@sanderstead-parish.org.uk](mailto:alice@sanderstead-parish.org.uk) in the Rector's office Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays from 9am to 1pm. 020 8657 0665 (leave a message or Paul can transfer your call to Alice.)

**Children's Society News** Sanderstead Dramatic Club have again kindly offered the Children's Society tickets for the midweek performances of their new pantomime – Jack and the Beanstalk – at All Saints Church Hall from 7th–14th January 2017. These are available from committee member Jenny Aarons, (07763 827 310) for Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th or Thursday 12th January at 7.30pm (priced £8 adults, £7 seniors, £5 for children 14 and under). Please do get in touch for a chance to enjoy this production and support the Society's outstanding work with disadvantaged children.

And further exciting news. We recently learnt that we were one of just three fundraising committees to win the Society's 2016 National Volunteering Awards, in recognition of our work over more than 30 years. Thank you to all our supporters! Our annual Children's Society box opening and bring & buy event will be in All Saints' Large Hall on Sat January 28th, 10am to 12 noon. *Sanderstead Fundraising Committee*

**Pledge 2017** Thank you to everyone for completing and returning your Pledge cards. We are grateful to the 16 people who increased their giving, and to those who have joined stewardship in response to the appeal. It make the work of the action group even more rewarding when such a positive response is received.

**Off to Tanzania again –can you help the projects?** Yes, it's almost 2 years since our last tour of Tanzania Development Trust projects and we are off in mid January for just over a month. We shall be visiting at least 25 projects and, of course, the Safe House and Vocational Training centre for girls fleeing FGM. We like to take both useful and fun articles and have some suggestions for those who have been asking. For the many clinics and cottage hospitals - plasters, bandages, antiseptic creams, paracetamol, ibuprofen, rehydration powders eg Diarolyte or similar.

For schools- blue and black biros, money for footballs, netballs and pumps, thick crayons for partially sighted young children.

For Safe House- seeds for horticultural project especially carrots, courgettes, hardy spinach, rainbow chard and nasturtiums, light craft materials, small scissors, tubes of Pritt glue, felt etc, nail varnish, hair adornments, light bright and sparkly necklaces, bracelets, earrings (in pairs on card, please).

For churches and communities - CDs of hymns and religious music clearly sung, small packets of jelly sweets (not chocolate), small scented soaps .

There will be a crate in church behind the entrance door marked "For Tanzania" for anything donated (no bottles or liquids apart from nail varnish, please) . The last opportunity to leave gifts will be Sunday 8 January. Very many thanks in advance – we promise to deliver it all and know that everything will be hugely appreciated.

**How churches can bring blessing** Here are some helpful words from Canon Philip Mounstephen of Church Missionary Society. "One of the most important lessons my colleagues in our sister organisation CMS-Africa have taught me is to see our God as a God of blessing. Central to many of their programmes is the idea that Africa is not poor, but rich: rich because she has been blessed by God. The challenge for the people of God is to discover just what those blessings are. When they do, the transformation can be remarkable.

What is true for Africa is true for the rest of the world. Those of us in the West can all too easily buy into our own myth of poverty and see the Church as increasingly irrelevant and in decline. But God has richly blessed us too. Our challenge is also to discover what those blessings are. One of those blessings is the presence of Christians from the global South among us here.

When we pray, we are putting our faith in the God of blessing. Prayer is a vote of confidence; we express our confidence in our God who delights to bless us. So as we enter Advent, celebrate Christmas and look to a new year, let us give ourselves afresh to prayer, and let us look forward to all the blessings our Lord will release."

## Further afield :

**Cantilena Singers** will be giving a concert of popular and seasonal music on Wed 7th Dec at 8pm at Sanderstead URC. The proceeds from donations will go to the Salvation Army.

**Advent Stillness** Thurs 8th Dec, 7-9pm, a quiet evening of prayer and reflection. For more information and to book your place contact Jane Hoskins [j.hoskins233@btinternet.com](mailto:j.hoskins233@btinternet.com) 07956061533

**Young Musicians Christmas Concert** Sunday 11th December at 3pm at Sanderstead URC. Talented pupils of Margaret Turnbull and Jo Fitzgerald present an enjoyable hour of seasonal music favourites Followed by tea, mince pies and stollen cake. Admission by programme at the door Just £7 (or £3 if you're 18 or under.)

**Holding the Light in Advent** Tues 13 Dec 10am-4pm, a quiet day at Wychcroft led by Jane Hoskins and Susan Oakes 'This day offers an opportunity to explore the themes of darkness and light. We will also think about those things which we may be carrying on our journey through Advent. There will be some times of input, times of personal space for prayer and reflection, and a creative space with art materials.' Cost £26.50 email [wychcroft@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:wychcroft@southwark.anglican.org) phone 01883 743041

**Carol Singing at Croydon University Hospital** The hospital chaplaincy will be singing carols around the hospital on the evening of Tuesday 20th December. You are invited to join them to make a joyous sound and bring some Christmas joy to those in the hospital. Meet in the hospital Chapel for 7pm, where those gathered will divide into several 'choirs' and then head off to sing on wards before returning to the Chapel for refreshments.

**Deepening Discipleship** The diocese has a whole programme of training events and retreats which you are welcome to attend. Check out the brochure at <http://www.southwark.anglican.org/downloads/ministry/Deepening-Discipleship-2016.pdf>

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

7th Nov Funeral of Daphne Doris Gwendoline Hall

20th Nov Baptism of Francesca Nagle Webb

21st Nov Funeral of Marguerite Haslam

24th Nov Funeral of Nicholas John Papanastasiou

28th Nov Burial of Ashes of Brenda Dorothy Serre

## December Calendar Dates

4th	<b>8.30am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist</b>
11th	<b>8.30am Holy Communion 10am Christingle</b>
18th	<b>8.30am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist 6.30pm Carol Service—collection for Croydon Refugee Service and Crisis</b>
24th	<b>3pm Crib Service—collection for Children's Society/Mother's Union/Home for Good 5pm Crib Service—collection for Children's Society/Mother's Union/Home for Good 11.30pm Holy Communion—collection for Croydon Refugee Service and Crisis</b>
25th	<b>9.30am Parish Eucharist—collection for Croydon Refugee Service and Crisis</b>
1st Jan	<b>11am Team Service at St Mary's</b>