

Sanderstead Team Newsletter

May 2017

Welcome to the new Sanderstead Team Newsletter! This is your newsletter, so do send us your news and anything you would like us all to know. The newsletter will continue to be published for the first Sunday of every month, and items need to be with Alice the Monday of that week. alice@sanderstead-parish.org.uk

Thy Kingdom Come



The Archbishop of Canterbury has called the whole Anglican Communion to prayer for the ten days between Ascension Day on 25th May and Pentecost on 4th June. All Saints Church will be open for prayer from Thursday 25th May to Thursday 8th June from 10am to 5pm and on Wednesday 31st May and Sundays 28th May, 4th June from 7pm to 9pm. Prayer stations on the theme "Thy Kingdom Come" will be set up in church. If you would like to help with setting it up, or sitting with it in the evening, please contact Penny.
www.thykingdomcome.global

Jeremy writes ...

CHRIST IN OUR CONTEXT: BECOMING THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD

The relative affluence, prosperity and high living standards enjoyed by most people living in Sanderstead can easily disguise the grim reality of debt and poverty faced by many people on our doorstep and further afield, who, for various reasons, struggle to make ends meet on a daily basis.

Yet when, out of our advantage, we are able to ease their struggles in practical ways by giving and serving we are truly "incarnating" the gospel of Christ's love for vulnerable and disadvantaged people, bringing the good news to life and expressing God's liberating power through action beyond words.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink..." said Jesus (Matthew 25:35). Then he went further: "...whatever you did...you did it for me" (Matthew 25:40). Our response to need, therefore, becomes much more than giving and serving because such things are inherently good. Rather, Christ encourages us to serve that person as if we were serving him personally.

I know the churches in Sanderstead have a long tradition of serving those in need. Through support for Christian Aid, giving to various mission partners and raising money as we did recently to support the urgent need presented by our friend Pastor Patrick in Kenya, we not only demonstrate love for our neighbour but serve Christ and show our love for him.

This attitude to service changes our entire view about social activism. I was struck a while ago, when undertaking a survey of Food Hub helpers as part of my studies, with the way they saw Christ in those whom they were helping. People need help from the Food Hub for a variety of reasons – some are oppressed and crippled by spiralling debt, some have lost their benefits or experienced a delay in payment;

others have spent all their money, or have been the victims of domestic or financial abuse. When I invited the helpers to express a view about the reasons why people needed help, the overwhelming response was: "There, but for the grace of God, go I". It was not for them to judge whether individuals were deserving or not, or whether need had arisen through fecklessness, folly or financial mismanagement. Instead, they were driven by a strong sense of Christian compassion and a desire to respond as if Christ himself were asking for food. Here in the Food Hub, I found the living body of Christ serving Christ-in-need.

When theology is practiced in context like that, underpinned by a narrative of commitment and compassion, supporting people in their engagement with struggle, the outcome is powerful and enduring. The church is revealed as a servant community, in pursuit of peace and justice – what one theologian has called, "a social ethic...a faithful manifestation of God's peaceable kingdom in the world", fuelled by love for Christ.

The "presence" of Christ is a theme woven into the very sacramental heart and life of the church. Each time we celebrate the Eucharist we celebrate the presence of Christ in bread and wine, and are then sent out in the power of the Spirit to live and work for God's praise and glory. The whole idea of "presence" is about the relationship of one to another – so as we experience the "presence" of Christ ourselves, we take it in practical ways into our community, building relationships with others, mediating Christ's presence among those we serve and witnessing to the goodness and generosity of God's love. As we develop our ministry and facilities for the future, that should be at the centre of our planning.

By supporting, serving and expressing solidarity with those who find themselves excluded and financially crippled, we find ourselves looking forward to the coming kingdom of peace and justice, and in the process, helping to bring in its healing and restorative values in the here and now. The "Five Marks of Mission" commit us to radical action to respond to human need by loving service, and to transform unjust structures of society. In his book "a Just Church" Chris Howson describes four principles as a model to guide our activities. Helpfully summarised as "EARS" they are: Education, to ensure we are well informed about the context, issues and experiences of others; Action, from letter-writing to direct action as we become meaningfully engaged with God's project for a reign of justice and peace; Reflection, to ensure that our work is rooted in love and to avoid the risk of "burnout"; and Sustaining to ensure long-term focus, impact and fruitfulness.

To paraphrase Gandhi, let's all make a deliberate effort to "become the change we want to see in the world", reflecting the Jesus who became the ultimate community activist, proclaiming good news to the poor and freedom for the oppressed.

Mission News

5 Million in South Sudan face famine. Anglicans are responding to communities facing famine in South Sudan, where over 5 million people are in need of emergency support and 4.8 million are facing hunger. SUDRA, the relief and development arm of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan, is reaching out to communities with emergency aid. The situation is complicated by ongoing political in-fighting among leaders that has arisen since South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011. This has resulted in violence in the country, with 1.5 million refugees fleeing South Sudan and a further 2.1 million internally displaced. The Revd Joseph El Haj, of SUDRA, spoke to Anglican Alliance, which is co-ordinating the Anglican response to the crisis. He said: 'Over half the people in South Sudan are on the verge of famine – due to drought and the security situation. In Yei and Kajo Keji many people have left their homes

and harvests. They are now without food. In Kajo Kaji the markets don't have food. Many have already moved to Uganda. Others are staying around the churches for safety.' Money has been distributed by SUDRA to communities in the Diocese of Yei so they can buy food and essential items in local markets. SUDRA will also provide support for communities in the Diocese of Kajo Keji. Hardships in the area have been made worse by ongoing conflict and violence, which have resulted in more than 1.5 million refugees fleeing South Sudan, with a further 2.1 million people internally displaced (UN).



The conflict arose after South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011, which was followed by political infighting among the new ruling political party, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement. The establishment of peace is therefore a crucial consideration if famine is to be prevented. According to the Revd Joseph: 'If there is no room for peace, then famine is close. We are expecting a famine across the country if there is not

peace.' Dr Janice Proud, of Anglican Alliance, said: 'As the humanitarian situation deteriorates, the church is with the people, sheltering those who have fled their homes, reaching out to those in need of relief and comfort. 'Even in surrounding countries the church is responding, ministering to the displaced, providing relief support, but also offering psychosocial support and training in peace and reconciliation.

The All Saints' Mission partner featured on the boards in All Saints' this May is The Tanzanian Development Trust.

Martin's Sabbatical.

The bishop of Southwark has granted me a three-month period of Sabbatical (basically September to November) and I hope to make good use of it for travel, spiritual refreshment, study and maybe some new experiences. I'm at present in contact with the Diocese in Europe with a view to doing a 'locum' in one of the European Chaplaincy churches. So far in my application, there's quite a lot of admin to do with Safeguarding (!) and that may take some time. Having spent time in my youth in Iran (for a year, before University) and in my '30s in Nigeria (for nine years, teaching ordinands in a theological college), I do very much enjoy the international nature of Christ's church.

As for study, although I can be disciplined – being honest – it is often hard to get down to it! As Emma and I look together at the possibilities this Sabbatical provides, we'd be grateful for your prayers for the Lord's guidance as we plan. *Martin*

House Group Celebration

CELEBRATE was the theme for the day for house group members and anyone who was interested to find out more. In other words anyone could come along to the event that we held at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Carshalton Beeches on Saturday 22nd April. Only 15 minutes away from Sanderstead we enjoyed the opportunity to experience their wonderful centre. We have over 60 members in house groups at All Saints and St Edmunds and half attended the day.

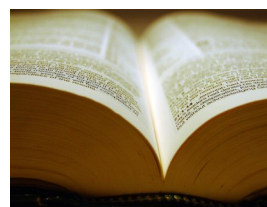
We began the day with uplifting worship and lively singing and then Jeremy Groombridge and Louise Ellis skilfully guided us through the day as we considered in small groups the good things about belonging to a house group, how we might structure our sessions, could we do things better? Louise asked if we had used 'the four W's' WELCOME; WORSHIP; the WORD; and WITNESS as a framework for our

meetings. This was a new idea for many and just one of the many suggestions that we shared with each other that we could try. Jeremy gave us insight into his plans for the Autumn and his intention to link Sunday sermons with the home group study and so it would be really good if we all use the same resource for the Autumn term. There was also a consensus that we should call our groups 'home' groups rather than house groups; home emphasising the groups are about people and relationship and not buildings.

It's encouraging when we share good news and we should not undervalue the benefit of us all coming together to praise the Lord, enjoy each others' company and to discover and learn new things. We should do this more often. The home groups for this term start on the week commencing 8th May and so if you haven't experienced belonging to a home group why not give it a try? My contact number is 020 8657 0482. *Rosemary Kempell*

The Word Of God, Fresh For Today.

I am arranging a Sanderstead Bible Week at All Saints Church, from Monday 14 to Friday 18 August this year (2017), with some excellent bible teachers and preachers already lined up. What is the purpose? One of our mission aims in All Saints is for all of us to 'GROW in Discipleship', that is, grow in our understanding of the Christian faith and learn more how to put it into practice. To that end, as well as Sunday services and sermons, we have homegroups – and our 'Celebration of Housegroups' day on 22nd April. Sanderstead Bible Week has a similar purpose: to help us go deeper into our faith in Jesus Christ, and to enjoy God more. For the afternoon sessions at 3pm, Rev Dr Simon Stocks will be preaching on 'God's Word in the Psalms'. The evening sessions at 8pm will have different speakers on different New Testament passages with the overall theme of "Amazing Grace".

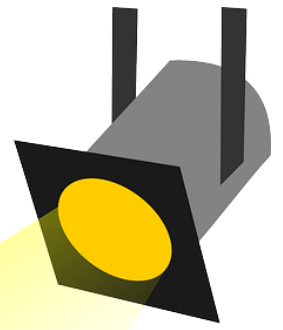


Whether you have read the bible for many years, or you feel that you have hardly started, Bible Week is for you. Please do plan to come along; make a note of the dates in your diary today. *Martin*

Sanderstead Team is going through a Time of Change!

In November 2016, Rev Grant Cohen was licensed as priest in charge of St James Riddlesdown, as well as Sanderstead Team Vicar with responsibility for St Mary's. After careful consultation, St Mary's took the decision to leave the Sanderstead Team Ministry. On 15 February this year, Sanderstead Parochial Church Council (PCC) received St Mary's decision, with all good wishes to Grant and the congregations of St Mary and of St James. Whilst the necessary legal processes will probably take some time, our aspiration is to have them completed by the end of 2017. As Rector, I called a meeting for the DCCs of St Antony's, St Edmund's and All Saints with Archdeacon Chris Skilton, so we could begin to plan for the future. In terms of considering the best structure for the remaining Team Ministry, the Archdeacon's strong recommendation was that decisions on that should be at the end of a process, not the beginning. We needed to start with consideration of the Ministry and Mission needs across the three existing churches (on the assumption that two stipendiary clergy posts would be maintained). This should include an "audit" of needs & resources, and definition of our identity and what is important/distinctive about us as a Church for each place. It should cover where we are now and where we will be in 5 years' time. There will be quite a lot of work to do, but there is a clear sense of hope at the opportunities we have to enliven the work of all three churches. *Martin*

Spotlight on ...



Each month, we'd like to shine spotlight on one of the things we do in the parish.

It could be a group that meets regularly, or a particular person. I'd love to hear from you if you would like your group or congregation to be featured here in future.

Due to this being a last minute idea for inclusion in our new newsletter this month I thought I'd tell you a little more about myself! I'm Alice Price, and I've been working as the Rector's admin assistant for over a year now. You'll find me in the Rector's Office in the halls on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings 9am-1pm. I worship at St Francis Selsdon, which is a church on the Monks Hill estate. I've been there for 9 years, and have grown the youth work there over that time. I currently work 18 hours a week there running the youth club, football academy and mentoring programme that I set up. I also lead a group for the church youth, and organise trips when I can find the time. When I'm not serving here at All Saints or at St Francis, I can generally be found baking, reading or creating something. I'm married to Steve Price—a gospel illusionist. He performs his magic on cruise ships, in churches and all sorts of different places. With our busy, random schedules we try to always take Mondays off together, and you might see us out and about looking for geocaches. Geocaching is basically a worldwide treasure hunt that uses GPS co-ordinates to help you find things!

So that's me in a nutshell, next month we'll shine the spotlight on one of the activities in the parish.

“Patterns of Worship” Consultation.

In the February newsletter, I asked the question, 'Is it time to introduce change?', and invited All Saints congregation to talk it over and let me have views and opinions. Jesus said that the first commandment is to love God with all our hearts; so worship is a number one priority for us all. I am very grateful to you for giving this careful thought, and especially to all who have taken the time to write or email me with your replies. I had over 20 responses.

Responses were very varied, expressing quite a range of different viewpoints with no overall agreement. Some have explicitly requested that we maintain the current service pattern and make no change. Others raised questions concerning practical issues of timings and resources.

The recent All Saints' District Church Council (DCC) agreed that we should continue with the present patterns of worship for the present time, and I am happy with this. Changes in worship have to be agreed jointly by the priest and the church council. We shall continue to make our services of the highest standard, and as welcoming as possible to all.

I am very grateful for your responses, as I have gained a lot of knowledge and understanding from the replies; so for me it has been very worthwhile.

Please do continue to pray that as churches we shall be clear what our mission priorities are; we want to build and develop relationships within our community, so people find faith in Jesus Christ. *Martin*

Giving News

Bishop's Lent Appeal. Thank you all for your generous donations. £669.00 was raised at All Saints' including gift aid tax recovered.

The Disasters Emergency Committee (D.E.C.) has put out an urgent appeal for donations for the victims of famine and drought across Africa. At All Saints' if you are able to support this, please place your donation in the YELLOW envelopes at the end of each pew. If you are a tax payer and would like us to reclaim the tax element of your gift please complete the details on the front of the envelope clearly. If you are not a tax payer, please leave the details blank. Cheques should be made payable to Sanderstead All Saints PCC. For anyone wishing to pay electronically, you can transmit your donation to Sort code: 55-70-30 Account: 34786996, but PLEASE complete the yellow envelope and place an advice note inside, then place your gift in the offertory plate or hand in to the office. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

Reordering of All Saints' Church

Following the lively discussion at the All Saints AGM on 2 April our clergy and churchwardens wrote to the Bishop of Southwark expressing concern about the negative attitude being taken towards our reordering proposals, contrasting this with the examples of more positive decisions in other dioceses. The letter expressed the hope that Southwark Diocese would recognise that the balance was tilting too far in favour of preservation and against an environment where all churches could support their congregations and reach out to their local communities. With this correspondence in mind the DCC meeting on 26 April decided to postpone a decision on whether to fast track a more limited reordering scheme comprising installing display screens, removing the pews in the north aisle and possibly also putting in a new disabled toilet with lift access to the vestry. The DCC will return to the issue at its next meeting on 13 June by which time the possible fast track scheme will have been prepared in more detail and hopefully a response received from Southwark Diocese.

Your PCC

Churchwardens : Lynne Davison (All Saints'), Maria Linford (All Saints'), Linda Etheridge (St Antony's) (also Deanery Synod), Barbara Webster-Dudley (St Antony's), Chris Babbs (St Edmund's) (also Deanery Synod), Gill Pates (St Edmund's), Sylvia Keats (St Mary's), Deborah Rastall (St Mary's)

Diocesan Synod : Rosemary Kempself

Deanery Synod : (All Saints') Veronica de Grasse-Grant, Kevin Wright, Indrani Balachandran, Two vacancies, (St Edmund's) Chris Babbs (Sec), Richard Wragg, (St Antony's) Linda Etheridge, Jeremy Dearden, (St Mary's) Kim Brown, Ben Laundon, One vacancy

Parochial Church Council : (All Saints') Piers Hubbard, Michael Rowland, Marc Smith, Susan E Thomas, (St Edmund's) Julia Rider, One vacancy, (St Antony's) Two vacancies, (St Mary's) Clive Christensen, Tim Crump, One vacancy

(All Saints—in addition to the above, on April 2nd we elected new members to the DCC: Michael Turner, Katheryn Hewitt, Robin Gordon and Judith Robinson. The electoral roll has 227 members, up 6 on 2016.)

Around and About Sanderstead ...



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.

Songfest A free concert at Croydon University Hospital Chapel: Maria Gayle-Rogers, Carol-Anne Grainger and John Collis (2 Sopranos and a Piano). 21st May, 4pm, booking is advised 020 8401 3105

Butterfly Baby Memorial Service 28th May at 3pm, Croydon University Hospital Chapel. This service is for parents who have lost a baby of any gestation however recently or long ago.

Parlour Players are performing 'It Runs in the Family' by Ray Cooney on Thurs 11th, Fri 12th, Sat 13th May 7.45pm in Sanderstead United Reformed Church Main Hall. Tickets (£9 & £8) from 01883 381884 or 020 8657 2632 or www.parlourplayers.co.uk

Plant and Produce Sale Sat 27th May 10-12am, Sanderstead United Reformed Church Main Hall

Quiet Day Saturday June 10th, 10am to 4pm, Wychcroft House, Bletchingley, RH1 4NE 'Come to the table' led by Chris Chapman. Again and again in the bible, the kingdom of heaven is likened to a feast. God seeks us out and invites us to sit with him at table. This day will help us become more aware of how God is with us, whether our life at this point is smooth or hard. God's presence begins to heal our wounds and draw us into life. Through the day there will be a balance of input and quiet spaces for personal reflection and prayer. Cost: £35 including full lunch and refreshments. Allergies/special diets catered for please advise when booking. wychcroft@southwark.anglican.org or call on 01883 743041.

What's on in May

Please look at the website for regular Sunday services www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk

WHEN?	WHERE?	WHAT?
8th, 8pm	St Catherine's Aisle, All Saints'	Joy Gadsby will be joining us in St. Catherine's Aisle, who will once again give us one of her interesting talks, this time, "Tuning Your Five Stringed Harp". Please come and join us, no need to be a member.
9th, 8pm	Christ Church, Purley	Archdeacon's visitation, 7.15pm for refreshments.
10th, 8pm	All Saints'	PCC
16th, 10am	Rector's Office	All Saints' DCC Standing Committee
19th, 10am-12pm	All Saints' Halls	Coffee Pot, All welcome for coffee, cakes and company.
21st, 3pm	All Saints' Halls	Family Fun Hour
21st, 6pm	All Saints'	Fresh Encounters. There will be a new series beginning in May entitled 'Witnesses to God's Glory'. The first one on 21st May will focus on Hildegard of Bingen.
25th, 8pm	St Mary's	Holy Communion for Ascension Day, Bishop David Atkinson will be preaching.
27th, 9-10am	All Saints'	Prayer Meeting
2nd June, 10am-12pm	All Saints' Halls	Coffee Pot, All welcome for coffee, cakes and company.

Rector's Diary.

9, 17 & 24 May. I am taking Communion Services at one of the Warlingham Churches.

26th May to 10th June: I shall be on annual leave.

Future Dates For Your Diary

Fresh Encounters will be on 25th June and 23rd July.

Sunday 2nd July will be a Community Celebration for St Antony's 60th Anniversary (probably in the afternoon but not confirmed yet)

Sunday 17 September Bishop Jonathan will be presiding and preaching at an 11am Holy Communion Service to celebrate the 60 years of St Antony's.