

Sanderstead Team Newsletter

January 2020



“Whenever something goes wrong, I just push this little button and restart. I wish my whole life was like that!”

Revd Jeremy Groombridge writes ...

You could be forgiven for wanting to take the whole of January off, after a busy December culminating in the festivities of the Christmas season. A few weeks ago - in the run-up to the busiest week of the season, actually, our central heating boiler decided to call it a day. We were left without heat or hot water - it's never great preparation for the 8.30 Holy Communion service to begin the day with a cold shower! So we reported the problem, and all our Job's comforters told us we'd be terribly lucky to get anyone out until well into the New Year. But to our amazement, an engineer came out the next morning - and all he did was to put his fingers on the two buttons marked "boost" and the boiler burst back into life! Sometimes, the most frustrating and bothersome problems have the simplest solutions!

That set me wondering. I'm no technical wizard, but I do know that I need to reboot my computer or smartphone from time to time - usually when, for one reason or another, the system seems to have become overloaded and has stopped working efficiently. Sometimes rebooting is necessary to recover from an error. So I hold down the big button and the little button at the same time, and wait until I get that wonderful little message: "System is re-initialising".

The Christian life would be so easy if at every stage, in every minute of every day my life was aligned to God's word, God's will and God's way. Yet we all know that, periodically, we need a time of refreshment, revival, renewal and rededication. It may be that a "hard boot" is necessary - allowing Jesus to shine into our lives (possibly even for the first time). Or it could be that a "soft-re-boot" is what's needed - to take some time in quiet contemplation and inviting God to show us where we need to make adjustments in our lives and become more like the person he desires us to be.

We've heard a lot in the past few months about "taking back control". But that, I suggest, is how to begin 2020 on the wrong foot. Instead, we are called to yield control to God, and ask him to re-boot our life so that we truly begin to reflect the love of Christ in our attitudes, behaviours and way of living day-by-day.

The beginning of a New Year is a good time to "re-boot". There's nothing wrong with saying to God that we've got ourselves into a bit of a bind, and inviting him to help us make a new start. Baptism is a bit like that, isn't it. Maybe just thinking back to our own baptism will be enough to redirect our own path and realign it with God's purpose for our life. Never underestimate the power and value of a periodic "re-boot"!

Jeremy



Wanting more of Christ

Revd Canon Martin Greenfield writes ...

"Please, sir, I want some more".

You may recognise these famous words from Dickens's 'Oliver Twist'. Here's the passage:

The boy rose from the table; and advancing to the master, basin and spoon in hand, said: somewhat alarmed at his own temerity: "Please, sir, I want some more."

The master was a fat, healthy man; but he turned very pale. He gazed in stupefied astonishment on the small rebel for some seconds, and then clung for support to the copper. The assistants were paralysed with wonder; the boys with fear.

"What!" said the master at length, in a faint voice.

"Please, sir," replied Oliver, "I want some more."

The master aimed a blow at Oliver's head with the ladle; pinioned him in his arms; and shrieked aloud for the beadle...

Oliver Twist asked for more food. Not many of us will have made that request over the Christmas / New Year period, for most of us have had plenty to eat and drink. Some of us might even regret eating more than usual.

But there is one type of hunger that *is* good and necessary: a hunger for God who came to us in Jesus Christ. It is good to be hungry for more of Christ. St Paul wrote, *"All I want is to know Christ, to experience his resurrection power in my life and to feel what it was like for him to suffer"* (Philippians 3:10).

I wonder if you have ever prayed as Paul did, *'O God, I've come to know Christ in my life and I want MORE of him!'*? It's not rude or presumptuous to ask God for more. Not at all. In fact it delights God's heart to hear us sincerely ask to know Christ better. It's good to be hungry, for we CAN have more!

Are you hungry to know Christ better? Why is it that so many are apparently quite content with a limited experience of Christ? Why are we satisfied with *last year's* experience?

Could this be your number one ambition for 2020 – to know more of Christ?

And what will you do about it?

Jesus said, *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied"* (Matthew 5:6).

A very Happy New Year to all.

Martin

Look, Listen and Learn

from the CYP Mission & Ministry Newsletter

A New Year, a new decade, a good time to...

Look

Look back...

what has God been doing?

Look forward...

what does he want to do?

Look up...

what is the grace you need from him?

Look.

Listen

For the promptings of his Spirit...

for the people he wants you to bless,

for the projects he wants you to focus on,

for the processes he wants you to change.

Listen.

Learn

Learn something new...

in leadership;

in life;

in love.

Learn.

May you have the opportunity to Look, Listen and Learn in 2020.

Aike Kennett-Brown

Mission Support Officer for Children and Young People, Diocese of Southwark

Food Hub

Happy New Year, Everyone!

With the magnificent help of the Food Hub's volunteers, friends and supporters, we were able to provide food for **1,098 meals** for people in crisis at our **busiest ever session** on the Saturday before Christmas (21st Dec). 39 clients attended that morning and we provided food for a total of 122 people. These 1,098 meals took us past **3,000 meals provided in December** and **30,000 meals during 2019**.

Two days later (Mon 23rd Dec) volunteers delivered 150 Christmas turkey hampers to clients/families nominated by our Ticket Partner agencies through the **Christmas Lunch on Jesus** project, while earlier in December the agencies received presents to give to 200 needy children through **Toys for Joy**.

On behalf of the Trustees and Management Committee, we send enormous thanks to everyone who donated food, money and their time: our volunteers, churches, schools, businesses, Rotary, WI and uniformed organisations and many, **many** individuals and families throughout the local community.

Food donations in December were so huge that in January we are asking supporters to focus please on the following six items that we remain short of:

- ◆ **Tins of Plain Meat - Chicken, Ham, Corned Beef**
- ◆ **Cartons of Long Life Whole Milk**
- ◆ **Jars of Peanut Butter**
- ◆ **Strawberry & Raspberry Jam**
- ◆ **Packets of Dried Potatoes**
- ◆ **Unisex Shampoo**

We thank God for his mighty provision and overall direction of the Food Hub and pray that Jesus will remain at the very heart of the work during 2020.

With our very best wishes for the New Year,

Steve

Steve Hunt - Admin Team

Purley Food Hub

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News from Alice Price

(previous Rector's Admin Assistant)

It's December 1st, which marks the beginning of advent, but also time for another prayer letter. As Steve regularly reminds me, advent is about good waiting (he heard it in a sermon many years ago). The past few months have been about good waiting, and the waiting continues. We are still waiting to move house. We are now onto our third set of buyers, and hoping that we may move in January, but as we have learnt, nothing is certain!

Meanwhile, we have said goodbye to the young people of Monks Hill and all at St Francis. I joined Steve on a cruise to the Baltic in October, a great way to relax and adjust to this new pace of life. Since then, I've been getting on with my studies. There have been two modules this term – one on leadership, and the other on mission entrepreneurship. They have both been interesting, and I've got this month to get the assignments finished. Next term brings another two modules, so the pace is non-stop for this final year of the course. Having said that, I've settled into a routine of studying most mornings, leaving the afternoons and evenings for seeing friends, reading for pleasure and my other creative pursuits!

On December 3rd, I will officially be admitted into the CMS community as a lay pioneer. This means I will be a lay pioneer within the Church of England (equivalent to a lay reader if you know what that is). I'm not seeking to be licensed to serve in a particular parish immediately, but it is something that could be a possibility in the future. This step has become more important to me over the past year, and the timing of it almost makes it like a commissioning service as we move to the Wirral. As part of it I am committing to being a member of the CMS community, travelling alongside other pioneers.

Hopefully, this will be my last prayer letter! I say that, because the plan is that once Steve and I have moved up to the Wirral, we will produce a joint monthly update. If you'd like to receive this, then please email Steve: info@stevepriceillusions.co.uk and let him know you'd like to receive the Price's monthly update. (If you already receive his prayer letter, then you don't need to do this as you're already on his mailing list). The Price's monthly update will include both of our news, so you might get to hear about Steve's work as a magician, the completion of my pioneer leadership studies, along with the story of the ministry we will be looking to pioneer.

Thanks for all your support over the years as we have pioneered on Monks Hill. Here's to the next adventure! Oh, and if you'd like to pray that we eventually move house, that would be great!

Thanks,
Alice

Lighting up Sanderstead

Lighting the Christmas tree
on the Gruffy



Carols on the Gruffy



Carols at Waitrose



St Antony's Carol Service

With Soul Symphony choir



"Soul Symphony were a truly inspirational choir."



St Antony's Christingle



*Around and About
Sanderstead, and beyond*



MU's AGM



Mon 13 January

8pm

in St. Catherine's Aisle

**led by
the Venerable
Christopher Skilton**

*(Please note change of date,
not February).*

All are welcome.

Jean Harris

Unity Service

Sun 19th January at 4pm

Holy Family Roman Catholic Church

115 Limpsfield Road, Sanderstead CR2 9LF

Do come along to the Unity Service which is being hosted by our friends at Holy Family. This is an important opportunity to rejoice together in what God is doing amongst us, and to celebrate our unity in Christ.

We are grateful to Father Malachy for kindly hosting this service.

Churches Together in Sanderstead

FAMILY FUN

Acting
Crafts

3pm

Singing
Food
Bible Stories
Activities

Drama
Music

For children, parents/carers

2020 DATES:

JAN 19
FEB 9
MARCH 8
APRIL 10 (FRIDAY)
MAY 3
JUNE 14
JULY 12

All Saints Church Hall
Onslow Gardens,
CR2 9AB

Toddlers

Spring Term begins
Tuesday 21 January, 9.30am

2020

and
Friday 24 January, 9.30am

(after the panto)

Pop in to ...

The Coffee Pot

Coffee, Cake and Company

Onslow Gardens

2020

Meet and Mingle

Everyone's invited

Alternate Fridays 10 - 12
All Saints' Small Hall

24 Jan 7 & 21 Feb 6 & 20 Mar
3 & 17 Apr 1, 15 & 29 May 12 & 26 Jun

YOUNG AT HEART Social Club

Sanderstead Neighbourhood Care,
All Saints' Church Hall
Registered Charity Number: 1039939

10am—12.30pm,
£3 or £5 with lunch

For information or transport
call: 020 8657 8289

We re-open on:
Fri 31st January 2020

Children and Families Pastor: Sanderstead Parish Advertisement

Are you excited and passionate about seeing children and families come to know Jesus? Are you ready for a new challenge?

If you are a committed Christian and passionate about seeing children and families get to know Jesus and grow in faith, then we would very much like to hear from you!

Children and Families are our number one priority. The opportunities are many and we are really excited about what God is doing here in Sanderstead! We want to appoint a collaborative leader to work with our team of willing volunteers, reaching out to our community to sustain and grow our work with Children and Families.

We are looking for somebody with strategic leadership skills who has experience of working with children and families, who has the energy, creativity and vision to develop our Children and Families ministry.

Enhanced DBS clearance is required - we are a safeguarding parish.

Salary: £25,000 - £28,000, depending on experience; 36 hours weekly, including Sundays.

Application Closing Date: Friday 24th January 2020

Start: As soon as possible in 2020.

Download an application pack at: www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk



Farewell service to the Venerable Chris Skilton, Archdeacon of Croydon

Saturday 1st February, 6pm, at Emmanuel Church

Chris will be retiring in February 2020. **There will be an informal Farewell service on Saturday 1 February, 6pm** at Emmanuel Church and Centre, Normanton Road, South Croydon, CR2 7AF. All welcome.

A Gift for Chris and Barbara Skilton If you would like to contribute to a financial gift from All Saints, please hand it in to the Parish Office marked "Skilton".

SANDERSTEAD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Sanderstead Hill CR2 0HB (next to the Library)

Sunday 9th February 2020
at 3pm

AN HOUR OF FINE MUSIC
WITH THE PIANO DUO

JULIAN JACOBSON & MARIKO BROWN

Music by Beethoven, Debussy, Barber
& Gershwin's *An American In Paris*



followed by tea and exceedingly fine cakes

Admission by programme at the door
just £7 (or £3 if you're 18 or under)

Organ Concert By Gerard Brooks

Mon 3 February, 7.30pm, at the Royal Festival Hall



PERFORMER: Gerard Brooks
(many will remember him).

Gerard Brooks performs a selection of popular music for the organ that includes Charles Ives' irreverent variations on the English National Anthem, masquerading under the title 'America'.

They are juxtaposed with Enrico Bossi's nimble *Scherzo*, which explores all the colours of the Royal Festival Hall organ.

Brooks goes on to celebrate the music of Louis Vierne, including the pugnacious Toccata in B flat minor, the *moto perpetuo* of the *Impromptu* and the éclat of the ever-popular *Carillon de Westminster*, in which the chimes of Big Ben thunder out in the Royal Festival Hall organ's pedals.

Repertoire

Ives: Variations on America

Bossi: Scherzo in G minor, Op.49 No.2

Vierne: Toccata from Pièces de fantaisie,

Suite No.2, Op.53; Berceuse from 24

Pièces en style libre for organ, Op.31;

Impromptu; Carillon de Westminster from

Pièces de fantaisie, Suite No.3, Op.54

Interval

Widor: Organ Symphony No.5 in F minor,
Op.42 No.1

Tickets £15, concessions available. Book online here...

https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/130309-gerard-brooks-organ-2020?gclid=Cj0KCQiA9dDwBRC9ARIsABbedBPB9ZA9BHFRLIET6S2ifzUAJqpp-vBwtrI5Uyla4aKOJSaI4oLIG0aAgTiEALw_wcB

VE Day Commemoration

Have you put the date in your 2020 diary... **8-10 May 2020**

The government has decided that the 75th anniversary of VE Day should be marked by moving the early May bank holiday to Fri 8th May so that there are 3 days of celebration. On Sunday 10th May, services will take place in cathedrals and churches throughout the country in celebration of the peace we share today. We are all being encouraged to organise events such as street parties, community meals etc. This will provide a good opportunity for us at All Saints to throw a party or two! At this stage we are looking for ideas about how we might mark the occasion. Please let me know if you have any suggestions so that we can begin planning! As ever, it would be helpful if you could indicate whether or not you'd be willing to help organise any event. *Jeremy*

SERENITY PRAYER

God, grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change,
The courage to change the things I can,
And the wisdom to know the difference.

LIVING ONE DAY AT A TIME,
Enjoying one moment at a time

Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;
Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is;

Not as I would have it;
Trusting that you will make all things right
If I surrender to your will;

So that I may be reasonably happy in this life
And supremely happy with you

FOREVER IN THE NEXT.

by Reinhold Niebuhr

Please look at the website for regular Sunday services:

www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk

WHAT?	WHEN?	WHERE?
Family Fun Lots crafts, stories, singing and more. (Page 11)	Sun 19 January 3pm	All Saints' Church (not Halls)
Unity Service to celebrate our unity in Christ (Page 10)	Sun 19 January 4pm	Holy Family RC Church
Holy Communion , for the festival of Saint Antony, followed by T4U All are welcome. <i>[T4U will continue but not Communion.]</i>	Mon 20 January 2pm	St. Antony's Church
Langley Oaks Holy Communion Short Communion service and some singing.	Tues 21 January 4pm	2 Langley Oaks Ave, CR2 8DH
Coffee Pot First time back after Christmas... for coffee, tea, cakes and company. (Page 11)	Fri 24 January 10am—12pm	All Saints' Church Hall
Monthly Prayer Meeting All welcome, just come along.	Sat 25 January 9-10am	All Saints' Church, St. Catherine's Aisle



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

by Mon 27 January

The February Newsletter will be published on Sunday 2nd February