

Sanderstead Team Newsletter

August 2017

Welcome to the 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

Grant writes ...

Following a friend's recommendation, I recently watched the BBC 1 drama Broken, which followed the ministry of Fr. Michael Kerrigan, a loving and caring Roman Catholic priest who looks after his struggling parish in all their vulnerabilities. I'm guessing that for some, it revealed many surprises of what full-time ministry can often entail, and the ways in which clergy themselves sometimes struggle with the vulnerabilities and sorrows that come their way, with the knowledge that they too are broken and fragile. In the ordinal – the service that effectively outlines the job description of a priest – we are called to be servants and shepherds among the people to whom we are sent... to search for God's children in the world.

But while being a priest is a specific ministry, the New Testament reveals that all Christians are called to be a 'royal priesthood'.

"You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a Royal priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Pet. 2:5)

As living stones in our communities, all of us who have a relationship with Christ are called to address the needs of those we meet, to be servants and ministers of grace.

Yet serving is not something that comes naturally to most people.

Being a servant probably brings to mind images of countless Africans taken against their will to live lives of subjugation in the West, or nameless migrant workers who work for a pittance so that we in the West can have cheap food and clothes. Such images make the idea of servant-hood very unappealing.

One of the clearest pictures Jesus painted for us of what it means to be a servant is found in John 13. With no servant at the last supper to greet the disciples at the door with a basin and a towel to refresh their tired, dirty feet, Jesus gets up, takes off his outer clothing and, wrapping a towel around his waist, he washes his disciples' feet.

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

In training before the war, Rafe McCawley was one of America's top fighter pilots. When the United States initially held back from entering the war, Rafe volunteered to help us in our fight against Germany. Walking by some planes that had been badly damaged from the previous day's battle, Rafe was greeted by the commander of the British squadron.

As the commander showed him the plane he would be flying, a messenger announced to the commander that two more British planes had just been shot down. Turning to Rafe he asks, "Are all Yanks as anxious as you to get themselves killed?"

"I'm not anxious to die, sir, I'm anxious to matter," was his reply.

None of us is anxious to die for Jesus, just as most of us are not anxious to be servants. But we are all anxious to matter.

As a royal priesthood in our parish and servants of Christ and each other, I wonder whose feet will we wash, whose vulnerabilities will we seek to minister to? How will our lives matter?

Fr. Grant Cohen, St Mary's Sanderstead.

The Great- Get-Together June 17th-18th 2017

Responding to the Archbishop's urging that we take part in the Great-Get-Together in June, I opened my house to my neighbours on both those days, being the anniversary of the murder of Jo Cox MP, murdered by a man crying "Britain First." She had said, "I still believe that we have more in common than what divides us." I wanted to join in the effort to combat the hatred of racists and terrorists in anyway one could. The Archbishop said: *"The Great Get Together is an excellent opportunity for all of us to strengthen the ties that bind us – as local communities and as a country – and to practice our values of hospitality, welcome and generosity, which are a gift that followers of Jesus Christ can model for the benefit of our wider society. The Great Get Together is a fitting tribute to the life and legacy of Jo Cox MP, her public service and her commitment to the inclusion and flourishing of all people in society. So I encourage you wholeheartedly to host a Great Get Together in your community and to do so in partnership with Near Neighbours, whose inspiring work has enabled local communities across the country to work and live together effectively."* This suggestion came to me via The Church Urban Fund who also supported the initiative.

I invited every house in my Close and the neighbouring Close to a tea party on both those days, and was delighted at the response. Of course they were mainly neighbours who already knew me, which was to be expected, but nevertheless they included my Indian neighbour and her daughter, and my Muslim neighbour with her three daughters, whose families may not have been known to others there. As it was Ramadan, the Muslim family could eat nothing, not even water, so we plied them with cakes to take home for when they broke fast in the evening!

With all the hatred and divisive influences today there is so little one can do to counter it so it felt good to be able to do this at least. It is hoped that this may become an annual event, and I very much look forward to that. Do think of doing something similar yourselves – it was a great feeling!

Wendy Holt

Life Explored

I am planning to run a course in the autumn dealing with some basic but extremely important aspects of Christianity. Several people have expressed a desire to participate so I am planning to run it on alternate weeks from September during the daytime. The course is entitled "Life Explored" and has been designed by the people who run "Christianity Explored". It covers the following ground:

Session 1 The Good God

Session 2 The Trustworthy God

Session 3 The Generous God

Session 4 The Liberating God

Session 5 The Fulfilling God

Session 6 The Life-Giving God

Session 7 The Joyful God

If you'd like to be part of this programme please let me know as soon as possible so that I can start preparing the material and making the necessary arrangements. My initial view is that we could do this on alternate Wednesday mornings using Flat 2a as our base.

It promises to be a good course and as well as generating a lot of interesting discussions it could be life changing!

The sooner you tell me you'd like to be part of this, the better - so that I can begin planning!

Jeremy

Croydon Episcopal Area Lay Conference, June 2017

Serve, Enable, Lead: Resourcing Discipleship and Lay Leadership.

A group of five members from St Antony's and St Edmund's and many from other churches met in June to work through the program for this conference as set out in the excellent information/leaflet packs. This was a real opportunity to 'meet together' and share the Christian Faith.

Having gathered, it began with Morning Worship, followed by a lively Keynote talk by Mark Russell on Inspired discipleship: real faith and real life. He gave examples of ways of linking in with "outsiders" and pointed out that Jesus chose imperfect people, damaged, misfits, people who got it wrong but were selected by God to reach out to others.

We then split into smaller groups for the first workshop sessions. About 200 people attended the conference and we had each chosen 2 or 3 from a wide range of subjects covering many aspects of life within and outside church, some practical and others more spiritual.

Amalgamating again we were encouraged by Ruth Martin to remember how important it is to engage in bible study, keeping us focussed on our relationship with God and Jesus Christ.

A lunch break followed with a delicious range of dishes on offer, with speedy service by the cheerful school catering team at St Bede's, Redhill, before Bishop Jonathan called us back to hear his Keynote talk, Marks of a Healthy Church, during which he emphasised the Southwark Vision to walk together etc..... Finally a further 2 workshop sessions of our own choice before an address led by Revd Canon Moira Astin, Archdeacon of Reigate, and closing Afternoon Worship including renewal to Christ of baptismal commitment. Opportunities for reflection and gaining a broader understanding of prayer were included in the day.

This proved to be a fast moving, challenging but exhilarating day; encouraging us all to reach out to others. Do think about going to such a conference should the chance arise again.

New Rectory & Sabbatical

The workmen on site have recently put in a big spurt and we hope all will soon be finished. Emma and I are looking forward to moving in... SOON!! Please do continue to pray with us for the next few weeks, as it is quite stressful.

I'm looking forward to beginning my Sabbatical at the end of August. Simon Stocks has kindly agreed to give me some tutoring help as I do some reading in Old Testament studies, particularly looking at the Hope of the Jewish people at the time of Christ. I'm also looking forward to seeing a bit more of family members. For a month, Emma and I will be in Versailles, outside Paris, taking Sunday services at the English Church of St Mark.

Chris and Alison Hawksbee

Chris and Alison Hawksbee work for the gospel of Jesus Christ in Paraguay. Thanks to your generosity, All Saints supports them financially. If you would like to receive a copy of their regular Prayer Letter, please let Alice in the office know.

St Antony's 60th Anniversary Community Day

On Sunday 2 July we enjoyed an amazing afternoon of celebration with over 220 people about a third of whom were children. There were displays by Karate and Dance, and Pre-school merrily danced and sang, Hamsey Green Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Guides were also represented. There was face painting, hula hoop workshops, a bouncy castle, games, children's tattoos, and delicious cream teas.

It is a day which will long be remembered as a great celebration of St Antony's in the Community.





Sanderstead Bible Week

Sanderstead Bible Week, 14 – 18 August in All Saints Church. I do hope you are all looking forward to coming along to and taking part in Bible Week, as I am convinced it will be such a blessing to us. You don't need to have any specialist knowledge, or to feel in any way an 'expert' (!) Just come with an expectation of learning and growing in faith. Today, while having a tidy-up, I came across a bookmark:

THE WORD OF GOD – The Bible is more than a guidebook; it generates life, creates faith, produces change; frightens the devil; causes miracles; heals hurts; builds character; transforms circumstances; gives joy; overcomes problems; stamps on temptation; gives hope; releases power; cleanses our minds; brings things into being and guarantees our future forever.

Times and titles of the talks can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Visiting Preachers

We've been blessed to have some excellent speakers in the All Saints' pulpit recently; I hope you all have found them helpful! I think the best way of thinking of a preacher is 'someone who helps us to know what God is saying to us, so we can find and follow Jesus'. On 18th June, we had Will Cookson who is now Southwark Diocese's 'Dean of Fresh Expressions' after leading Springfield Church in Wallington for many years. Will preached on the mission that Christ sent the seventy "others" to do, making the point that sharing Christ is not something for the specially trained or ordained, but for normal people like us.

Then on 2nd July, Kevin Wren came to speak as Director of South Asian Concern. He told us how he came to faith in Christ, and what SAC is now doing to support and encourage Christians from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh etc. There is a significant work to be done among the South Asian 'diaspora' (all those who have left their mother country to live and work abroad) in the UK.

Then on 16th July, Ven Dr Joseph Ajaefobi came with his wife Uche, son Ifeanyi and daughter Adaobi. This was a very great pleasure for our Rector Martin, as Joseph was one of his theological students in the early 1990s at Trinity College, Umuahia, in Nigeria. Joe has been appointed as the Nigerian UK Chaplain.



Barbara Shakespeare

We are very sad that Barbara has died, for we shall all miss her vibrant faith in Jesus, her constant cheerfulness and persistent attitude of thinking of others before herself. It is a great comfort to know Barbara had a personal assurance of the love and mercy of her Lord, Jesus Christ, and that she died in the confident expectation of sharing in the resurrection to new life when Jesus comes again. Our thoughts and prayers are with husband Stanley, along with Matthew, Kate and family. One of Barbara's favourite poems was this one here, read at her funeral on Friday 14th July by her son Matthew.

*When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me.*

*And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.*

*I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells
And run my stick along the public railings
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick flowers in other people's gardens
And learn to spit.*

*You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go
Or only bread and pickle for a week
And hoard pens and pencils and beer mats and things in boxes.
But now we must have clothes that keep us dry
And pay our rent and not swear in the street
And set a good example for the children.
We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.*

*But maybe I ought to practice a little now?
So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised
When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple.*

Jenny Joseph



Transformed into the Likeness of Christ

(2 Corinthians 3: 18)

In our church services this coming Autumn, we will be looking at what it means to be “transformed”. That is an exciting word - it is so much stronger than merely making a few changes. So we will be looking at how the Gospel completely transforms our lives, and how worship, church, prayer, and even failure, can be transformational. At our Sanderstead Light, Morning Worship and Parish Praise services we will also be looking at examples of people in the Bible whose lives were transformed by God’s power and love.

In order to get the most out of this, we will be continuing the themes into our Homegroups. Notes have been prepared for the Homegroup meetings up to the beginning of December, each one providing a summary of the sermon, some points for discussion and prayer. Homegroups will also be invited to consider possible outreach activities as part of the programme. Do pray that as we go through this series we may find ourselves “transformed in to the likeness of Christ”.

All our Homegroups will be following the same themes during the Autumn, and groups will also be invited to explore some outreach opportunities - either as individual groups or in collaboration between groups. We hope you will find this interesting and that it will open up new possibilities for your group.

If you aren't already a member of a Homegroup, now’s the time to join in and make the best of this Autumn series. If you would like to join a group, please speak to Rosemary Kempshall or myself. They are for *everyone* across the Sanderstead Team.

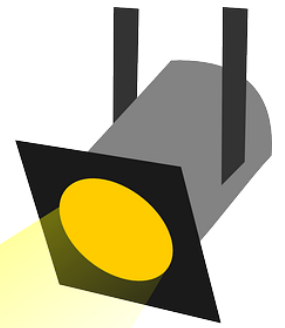
In order to synchronise the Homegroup sessions with the sermons, we are suggesting the following dates for Homegroup meetings (although individual groups may vary some of these dates, so speak to your group leader for confirmation): Weeks commencing 4 and 18 September, 2, 16 and 23 October, 6 and 20 November, 4 December.

I hope you enjoy these sessions throughout the Autumn, and that they will stimulate new ideas and discussions. Don’t hesitate to ask questions - especially if there’s something you don’t understand or you’d like me to expand on. I’m willing to take any questions you may have and answer them (to the best of my ability!) in the following week’s sermon. Let’s learn together and allow God to transform our lives!

Revd Jeremy



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. Alice would love to hear from you if you would like your group or congregation to be featured here in future.

... Sunday Lunch

What is Sunday Lunch ?

Sunday Lunch is a hot, 2 course meal with coffee/tea and mints provided by a team of volunteer cooks on the first Sunday of each month in All Saints' Small Hall.

Who Comes?

Our guests are mainly retired people who enjoy having a good lunch cooked for them in company with others.

Is it just for All Saints' People?

No, it's open to anyone in Sanderstead. People book through Sanderstead Neighbourhood Care by the Wednesday before the lunch.

What about people with mobility difficulties?

When they book a place they can ask for a lift. A team of volunteers help with lifts and then stay to help the cooks with the lunch. They sit down together with the guests and cooks.

How much does it cost?

It costs £4.00 per lunch and people pay at the lunch. The volunteers and cooks eat for free.

Is any help needed from the congregation?

Yes definitely. We are always looking for volunteer helper/drivers and more pairs of cooks would mean our existing cooks wouldn't need to do it as often! Speak to Fanny Smith if you're interested.



Around and About Sanderstead ...



Hard Questions: A series of discussions hosted by St Swithun's and St Mark's Purley.

Are you at risk of Compassion Fatigue? - 7.30pm, 13th August at St Swithun's Purley, Vicarious Trauma can threaten all who care for others, from aid workers to family carers, with clinical psychologist Dr Paula Redmond.

Science and Faith Lecture: 'Science and the Historicity of the Bible: the Exodus, the Long Day of Joshua, and the Resurrection' - Sir Colin Humphreys, CBE, FRS. Open to anyone interested in the impact of Science on Christianity. The event is free of charge - suggested donation of £1. It will be about 45 minutes long, followed by a Q & A session lasting about 20-25 minutes. Christ Church Purley, on Tues., Aug. 8th, 2017 @ 7 p.m.

Sanderstead Neighbourhood Care are looking for help in the kitchen in 2 ways: 1) someone to prepare the food (either a homemade soup and a dessert or a ploughman's and a dessert - depending on which date the person is doing Young At Heart) - the person would need to be prepared to shop for the food, make in advance when it is soup and organise the kitchen on the day - this person would be on a rota and would probably be asked to help once or twice a quarter. 2) someone to generally help in the kitchen on the day to dish up, wash up etc - again on a rota basis to suit them. Please contact Debbie in the SNC office.

SNC will be having a **Book Sale** on Saturday 30th September, 2-4pm in the All Saints' Small Hall. Come along to help them raise some money. Refreshments will also be on sale.

The SNC **Quiz Night** will be on 4th November. Put the date in your diary!

Purley Classics presents Lunchtime music recitals. Wednesday 9th August 'Toby White (Cello) and Rosie Richardson (Piano). Debussy Sonata and Martinu Rossini Variations.' Wednesday 13th September 'Jonatan Bougt (Classical Guitar). Music by Mauro Giuliani, J S Bach and Agustin Barrios Mangore. 1.15-2pm at The Lounge, Purley United Reformed Church, Brighton Road, Purley. Open to all with a retiring collection to cover costs.

USPG appoints a new Chief Executive

The Revd Duncan Dormor, Dean of St John's College, Cambridge, will be the next CEO of USPG. He succeeds Janette O'Neill, who retires after six years in post.

Commenting on his appointment Duncan Dormor said: 'I am absolutely delighted to be offered this opportunity to lead USPG as it works with partner churches across the Anglican Communion in seeking to transform the lives of individuals and communities through the power of the gospel. Faithful to its history, radical in its proclamation, I have long admired the way in which USPG acts in solidarity to empower local churches across the globe in ways that respect their autonomy and culture. Having spent many years in ministry with young people I know first-hand of USPG's thirst to engage with the pressing global challenges of injustice and poverty that scar our world and I would seek to harness such vision to deepen and renew the life of the church across the world through USPG.'



In need of a little peace?

Fresh Encounters services are contemplative in flavour with poetry, music and silence as well as some liturgy. They are on Sunday evenings at All Saints' at 6 pm once a month.

Fresh Encounters dates for the autumn will be : 17 September, 15 October and 19 November. The theme will be 'The Grace'. We shall look at 'The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ'; 'The love of God'; and 'The fellowship of the Holy Spirit'. Do put the dates in your diary now!

Words of Life - a quiet morning exploring creative writing, with Revd Andrew Rumsey, Vicar of Oxted who is experienced in leading such events and giving encouragement.

It will be held on Saturday 30 September 2017, at Sanderstead Methodist Church, Limpsfield Road, Sanderstead CR2 9EF.

10.30 am to 12.30 pm – coffee from 10.00 am

30 places available.

To book please contact Penny by Friday 22 September

ppennybird@yahoo.co.uk or 020 8657 1176

This event is offered to all by WAYS IN TO PRAYER an ecumenical group set up under the Anglican Diocese of Southwark

What's On In August?

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

SANDERSTEAD BIBLE WEEK		
	AFTERNOONS, 2.30PM FOR 3PM START God's Word in the Psalms	EVENINGS, 7.30PM FOR 8PM START Amazing Grace
MON 14TH	Psalm 19, Looking Good, Rev Dr Simon Stocks	John 9:1-12, 18-25, Saved by God's Grace, Canon Martin Greenfield
TUES 15TH	Psalm 51, Looking Back, Rev Dr Simon Stocks	Ephesians 1:1-14, Grace from first to last, Canon Trevor Mapstone
WED 16TH	Psalm 13, Looking Down, Rev Dr Simon Stocks	1 Peter 1:1-12, Grace in sufferings, Canon Dr Sue Clarke
THUR 17TH	Psalm 67, Looking Up, Rev Dr Simon Stocks	Romans 5:1-11, Confidence in God's Grace, Rev Peter Irwin-Clark
FRI 18TH	Psalm 105, Looking Over, Rev Dr Simon Stocks	Romans 8:28-39, Grace for eternity, Ven Chris Skilton

Sanderstead Staycation

Come on holiday without even leaving Sanderstead! Join us for our 'Holiday at Home' travelling around the Mediterranean. We'll be sampling foods, crafts and activities from each country. Anyone aged over 18 is welcome, so pick up a booking form today!

Tuesday 29th, Wednesday 30th, Thursday 31st August, 10.30am-3.30pm each day at All Saints' Church Halls.

£6 a day or £15 for all 3 days (lunch included).

Rector's Diary

Martin's Sabbatical is September to November 2017

Future Dates For Your Diary

There will be no Mothers' Union Meeting in August. However, please make a note in your diaries on September 1st the Wave of Prayer will take place at All Saint's, time to be confirmed.

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.