

# All Saints' Church Newsletter

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

October 2016

## *Martin writes ...*

### The Good News is... God is Judge!

A few weeks ago, I was preparing a sermon from the book of the Old Testament 7th century B.C. prophet Jeremiah (4:11-12): *'A scorching wind blows towards my people. Now I pronounce my judgments against them.'* Despite some misunderstandings, the judgement of the Lord is a significant part of the church's message, part of the truth and the gospel that we proclaim. We affirm it every time we say the Creed: *[Jesus] is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead'*. God's judgement is Biblical, Christian and Personal.

Biblical. The bible teaches clearly and consistently that God is Judge, and one day all will be judged. For example, we read: *'Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?'* (Genesis 18:25). There is also a very positive passage in Psalm 96: *Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy. Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.*

To judge is to uphold justice; to do justice is to make things fair and right, and that includes dealing with what is wrong. We require and expect our national government to carry out judgement fairly, and it is interesting to note the stated aims of sentencing convicted criminals (Sect 142 of UK Criminal Justice Act 2003): that crime be punished and reduced (by deterrent); that the public be protected; that criminals be reformed; that the victim receive reparation where possible.

When something is wrong, something must be done to sort it out. It is the same with God. Judgement is God sorting out what is wrong. A God who did not judge would be an unjust monster.

Christian. Judgement is also a New Testament doctrine, taught by Jesus and the apostles. Jesus said *'Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire'* (Matt 7:19). The house built on the sand would fall and be destroyed. Towns that did not repent were warned of judgement. The apostles proclaimed the good news that God would establish justice on earth: *For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead* (Acts 17:31). God will not allow sin and evil to triumph for ever. God sent Jesus to save (see John 3:16, 5:24) and it is never God's will that any should perish. However, there is judgement for any who will not repent and believe the gospel.

Personal. God loves and cares for all, even when he judges. He is fully and personally involved. His will is that all should be saved, but we may refuse his salvation. *For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.* (John 3:17-18).

In this, biblical judgement is different. In the UK our judges are not personally involved; nor do we want them to be. Our judiciary is separate from the executive. We expect our judges to apply the law truthfully, without emotion and not be personally involved.

However the bible shows that God is personally involved in judgement. This may be why the bible speaks of the 'anger' or 'wrath' of God. It is his laws we have broken; it is his covenant that we refuse; it is his salvation we ignore; it is his heart we break when we do not repent.

The judgement of God may cause us to feel fear, and perhaps that is a good thing. It sobers us, wakes us up to reassess the way we have been living, and to repent. It humbles us. Before God, our self-righteousness is stripped away and we know we are sinners. We are not in control and we need God. It reassures us that there is Justice in this universe, a final court of arbitration, where the wicked will be punished. And that is good news...

## Future events :

**Mothers' Union** Come along to the Garden Room at All Saints' on October 10th at 8pm to hear a talk by Mandy Campbell called, "The Silence of the Lambs", communicating with the hard of hearing. You do not have to be a member to attend—all are welcome.

**Harvest Festival** We will be collecting non-perishable food for the Refugee Centre. They would be especially grateful for tinned fish, tinned fruit and tinned tomatoes. Please bring your donations to the Harvest service on Oct 23rd.

**Harvest Lunch** A hot lunch will be served on Oct 23rd following coffee in the Church, in the large hall after the 10am service. Tickets are £3.00 each and will be available from the churchwardens. Soft drinks will be provided, if you wish to have wine with the meal you need to bring your own. Could You Make a Cottage Pie for Harvest Lunch? If so please sign the list at the back of church indicating how many people your pie will feed. (Keep your receipts for reimbursement.) Thank you very much

**Fresh Encounters** (6pm at All Saints') The programme for the autumn will be entitled Dwelling Places ... On Sunday 16th October ...a place of rest (Psalm 84 )

On Sunday 20th November ...a place to contemplate (Psalm 27/Psalm 63)

**Family Fun at All Saints** We are grateful for all the help and support given by members of the congregation. Future dates for this Sunday afternoon event are 16 October and 20 November and an afternoon event on Wednesday 7 December in the church. All will start at 3:00pm. If you would like to know more then please speak to Judith, Sue Thomas or Emma. There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church or you can contact Sue on: susanethomas@aol.com or 07870 318366

**Children's Society Race Night**, Friday 28th October. Our annual Race Night event will be held at St Antony's Church, at 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start. Races are screened throughout the evening with a chance to bet on each one, either on the Tote or on an individual runner. Tickets – which include a supper of fish, sausage, chicken or pie & chips plus an ice cream dessert – are £10 but please bring your own drink and glasses. Please book in advance by Monday 24th October, either via your Children's Society representative or Race Night organisers, Pam and Jeremy Dearden (jeremydearden@blueyonder.co.uk, tel: 020 8657 3432). It's an exciting evening with a chance to make a profit and also contribute to the Society's important work with disadvantaged children. Do come; we're sure you'll enjoy it!

**Concert** On Sunday 16th October at 2.30pm in All Saints' Church, the young pianist Christopher Sayles will return to introduce and perform three Beethoven Sonatas, to extend the programme he presented a year ago. Entry will be free, with refreshments and a retiring collection at the end.

## News :

**St Antony's altar** has recently been restored following some burn damage from candles. The new Altar Frontal was dedicated on Sunday 28 August .

**All Saints' Church Choir** 'To sing is to pray twice.' These words of St. Augustine seem appropriate to preface an article I have been asked to write about All Saints choir, which as regular church members will know, sings at the 10am traditional Choral Eucharist on the first and third Sunday of each month, and also on special occasions such as the annual Carol Service, when some extra singers like to augment our number.

The choir has a long history, and indeed one current member first became associated in 1946 (when there was both sung Matins and Evensong every Sunday!), and after a break enforced through work commitments, rejoined sometime after I became choirmaster and organist in 1995. A photograph of the choir showed twenty-one members in 1950; by the mid-nineties, events had conspired to reduce numbers considerably. Over succeeding years, however, there has been reasonable growth, and at full strength our membership now exceeds a dozen.



For each Choral Eucharist we prepare one item to sing alone, which we hope provides an inspiration for worship: we have a large repertoire of such items or arrangements suited to all occasions, and to our own vocal resources. In addition we also have an important role to lead congregational singing, which at All Saints is certainly good.

One member finds the choir an opportunity 'to rejoice in the glory of God, practising as a group to perfect our singing, to enhance words and lead the congregation: the gift of music is for all to enjoy'. I would add that choral singing in parts brings to worship a wonderful sense of unity out of diversity. Outside of church we offer our support to different causes within the community: we have sung carols in Waitrose or on the streets, have entertained in residential homes, and shared services with other choirs. Donations for our privately recorded CD and other events involving choir members have also enabled us to make a positive contribution to funds for the work of All Saints. Socially we have had occasions on which to enjoy each another's company at choir parties.

No choirmaster writes about his choir without a plea for new members! Compared with many choirs our time commitment is relatively modest, and in some cases our musical backgrounds are modest too (though three recent young leavers have gone on to greater things: one as a choral scholar at Cambridge, another as a singer at Warwick university; and a third is now organist at St. Mary's as well as holding a year's organ scholarship at the Royal Festival Hall). Again, a current choir member reflects: 'I hesitated before joining the choir, having little confidence in my ability to hold a line while others were singing in harmony. I met with much encouragement and support, and am thoroughly enjoying the discovery that I can sing: a most positive experience'.

In the preface to a book of sacred pieces published in 1588, the English composer William Byrd commended 'well sorted and ordered voices .....to honour and serve God therewith', concluding: 'Since singing is so good a thing, I wish all men would learn to sing'. In Byrd's day the men did most of the singing; nowadays all are welcome! Maybe come and join us. John Jones (01883 347367)

**Pledge 2017.** It is that time of year when we ask everyone to review their giving to our church. Pledge packs are available at the back of church for everyone. Please collect yours, and please also help by delivering to your neighbours to save us posting them. If you are not on the Electoral Roll please take an envelope marked 'Friend of All Saints'. You may like to bring your completed reply card and the brochure containing the Pledge Prayer on 16th October, our Pledge Sunday when the preacher will be Paul Roberts. And please bear in mind: TRIO. The Responsibility Is Ours.

**Free Wills Month.** For anyone over 55 years of age who has not written their will, professional help is available free during October, but you will be asked to make a donation to charity in lieu of payment. Particular focus will be given to leaving a legacy to your church or other charity.

More information can be found at: [www.willaid.org.uk](http://www.willaid.org.uk)

**Mary Duncan** writes from her new home in Chipping Campden, that she has settled well in the delightful Cotswolds. She is just a stone's throw from the Parish Church where she has been warmly welcomed. The last few months have however been very difficult for her what with a broken ankle, a damaged back and now being blind in one eye. She has spent her leaving collection on a Bose radio and CD player and is greatly enjoying its superb audio quality. Any visitors are always welcome and she has been so pleased to have had friends from Sanderstead call in on her, as well as Simon Butler and Colin and Val Ottewell. She sends her love.

**PCC Treasurer** Can anyone with financial skills help us, please? The PCC is in urgent need of a Treasurer, to succeed Clive Christensen who has had to retire from the role, after many years' service for which we are very grateful. The Role of PCC Treasurer is a vital one in the governance of the parish, particularly as regards our position as a Registered Charity. It is simply a post we cannot do without!

Having said that, it is not a role which is very time-consuming, because the bulk of the work on the financial side is done by the four DCC Treasurers. A recent decision by PCC has significantly reduced the workload. The tasks of the PCC Treasurer are:

PARISH ACCOUNTS—1) Preparing the required consolidation of the four church accounts into one parish account, eliminating external transactions, is a key issue. But the PCC has decided that, for the 2016 accounts (and for later years if desired), this task will be carried out externally, thus saving the Treasurer a considerable amount of work. 2) Presenting the consolidated accounts to the Independent Examiner &

Auditor; dealing with queries etc. 3) Presenting the consolidated accounts to PCC & APCM. 4) Reporting on the accounts etc to the Charity Commission (a much easier task now it is on-line).

PCC—1) Advising PCC on financial matters. 2) Executing financial transactions, policies etc as required by PCC (in practice, because financial responsibilities are generally with DCCs, this does not happen very often).

PAYMENTS AND RECOVERY—1) Paying a small number of bills (audit fee, PCC insurance) etc on behalf of PCC from individual church account. 2) Recovering appropriate contributions from other churches.

PAYROLL—Acting as the link between the churches and the firm providing payroll documentation services; on-line reports to HMRC; remitting tax/NI payments to HMRC; and recovering the appropriate amounts from the churches.

Anyone who becomes PCC Treasurer and is not already a member of PCC can very easily be co-opted.

If anyone with financial skills is interested in this very important role, please can they contact Chris Babbs, PCC Secretary, 020 8668 2775, [chrisbabbsuk@waitrose.com](mailto:chrisbabbsuk@waitrose.com).

## Further afield :

**A Quiet Evening 'The Wonder and the Silence'** will be held at St James Church, Riddlesdown 7-9pm (arrivals from 6.45pm) on Thurs 20th October. There are times when we can but stand, or sit, in wonder and silence at all the truly amazing aspects of our Creator's work. For more info call 07956061533.

**Wychroft Quiet Day** 'Everybody's got to be somewhere' will reflect on the importance of place in our lives and how place shapes our being, our prayer, our relationships. Oct 18th, 10am-4pm led by Chris Skilton, £26.50 including lunch and refreshments. Contact Chris Chapman, 020 7939 9474.

**Sanderstead United Reformed Church** are holding a **Superheroes Holiday Club** from Wednesday 26th to Friday 28th October --2pm to 5pm each afternoon. This is open to all primary school children.

Further details and a registration form can be seen on [surc.org.uk](http://surc.org.uk) Places are limited so there may be a waiting list but do please enquire.

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

17th September—Wedding of Paul Crampton and Sophie Lapworth

18th September—Giselle Stacey was confirmed at Emmanuel Church, South Croydon.

## October Calendar Dates

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| 2nd  | <b>8.30am Holy Communion</b><br><b>10am Parish Eucharist</b>  |
| 9th  | <b>8.30am Holy Communion</b><br><b>10am Parish Praise</b>   |
| 16th | <b>8.30am Holy Communion</b><br><b>10am Parish Eucharist</b><br><b>3pm Family Fun Hour</b><br><b>6pm Fresh Encounters</b>     |
| 23rd | <b>8.30am Holy Communion</b><br><b>10am Parish Eucharist followed by Harvest Lunch</b>  |
| 27th | 10am Mothers Union Holy Communion at St Marys   |
| 29th | 9am Prayer Meeting in the church  |
| 30th | <b>8.30am Holy Communion</b><br><b>10am Sanderstead Light in the church hall</b><br><b>10am Morning Worship in the church</b> |