

Sanderstead Team Newsletter

December 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 Rosanne the Monday of that week.

admin@sanderstead-parish.org.uk (please note new email address)

Jeremy writes ...

*Like a candle flame,
Flick'ring small
in our darkness.
Uncreated light
shines through infant eyes*

*God is with us, alleluia,
God is with us, alleluia,
Come to save us, alleluia,
Come to save us, alleluia,
Alleluia!*



As we celebrate, once again, the coming of Jesus Christ, God's Son, we remember his birth in the little town of Bethlehem - like a candle burning in pitch-darkness. The songwriter, Graham Kendrick, uses these simple words to testify to, *"The light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it...the true light, which enlightens everyone, is coming into the world"* (John 1).

Kendrick also wrote another well-known song: "Shine, Jesus, shine, Fill this land with the Father's glory. Blaze, Spirit, blaze, Set our hearts on fire". This Advent, as we welcome the light of the world, I'm sure many candles will be lit. Candles are so important and form a big part of our Christmas tradition. They are important, too, at other times. When we light our paschal candle each time we celebrate a baptism, we are reminded of the light of the risen Christ which we celebrate on Easter Sunday. We light smaller candles from it, and give the light to the newly baptised with the words: "God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light...you have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life. Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father."

At the time of writing this, at the end of November, I have already done two school Advent assemblies and the younger children are already getting excited about welcoming Jesus, the light of the world. Why is it, I wonder, that so many of us dread the run-up to Christmas? Even some members of the clergy aren't immune to complaining about the seasonal workloads and stresses! Maybe we all just put

under too much pressure to conform to the commercial and secular trends and demands. Why not this year just stand back and enjoy the richness, the wonder and the rejoicing.

It's all too easy to get sucked into an endless round of activities at this time of the year. There are celebrations to enjoy on the recreation ground as the Sanderstead lights are switched on. There is a special Christmas Carol Memorial service which has been organised by our friends from Eb-butt. There are bell-ringing concerts, carol services, crib services, toddler services, a Midnight Communion and another Communion service on Christmas Day. There are Mother's Union meals, Home Group socials, carols to be sung at Waitrose, outreach activities happening or being planned by Home Groups - the list goes on. It's great to be a part of such a thriving, happy Church Community. But for goodness sake, remember the reason for the season! I, for one, intend to take some time to "stand and stare" and be in wonder at what God has done in the incarnation. The fact that God has come to be "with us" in Emmanuel never ceases to amaze me!

This month, we welcome back Martin and Emma from their Sabbatical. They've been enjoying some time ministering in Paris, and we look forward to hearing more from them - be gentle with them, and give them a smooth and welcoming re-entry!

Sandra and I are extremely grateful to you all for the support you have given us over the past three months. We, too, are looking forward to what God has in store for us in the coming year - who knows what is planned? As I reminded those who gathered recently at the Thanksgiving Service for our dear friend Ivy Robinson, our own navigational skills might not be terribly strong, but like her, we can know and trust the one who himself said, *"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life"*.

Have a wonderful, amazing and peaceful Christmas, a very Happy New Year and keep that light shining!

*Stars and angels sing,
yet the earth
sleeps in shadows;
can this tiny spark
set a world on fire?*

*Yet his light shall shine
from our lives,
Spirit blazing,
As we touch the flame
of his holy fire*

WORDS AND MUSIC: GRAHAM KENDRICK.



Jeremy

Fresh Encounters



The Fellowship of the Holy Spirit

This was the theme of the most recent Fresh Encounters evening service at All Saints' Church. It was the third in a series of services exploring the prayer we know as The Grace. The first one, in September, looked at 'The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ'. The second, in October, was a joyful celebration of 'the Love of God', and this, the third, drew us in to 'The Fellowship of the Holy Spirit.'

The picture shows the focal point created in St Catherine's aisle. On the wall we see the doves, which symbolise the coming of the Holy Spirit to the assembled disciples at Pentecost. On the altar table is the Rublev icon of the Trinity and the fabrics pick up the colours of the three figures. There is also a chalice, reminding us that the chalice in the icon is inviting us to participate in the fellowship at the heart of the Trinity.

From the altar flows blue fabric with candles and sparkling pebbles. This represents the flow of the Holy Spirit out into the world, drawing us to the 'living water', which Jesus speaks of in John 7:37-39.

During the service we explored the fellowship of the Holy Spirit through passages of Scripture and poems. Music allowed us time to contemplate what it meant for each of us. We also heard excerpts from the works of Franciscan theologian Richard Rohr and from C. Baxter Kruger, who in his book *The Shack Revisited*, says this: **"To describe the Spirit is like trying to count the waves of the ocean or photograph the air." But "The Holy Spirit is about Life."**

According to the scriptures, Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, baptised in the Spirit, led and empowered by the Spirit, given great joy by the Spirit, cast out demons by the Spirit, heard his Father in the Spirit, and offered himself to the Father by the power of the Spirit. ...

As the One who gives life, the Spirit is inherently about relationship.

From the day of Pentecost on, the Spirit is everywhere and in to everything, but never visible and always completely unpredictable. She is alive and powerful and constantly moving. She inspires witness to Jesus and works within the deepest trenches of the human heart and its wounds. Or, perhaps I should say, she works within the root system of the garden of our souls."

Moments of silence and personal reflection form an integral part of each Fresh Encounters service. On this occasion, a prayer meditation allowed us time to contemplate the fellowship of the Holy Spirit for ourselves.

The service ended with worship and with the Grace said together in a version that used simple movement to enhance the meaning of the words.

After taking time to ponder the words of The Grace at Fresh Encounters, that prayer will never again be simply some words to finish a meeting. The richness of its meaning will remain with us.

Fresh Encounters services happen at All Saints' Church once a month at 6pm. If you enjoy a thought provoking, contemplative, ecumenical service using the arts to draw us in to a fresh encounter with God, this is for you. Everyone is very welcome. Our congregation come from a variety of local and not so local Christian communities, some from as far away as Beckenham and Bexley to be with us. **We look forward to welcoming you at the next Fresh Encounters service on February 24th at 6pm.**

Penny Bird, Elaine Leck & Angela Jones

All Saints' Green Team

RECORD HAUL OF GARDEN TOOLS

It was a record year for the All Saints' Green Team's annual garden tools recycling exercise. Well over 100 redundant tools collected from church members and other Sanderstead horticulturalists made their way in the boots of several cars to RHS Wisley on a sparkling morning in early November. Shovels, spades, shears, saws, secateurs and the odd dibber – the RHS staff were happy to take them all for passing on to HMP Wandsworth for renovation and a new life in school and community garden projects. It was certainly the largest consignment we had collected in the 5 years the scheme has been running at All Saints' and also we were told the biggest the RHS had received this year and possibly ever. So a big thank you to all who contributed or encouraged others locally to do so.

Funniest Caption Competition

During the Green Team's subsequent tour round the gloriously autumn coloured Wisley gardens, Joy Gadsby made the acquaintance of a beautifully carved Tyrannosaurus Rex. We thought this would make a good caption competition. Joy herself has suggested "90 and 90 million – which one's which?" If you'd like to enter please send your proposed caption to Richard at richardbird@yahoo.co.uk There will be a small prize (which won't be an old garden tool!) for the funniest entry.



Funny captions to Richard by Christmas richardbird@yahoo.co.uk

Family Fun

Family fun is held once a month at All Saints' on a Sunday afternoon, from 3-4pm, (although families always stay longer!) with an emphasis on FUN! For many families it is 'church', and we have built up good relationships with these families who come regularly. We have a lot of fun, providing creative crafts, stories, videos, games, songs, prayers and of course a tasty tea. We have a lovely group of dedicated helpers, who have as much fun as the children.

Our next big event will be the Family Fun Christmas, which we hold after school in the church. Our Christmas event last year and the year before saw over 40 children come to have Christmas Fun with their parents or carers. This year it is on **Thursday 7th December 3.15-5.00pm**. There are several ways in which you can get involved with this work, pray for our work with families and children, help us at our sessions, spread the word (by word of mouth or giving out leaflets), pass on any ideas you have for games, stories or crafts. Remember a church without glitter and mess is a church without children!

If you want to know more, contact Judith Robinson or Sue Thomas via the church office on children@sanderstead-parish.org.uk



5 loaves and 2 fish



Wind sock



Man through the roof



Jonah and the whale

Having a bowl of a time...!



After the Remembrance Sunday's service at All Saints' Church, the uniformed groups enjoyed an afternoon of ten-pin bowling and a burger. Here they are enjoying themselves. It was a real joy to have so many of them with us at the service, and to spend time with them afterwards. Many people were moved when the youngers read out the names of local people who had been killed in the war. A great time was had by all.



“Come, let us age!” by Wanda Nash

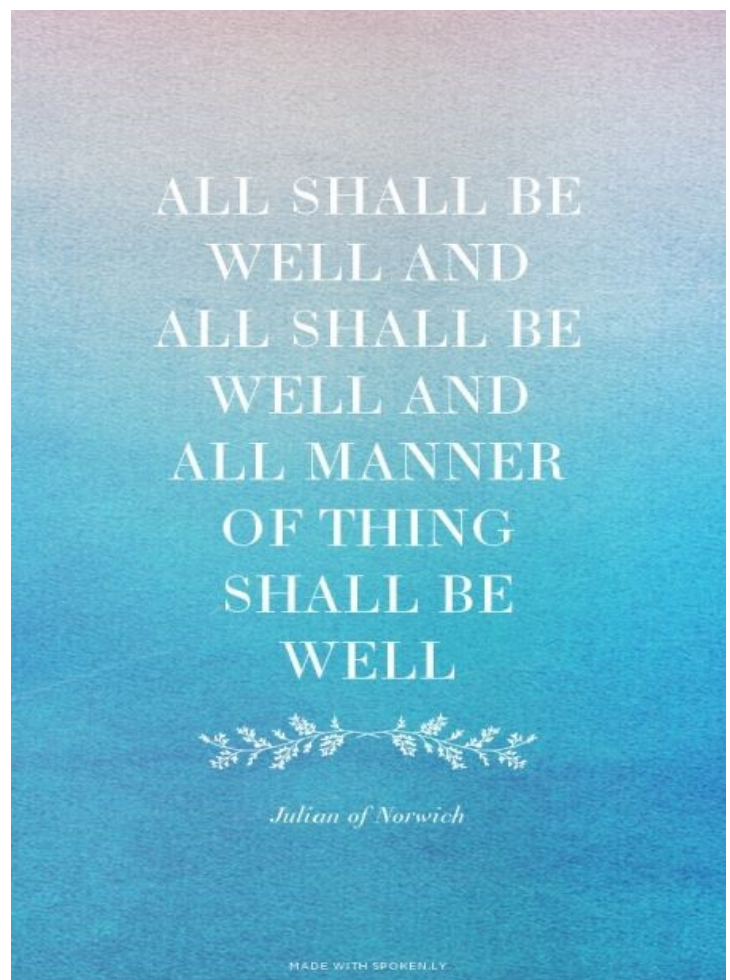
Book Review by Sheila Lovell

Wanda was in her late seventies when she wrote this- her last book- because she was passionate about writing something candid yet positive about old age from a Christian perspective. She had an endearing love of the quirky, unusual & spontaneous, and an understanding of the profound and poignant questions about life, and how to embrace them in the mature years. She was an original thinker yet considered herself to be a contemplative. She saw aging as a gift to be nurtured & even cherished rather than battled with & resented. It can be a chance to meet new learning curves, to enliven our skills of patience- letting go—leaving be—listening to others. We no longer have to be here & everywhere—recognise & remember tales of all I meet, or feel ashamed of having a senior moment as they are familiar to many of those with whom we spend time now. There can be a new sense of being enfolded & becoming enfolding, which is satisfying.

To begin to achieve this, Wanda says that we need to make an effort ourselves to achieve this state of mind, and what is helpful is to practise Christian Mindfulness which I personally find very helpful—that is, being present and aware—the practice of the presence of God—daily relaxation & meditation for as short a time as ten minutes twice a day, although it can be done for much longer.

What shines through all of Wanda’s writing, both about aging, and latterly as she faces terminal illness, is her strong Christian faith & her confidence with Julian of Norwich, that,

“All shall be well & all shall be well & all manner of things shall be well”.



St. Mary's

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2017

MIDDAY - 5PM

Christmas Tree Festival

Food &
Drink

Festive
Activities

Christmas
Market

**FREE
ENTRY**

St. Mary's Church
Sanderstead



St. Mary's

Advent carol service

Sunday 3rd December, 6.30pm @ St. Mary's

Advent course

Using the York course "So what are you waiting for?"

Thursday 7th, 14th & 21st December

At 11am following the Eucharist

In the family room at St Mary's

All welcome !!!

CAMEO

Come And Meet Each Other

CAMEO Christmas Celebration

Thursday 21st December, 2.30pm – 4.00pm

In the Jubilee Room @ St. Mary's

We are looking forward to our Christmas carols and pulling crackers, eating mince pies and cakes. Maybe, if you're feeling energetic, have a little dance or join in a party game.

All are welcome.

We meet once a month on the **third Thursday, 2.30pm—4pm**. We provide a place where people who are lonely can come and enjoy friendship and fun. We offer tea and cakes and a huge welcome. Whether you want to sit and chat or get involved in a game such as Scrabble, Bingo, skittles or cards, Cameo is a place to come and meet new friends.

Next few CAMEO dates:

18th January, 15th February, 15th March, 19th April, 17th May, 21st June



Every 3rd Thursday of the month

**BECAUSE
GOD IS WITH US,
WE NEED NOT
FEAR WHAT IS
AHEAD OF US.**

All Saints'

DCC gives green light to installing screens at All Saints'

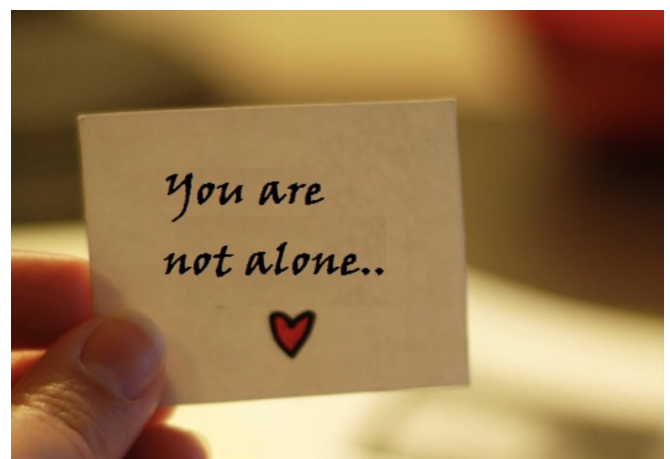
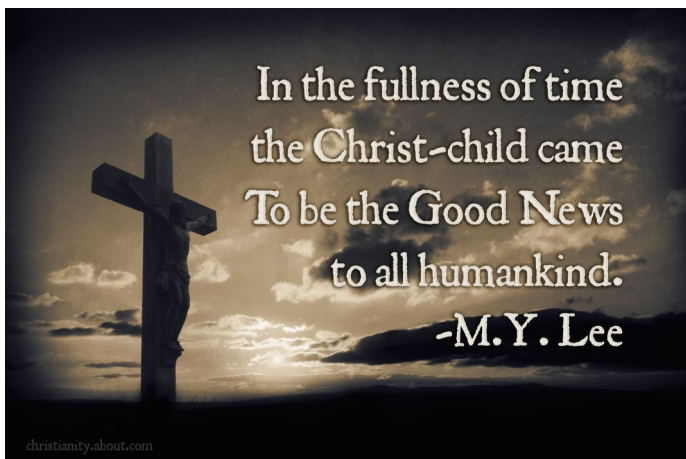
At its meeting on 21 November, the DCC approved the details of the scheme to install screens at All Saints', subject to endorsement by the PCC and obtaining the necessary faculty from the diocese.

The scheme will involve installing an electronically controlled drop down screen under the chancel arch which, when not in use, will be stored behind the top of the arch and so will not be visible from the nave area. There will be 2 small fixed screens attached to the walls at the front of the choir area of the chancel and 3 large mobile screens on stands (2 of which are already in church having been acquired for the recent Remembrance Sunday service) which will be used primarily in the North aisle, Lady Chapel and St Catherine's aisle areas. A projector for the drop down screen and a camera for transmitting services will be fitted at the back of the nave by the organ pipes, and the system will be controlled through a small table mounted mixer unit which will probably be operated at the back of the church. The total cost will be within the £25k earmarked for screens in the budget for the overall reordering project which is being financed through the Herbert legacy.

Once the screens are fully operational (which we hope will be within the next few months depending on the length of the faculty process) they will be visible from virtually every part of the church and will enable everyone to see what is going on during larger services and bring more impact and variety to our worship.

The DCC has in addition agreed that the faculty application should also cover removing the remaining seven rows of pews from the North Aisle to create some more flexible space. There are sufficient spare blue "St Catherine's" chairs available to provide replacement seating for services – similar chairs are already in use in the area behind the font where two rows of pews were removed a few years ago.

There will be regular updates on progress, and a plan showing the proposed location of the screens will be available in church shortly. In the meantime if you have any questions please contact Richard Bird Tel: 8657 – 1176 or email birdrichard385@gmail.com.

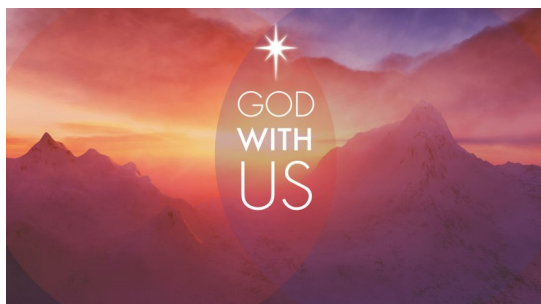


All Saints' Pledge 2018 Appeal

Our Pledge 2018 appeal received 63 responses out of 200+ packs sent out, one to every person on the electoral roll. Thank you to all who responded, especially the 12 who have indicated an uplift to their current giving. We expect 2018 giving to be a similar level to this year, but we have had to assume that no response (even though we asked for the reply card to be completed and returned) means no change. This does make setting our budgets somewhat difficult and we have had to allow extra latitude for both income and expenditure. Michael Turner. Hon Treasurer

Around and About Sanderstead,

***and
beyond ...***



Seeking Stillness

Advent Stillness

Saturday 16th December 2017

Venue: St Mary's Church, Sanderstead CR20NY

Time: 10am - 3.30pm

Seeking Stillness, led by Jane Hoskins offers an opportunity to step aside from the busyness of everyday.

There will be some input, time for personal prayer and reflection, tea, coffee and creative space.

Please bring your own lunch.

It's really helpful to know if you're coming!

For further information and to book your place, please e-mail j.hoskins233@btinternet.com or Tel. 07398 290 969

PURLEY CLASSICS DECEMBER RECITAL

Inversion Duo

Wednesday 13th December 2017, 1.15pm to 2.00pm

Purley United Reformed Church, Brighton Road Purley

The unusual combination of Ruth Stockdale, flute, and Robert Mingay-Smith, organ, will play a varied programme, including pieces by Mozart, J S Bach and Saint-Saens.

Inversion was formed in 2002 by Robert and Ruth while they were at Trinity College of Music. They perform extensively in churches and cathedrals throughout England. They are both award-winning musicians in their own right.

Open to all, with a retiring collection to cover costs.

Come and Celebrate the Magical Spirit of Christmas

Friday 8th Dec 2017
6pm - 7pm
10 Onslow Gardens
Mulled wine & mince pies

Welcome to our house-group's Community Event



Come and see what's inside the garage...
All are welcome!

Rena & house group, from All Saints'

And another Outreach Event....

Carol Singing on Tuesday 12th December

With The Bird's and the Robinson's house groups

We won't be collecting for charity, but telling people about All Saints' at Christmas and beyond. We will be giving children a book telling the Christmas Story, and offering home-made Star Cookies! We would love others to join us!

For further details contact the Church office admin@sanderstead-parish.org.uk

SEARCHING FOR MUSICAL TALENT!

Jeremy and John Jones are **still** looking for musicians for informal performances in St. Catherine's Aisle during coffee breaks.

Can you play a musical instrument? You don't need to be a professional, but maybe you've achieved some grades in piano-playing, or you enjoy playing the violin, flute, oboe, didgeridoo or accordion - or any other instrument! We are thinking of providing a few opportunities, perhaps during Sunday coffee for example, when our folk could use their talents in a completely informal way. This is most definitely not a concert, and you really don't need to be concert-ready. But if you'd like to join in (or if you have children or grandchildren, friends or neighbours who would like to share their talent with us) John Jones or I would love to hear from you! Who knows, we might even be able to form a quartet from talent we never knew existed! Don't hide your talent - share it with us! Jeremy

Come and celebrate Christmas @ All Saints'

GOD WITH US

COME AND CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,
ONSLOW GARDENS, CR2 9AB



10 December, 10am: CHRISTINGLE

11 December, 7pm: MEMORIAL CAROL SERVICE

17 December, 6.30pm: CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Christmas Eve, 3pm and 5pm: CRIB SERVICES

Christmas Eve, 11.30pm: MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

Christmas Day, 9.30am: HOLY COMMUNION

December Christmas Services in Sanderstead

December Christmas Services in Sanderstead

Saturday 9 th	12.00	Christmas Tree Festival	St Mary's
Sunday 10 th	10.00	Christingle Service	All Saints'
	10.30	Family Festival and Toy Service	SURC
Monday 11 th	19.00	Ebbutt's Memorial Carol Service	All Saints'
Sunday 17 th	15.00	Christmas Carol Service	St Edmund's
	17.00	Christmas Carol Service	St Antony's
	18.30	Candlelit Carols	SURC
	18.30	Candlelit Carols	All Saints'
	18.30	Carols with Attwood School	Methodist
	18.30	Christmas Carols	St Mary's
Saturday 23 rd	16.00	Crib and Christingle Service	SURC
<u>CHRISTMAS EVE</u>			
Sunday 24 th	10.30	Christmas Eve Morning Service	Methodist
	15.00	Crib Service	All Saints'
	16.00	Christingle Service	St Antony's
	17.00	Crib Service	All Saints'
	22.00	Communion	St Edmunds
	23.30	Midnight Communion	SURC
	23.30	Midnight Communion	All Saints'
<u>CHRISTMAS DAY</u>			
Monday 25 th	09.30	Christmas Communion	All Saints'
	10.00	Christmas Communion	St Edmund's
	10.30	Christmas Morning Service	Methodist
	10.30	Christmas Celebration	SURC

Sanderstead URC events:

Wednesday 13th December

8pm

'The Cantilena Singers'

Sanderstead Literary Society: SURC

(in the church)

Fresh Encounters

There will be no Fresh Encounters services in December or January.

Dates for Fresh Encounters until Summer 2018 are as follows:

25 February; 18 March; 22 April;
20 May; 17 June; 15 July.

A gospel christmas concert



All proceeds go to International Needs Water Projects

Saturday 9th December

Doors 6:45 pm
Starts 7:30pm

Refreshments from 7:00pm
Raffle on the night

Tickets £10

Available now at:
ineeds.org.uk/events

South Norwood Baptist Church SE25 6TY

or on
01883 331332

Featuring
IDMC



International Needs
Helping families create a sustainable future

ineeds.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1010597



Come along and join in
at All Saints'

Crib Services:

3pm and 5pm Christmas Eve

Sunday 24th December



"AND Surely
I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS,
TO THE Very End
OF THE Age"
MATTHEW 28:20

@LIFETODAYTV

What else is on in December?

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

WHEN?	WHERE?	WHAT?
Thurs 7th, 3.15-5pm	Family Fun Christmas Event	All Saints' Church
Mon 11th, 7pm	Ebbutt's Memorial Carol Service	All Saints' Church
Fri 15th, 10am-12pm	Coffee Pot , All welcome for coffee, cakes and company.	All Saints' Halls



Curate's diary for December

Sat 2nd:	Baptismal Class, followed by Sanderstead Lights Switch-on
Mon 4th:	Master's Assignment due in
Tues 5th:	Ministry Team meeting, followed by Funeral of Roland Playford
Wed 6th:	Morning Prayers in Church at 9.30am, followed by Beaumont School Christmas event
Thurs 7th:	Curate's Quiet Day at Wychcroft
Fri 8th:	St. Augustine's College
Sat 9th:	Reedham Children's Trust & Rock Choir
Sun 10th:	St. Edmonds, followed by All Saints' Christingle Service at 10am
Mon 11th:	Ebbutts Memorial Carol Service
Tues 12th:	Wardens, Standing Committee, Toddlers in Church, MU dinner
Wed 13th:	Reedham Children's Trust Board & AGM, followed by Carols at Waitrose
Thurs 14th:	Life Explored, Beaumont Governors meeting, All Saints' Men's meal
Fri 15th:	Toddlers in Church
Sun 17th:	All Saints' Candlelit Carols Service @ 6.30pm
Tues 19th:	Langley Oaks
Wed 20th:	Staff Social
Fri 22nd:	Funeral of Mrs D. Perry
	Christmas!

Martin and Emma: Update

Martin & Emma are now back from their sabbatical. Be sure to welcome them back if you see them, and ask them all about it.

This newsletter is produced by Rosanne, Rector's Admin Assistant,
Send your news and diary dates to admin@sanderstead-parish.org.uk