

# All Saints' Church Newsletter

Extending God's Welcome to All.

Committed to GROW: in Discipleship, Service & Numbers

April 2017

## *Martin writes ...*

Resurrection, NOW, because of Jesus.

The Old Testament passage set for Sunday, 2nd April, is Ezekiel's vision of the Valley of Dry Bones – *"Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!"* The Lord promised the Resurrection (the raising-to-life-from-death) of the people of Israel in exile. As the prophet spoke the word, the Lord sent his Spirit, or breath, to bring new life.

*"Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord" (Ezekiel 37:13-14).*

Because God has power over death, what was dead was made alive.

So, let's see if we might apply this resurrection hope to one of the questions facing us in All Saints: Can we revive our children's work? The Lord is the God of Resurrection, and therefore we must have hope and not give up.

Margaret Pritchard Houston, from the Diocese of St Albans, has written a very helpful and encouraging article on ***Struggling to attract or keep children and their families?*** This is available in hard copy or by email from [alice@sanderstead-parish.org.uk](mailto:alice@sanderstead-parish.org.uk). She says many churches tell the same story: *'Once upon a time we had loads of children and an active youth group... but now we have hardly anyone under 50'*. She says that the context in which we do children's work has changed in the past 30 years, and agrees that attracting children to church, and keeping them, is a struggle. The task can feel overwhelming. Yet it is crucial, not only to the survival of the church, but also because the body of Christ is richer when all ages belong, and because young people matter.

Ms Houston mentions most of the things we are doing at All Saints, and commends them: Children's area; Toddler Groups; 'Family Fun' (though she doesn't call it that). In addition, we are also building relationships with our Uniformed Groups. There is great potential in Toddler Groups, as they attract many who have no previous connection with church. Her article is full of perceptive comments and practical ideas to consider and think about.

Sunday's Gospel reading from John tells how Jesus raised Lazarus from death. The key to Resurrection is to *"believe"*. Jesus wanted his disciples to believe; he challenged Martha to believe that he is the Resurrection and the Life. Before he called Lazarus out of the tomb, he prayed to his Father God that all who saw it would *believe* in him.

*Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die. Whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'*

We want to bring children and their families to the church and to Jesus. It is not easy! Jesus calls us all to continue to believe in him, and to carry on the work. In some cases, the opposite of believing is not so much doubting, but giving up; running out of energy; stopping trying. The task may seem overwhelming, and almost hopeless; but we have the Lord with us. He brings life from the dead, and nothing is impossible. Will we choose to continue to believe, and carry on?

I warmly commend Ms Houston's article, for you to read and think about. I also express my thanks to all in All Saints who work so hard and with such devotion for children and families in our various activities. May we continue to believe in Jesus, who makes the dead alive, and carry on working to bring children and their families to the church and to him.

*Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is never a waste of effort (1 Corinthians 15:58).*

A very happy Easter to you all.

With best wishes and prayers, *Martin*

## Future events :

**Family Fun Hour** this month will be on 23rd April 3-4pm in the church hall. For more info or to get involved, contact Sue on: [susanethomas@aol.com](mailto:susanethomas@aol.com) or 07870 318366

**Coffee Pot** is on 7th and 21st of April, 10-12pm. All are welcome for coffee, cakes and company.

**Celebration of House Groups** on 22nd April will be at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Carshalton Beeches 10.30am to 3pm. Lunch, coffee and tea will be provided. There will be no charge. Everyone is invited - you will be welcome whether or not you presently attend a group. We hope as many as possible will come along and enjoy an exciting day of fun, worship and workshops. If you are not a house group member why not join us and find out what's really good about house groups. Revd Louise Ellis and Revd Jeremy Groombridge will facilitate the day. Please sign up at the sheet at the back of All Saints Church so that we know numbers for catering.

**Fresh Encounters** will be on Sunday 23rd April at 6pm. The theme for this term is "A Sacred Gaze: encountering Jesus through Art" - Meditations on paintings by Sieger Koder.

**The APCM** will be 11.45am 30th April in the large hall.

**Mothers' Union** will not meet during April as the 2nd Monday falls in Holy Week. The next meeting will be 8th May 8pm and the talk 'Tuning your five string harp' speaker Joy Gadsby, St Catherine's Aisle.

## News :

**Stewardship News.** Thank you to everyone for your generous responses to our Pledge 17 appeal last autumn, especially to those who increased their giving. We are pleased to be able to recover the tax paid on the majority of gifts. If you are taxpayer but have not signed up to this tax efficient method of boosting your giving please consider it. Full details are available from our Stewardship Clerk, David Courtney (Tel: 8651 0704 or email: [dcourtney803@gmail.com](mailto:dcourtney803@gmail.com)) who will be happy to provide the necessary simple form required to enable this.

**Examination Invigilators** Archbishop Tenison's CE High School are looking to recruit exam invigilators for May and June. This casually based contract is paid at £9.60 an hour. An Enhanced DBS check is required. Contact Mrs Garrod, Exams Officer 020 8688 4014 [exams@archten.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:exams@archten.croydon.sch.uk) Application forms can be found under the vacancies tab of [www.archten.croydon.sch.uk](http://www.archten.croydon.sch.uk)

**Famine in Africa** Everyone will be aware of the recent urgent call for cash by the Disasters Emergency Committee for the victims of the famine and drought across Africa. Currently our focus is on supporting the Bishops Lent Appeal, which is also supporting this cause, as well as our mission partner, The Tanzanian Development Fund, and Gill Martin's appeal for Kenya for the relief of the same famine that is affecting millions of people in Africa. The opportunity to donate to DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) via envelopes will be offered after Easter. We hope we can count on your support for this cause over the next couple of months, but should you feel moved to respond sooner, please do not delay by waiting for the church initiative.

**Can you help?** On Good Friday 14th April with the Easter Activities for children and families 2.45-5.00pm at St Antony's. The afternoon will include Games & Craft, Easter Story and Egg Hunt. There are a variety of ways to assist including registration, craft, games, making the tea, talking to the families. If you would like to volunteer or find out more details please contact Rev Susan Atkinson-Jones Tel: 020 8657 5505 [susan@sanderstead-parish.org.uk](mailto:susan@sanderstead-parish.org.uk)

**Christian Aid Week is 14-20 May 2017** *Standing with refugees like Nejebar.* Nejebar and her family have fled horrors in Afghanistan, where her husband was threatened with torture and death for being a government worker. But now they've arrived in Greece, all they have is a tent. They have no other protection against wind and rain. There's no school for their five children. And they have no certainty or clear idea of what will happen to them now. They thought they would stay here for 10 days, but it's already been six months and there's no end in sight. Nejebar's husband Noor describes their initial reaction to arriving in the camp in Greece: 'It was like suicide for us. But we took the decision that it is better to die here than to die there from war.' You've helped us be there for refugees since 1945. Thanks to you, Christian Aid has been there for refugees like Nejebar since 1945, providing essential food, shelter

and legal assistance for people far from home. And we still believe in life before death. This Christian Aid Week, 14-20 May, our church is continuing to walk with refugees by collecting from local streets and by a sponsored walk. We're not going to turn our backs on refugees now. Contact Judith Johnson.

**Circle the City** a Sponsored Walk in aid of Christian Aid on Sunday 21 May, 2017. Come and join the huge celebration at the end of Christian Aid Week. Walk 3 or 6 miles, explore some of the City of London's best-loved sights and places of worship, and enjoy pop-up exhibitions, music and activities. Book your place now, as a group or an individual, at [ctc2017.eventbrite.co.uk](http://ctc2017.eventbrite.co.uk) or call 020 7523 2417

**Croydon South Deanery Synod - Treasurer** Following the resignation of Grant Shapland as Deanery Treasurer we are looking to appoint a replacement as soon as possible. I am very grateful to Grant for his work in the post over the last few years and I know that he has left the accounts in good shape. The job is not onerous - only 4 or 5 cheques issued each year from an account containing about £800. It would suit someone who can keep simple accounts, has access to the internet, is well organised and has time to serve on the synod standing committee which meets two or three times a year. If you could offer yourself, or suggest someone else, please let me know. PAUL ROBERTS - AREA DEAN 01737 552152  
[Rev.Paul.C.Roberts@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.Paul.C.Roberts@gmail.com)

**St Martins in the Field Pilgrimage** 26th - 29th May 2017 walking 74 miles to Canterbury. This raises essential money for the homeless/disadvantaged people. If you are able to sponsor me please speak to me after Church or give me a ring on 0208 657 6914 Rena Gray

**Kenya** Pastor Patrick who visited All Saints last year wrote about the current drought in Kenya that there has been little or no rain since June; the ground is dried up and most of the water holes are now dry. The villagers on the Masai live from their cattle and goats, but due to the drought their cows have either died or gone dry. They depend on the milk both for food and to sell for the money they need to buy other essentials. The villagers were not getting to church as they were too tired from lack of food. He writes *"Today we gave the food to those who came to church, after we left the pastor says another 70 women with their children came running to the church but the food was finished. People are desperately hungry and people are indeed starving but the government is claiming it is on top of things which is not true"*. With the addition of grant aid, we were able to send £400 from All Saints and Patrick would like to thank everyone for their generosity and support. With our gifts he was able to take a hot meal to the church one Sunday and buy maize and rice to feed about 14 families for a week. Please pray for rain and more support for these families. Any donations to help the immediate need can be given at the church.

## Further afield :

**The Road to the Cross** Tuesday 11th April, 7.30pm, a 90 minute production by Oddments Theatre Co. filled with sketches based around the life of Jesus and the people he met, culminating in Jesus' death and resurrection. St Mary's. Tickets available on the door, Adults £6, Children £4. Refreshments available.

**Sanderstead URC Quiz Night** 22nd April 7pm. £10 each to include fish, chicken or cheese/onion pasty & chips. BYO drinks (no spirits). Contact Jean (020 8657 6396) for tickets

**St George's Day Parade Service** will be held at Sanderstead URC at 3.00pm on Sunday 23rd April.

**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).

**Quiz Night** Sanderstead Neighbourhood Care Fundraising Evening Sat 13th May, 7pm for 7.30pm start, All Saints Church Hall. Tickets: £8.00 per person in advance £10.00 on the door (6 people per table.) Ticket price includes a ploughman's & dessert but please bring your own glasses and drink. If anyone has any allergies, please contact the office prior to purchasing tickets. There will be a raffle on the night. Book tickets by calling 020 8657 8289 or visit the SNC office in the church hall.

**Croydon Episcopal Area Lay Conference 2017** *'Serve, Enable, Lead: Resourcing Discipleship & Lay Leadership'* Sat 10th June 10am - 4pm, St. Bede's School, Carlton Rd, Redhill. Are you keen to see your church develop and grow? Are you looking for ways to deepen your Christian life? This day is for you! This conference will gather together people from across the parishes of the Croydon Episcopal Area to reflect on what it means to be part of a growing and healthy church. The day will include a keynote address, workshops, worship and time to meet and talk with others. The cost for the day is £15 per person including refreshments and a hot lunch. A group rate for parish booking of 5 places for £50 is also available for early bird booking before May 12th 2017. Contact Penny Bird who is planning to attend to arrange booking as a group. More information is available at the back of church.

**Ebearsattic Edwardian Afternoon Tea & Costume Exhibition** We are holding an Edwardian afternoon Tea and Costume Exhibition at Ebearsattic Boutique, Limpsfield Road, on Sunday 23rd April 2017 from 12.30 – 3.30pm, Tickets for the whole event including afternoon tea will cost £20 each ( all proceeds will go to the Aromatic Amino Acid Decarboxylase Deficiency AADC Research Trust) Edwardian dress is optional, There will be a number of dresses and accessories from the Edwardian section of my Costume Collection – Entry for the exhibition only is £3, for tickets and further details Heather Griffin 020 8657 7045

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

2nd March Funeral of Artur Norman Springett

7th March Interring of Ashes of Olive and Mac McLewee

14th March Funeral of Leslie John Parkhouse

## **April Calendar Dates**

2nd	<b>8.30am Holy Communion</b> <b>10am Parish Eucharist</b> <b>11.30am AGM in hall</b>
9th	<b>8.30am Holy Communion</b> <b>10am Parish Praise with baptism</b>
10th	12pm Stations of the Cross and lunch with Bishop Christopher at St Mary's 8pm Compline
11th	12pm Midday prayers at Sanderstead Methodist Church 8pm Stations of the Cross
12th	12pm Midday prayers at All Saints' 8pm Iona Meditation
13th	8pm Holy Communion
14th	9.30am Family Service 12-3pm Meditations at the cross
16th	<b>8.00am Holy Communion</b> <b>9am Easter Breakfast</b> <b>10am Parish Eucharist</b>
23rd	<b>8.30am Holy Communion</b> <b>10am Parish Eucharist with Prayer Ministry</b>
26th	7.45pm DCC Meeting in Flat 2A (minutes may be requested from Alice Price)
29th	Prayer Meeting 9-10am in church
30th	<b>8.30am Holy Communion</b> <b>10am Morning Worship in church</b> <b>10am Sanderstead Light in hall</b> <b>11.45am APCM in large hall</b>