

All Saints' Church Newsletter

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

January 2017

Jeremy writes ...

"Be careful how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time" (Ephesians 5:15,16).

I'm sometimes asked why I'm an optimist. The short answer is: "because I'm not a pessimist!". Actually, I'd be the last person to deny that times are difficult. This coming year brings with it rising uncertainty, and there will be a lot of big changes ahead. Brexit, a new US President, a general loss of faith in government, a pervasive cynicism about political leaders, elections in some of our neighbouring countries, increased economic turbulence...there are plenty of reasons to be pessimistic at the beginning of 2017.

But I remain optimistic. The apostle Paul probably wrote his letter to the church in Ephesus while he was in prison at Rome. Yet despite his suffering, he was able to bring them a message of hope and encouragement - he begins his letter with a resounding declaration of God "who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing" through Jesus Christ. His whole purpose in writing is to lift and expand their horizons so that they begin to see the vastness of the dimensions of God's grace and His eternal purposes.

However disquieted we may feel about moving into a New Year, and however strange and inauspicious the world feels at the moment, we can remind ourselves that God is with us. In the ancient words of Psalm 46: "Be still and know that I am God".

I like the words Paul uses in Ephesians 5. The King James version uses the word "circumspectly" instead of careful - rather like walking along a precarious pathway. I like the idea, too, of "making the most of the time" - again, the KJV uses the words "redeem the time", buying it back and putting it to good use. So I begin to get the message: these aren't days to panic, or to make hasty decisions and rash promises, giving answers before we've heard the question; rather, they are days to work things through, patiently and with diligence, relying on God and trusting that He will reveal His will for us.

I am optimistic because God is blessing us here in Sanderstead. We have opportunities galore to serve this community, to build God's kingdom, and to build one another up in the faith. Halfway through my curacy here, I have been spending time reviewing the past 18 months. How can I be other than optimistic when I see God pouring out blessing upon us in so many ways.

I tend to the view that a New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other. So I won't be making any this year. Instead, I intend to follow Paul's advice to "make the most of the time". If you carry that motif into 2017, I'm pretty sure it will be a lot more bearable than many commentators seem to be suggesting!

Future events :

Family Fun Hour This month will be on 22nd January 3-4pm in the church hall. For more info or to get involved, contact Sue on: susanethomas@aol.com or 07870 318366

Coffee Pot returns on 27th January 10-12pm. All are welcome for coffee, cakes and company.

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 or phone 0207 9399475

Fresh Encounters will be on Sunday 15th January at 6pm WEATHER PERMITTING. If you are unsure please ring Angela Jones on 01883 347367 The theme for this term is "A Sacred Gaze: encountering Jesus through Art" - Meditations on paintings by Sieger Koder.

Women's World Day of Prayer is on March 3rd 2017. You are invited to join us at St. Antony's for Women's World Day of Prayer at 10.30am when we join together with our brothers and sisters around the world praying for the Philippines. Refreshments afterwards.

News :

Jeremy's day off is now on a Monday.

Swimathon On 25 February Jeremy has promised to do the Purley Rotary swimathon to raise funds for Reedham Children's Trust. Please sponsor him!

A big 'Thank you' to all who gave so generously at our Christmas services. We will be sending the Children's Society £410.40 donated at the Christingle plus £417.76 raised from the two Crib Services, and the gift aid tax element when recovered. The Carol Service raised £604.46, Midnight £511.26 and Christmas Day £292.65, plus the gift aid tax element when recovered to be split 50/50 between Croydon Refugees and CRISIS.

Mission Giving 2016 At the end of 2016, the DCC agreed to give the following: Hawksbee's £2000, CMS £1000, USPG £1000, Sugandh £1000, Tanzanian Development Trust £1000, Reedham Children's Trust £300, Croydon Churches Floating Shelter £300. We have received the following thank you letters:

Tanzanian Development Trust

Rev. Martin Greenfield and Michael Turner,

We have received an e-mail from Julian Marcus project officer for Matongo dispensary project; showing the amount you have contributed towards our project. It is apparently that your generous contribution shows how your inner parts of your hearts were touched with the horrible health situation that face the community of Matongo. It is indeed of great pleasure to sincerely express our heartfelt thanks to you and the church at large. May the Almighty God fill in the place where your contributions came from.

Wishing you happy Christmas and prosperous new year

Yours sincerely

Masero Boniface Chairman, JUSTICE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

Dear Martin and Michael,

It's my pleasant duty once again to write on behalf of our Trust to say a very big thank you for our parish's latest donation of £1,000 to TDT. I am very pleased to say that we have now raised all the money needed for phase 2 of the buildings at the Safe House. (The box inside the church door is for items for the girls as well as for some of the clinics we shall be visiting).

So I hope you will agree that the parish's generous donation can be divided, with £600 going to our next fund-raising target, building Matongo Dispensary* and £400 going to the general work of TDT. In practice

this is quite likely to enable the Committee at its next meeting to proceed with providing rain water harvesting at another Dispensary in Simiyu region, in north-central Tanzania.

*In Tanzania a 'Dispensary' is like a small cottage hospital, with a maternity ward and delivery room, and room for minor operations. A Dispensary also provides HIV and malaria testing and treatment, a mother and baby clinic, care for the elderly etc.

Ann and I will be visiting Matongo in January as well as some other Dispensaries on our way to the Safe House.

Thank you, once again.

Julian

Croydon Churches Floating Shelter

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your very generous donation of £300.00 We have been providing a cold weather floating night shelter for the homeless in Croydon from the 1st November until the end of March, since January 2004. Sadly we are experienced a greater need for a night shelter in Croydon last year than when we first opened in in 2004. This year is no different, we have been full since we opened on the 1st November and we are aware there are still homeless men and women having to sleep rough that are on the waiting list to come into the night shelter.

We are restricted to the number of guests we can have in the shelter so we are depending on our agencies to move the guests we have with us into accommodation but that is taking a lot longer than past years as there is such a severe shortage of affordable housing in the borough. We will help as many homeless persons as we can over the five months we are open.

A number of the guests we have with us are working.

Could you please thank all the members of your Church for helping us to help the homeless in Croydon, and letting us use your lovely building to host our guests on the 1st November,

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

God bless

John Broom (Chairman Croydon Churches Floating Shelter)

USPG starred in the 'Call the Midwife' Christmas Special.

USPG played a significant role in helping the BBC to research the episode, including input from USPG General Adviser Canon Edgar Ruddock, who was a mission companion in South Africa in the 1980s. Edgar explained: 'I had a lengthy phone conversation with the key researcher who tapped into my knowledge of the 1980s when many church-founded hospitals were still operating across rural southern Africa. I was also able to point them to various older colleagues who had worked there as doctors or nurses during the 1960s.'



The cast of Call the Midwife on set in South Africa

As a special thank you to Edgar – much to his surprise – the show’s writers named the character of a coroner after him; look out for Edgar’s name on a brass plaque on the ‘coroner’s office door in the new series being screened next year. The BBC adds: ‘Far from home and everything familiar, the team are both shaken and exhilarated by the challenges they face – and by the time the mission trip is over, some lives are permanently changed. ‘

At All Saints we support the work of USPG.

Join us on 11th February for an evening of socialising and dancing to Steve Cooke’s band. A chance to get together and have some fun. Bring your friends. Tickets £10 which includes a cheese platter. Further information and tickets from Judith Robinson 02086574679 or Jane Cooke 02086511574.

Further afield :

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>

Sanderstead Neighbourhood Care collect unwanted toiletries and used stamps, and would be glad of any donations.

Feeling the need to 'get away from it all'? You might like to think of a silent retreat high in the Brecon Beacons. Go to <http://www.llannerchwen.org.uk/>

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals at All Saints' :

12th Dec Thanksgiving for 35 years of Marriage of Keith and Jan Sharman

14th Dec Interment of ashes of Ernest Brown

16th Dec Interment of ashes of Brian Butler

January Calendar Dates

1st	11am Team Service at St Mary's
8th	8.30am Holy Communion 10am Parish Praise with Baptism
15th	8.30am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist 6pm Fresh Encounters
17th	7.45pm DCC meeting
22nd	8.30am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist 3pm Family Fun Hour
28th	Prayer Meeting 9-10am in church
29th	8.30am Holy Communion 10am Morning Worship in church 10am Sanderstead Light in hall