

All Saints' Church Newsletter

Extending God's Welcome to All.

Committed to GROW: in Discipleship, Service & Numbers

February 2017

Martin writes ...

New Patterns for worship?

As part of a regular review of our activities, we need to consider All Saints' patterns of worship, and ask ourselves whether it is time to introduce change. Changing patterns of worship in a church may not automatically lead to growth – indeed, to begin with, you're very likely to lose some members who will not accommodate the change. However, any church that is serious about its commitment to welcoming new people, needs to provide something new.

Let me use our former church as an example. St Mary Magdalene Brampton used to have a regular Sunday pattern of services at 8.30 and 10am: 8.30am was always Holy Communion (no hymns) and never changed, week in week out – no families, no children. The problem with the 10 am Service was that it DID change, and you had to look up in a diary to find out what it would be:

Perhaps a Baptism, with lots of visitors (and noisy children).

Or, an All-Age service; you might be asked to talk to your neighbour (Interestingly, most of the children didn't like it either, and preferred to be in ordinary Sunday School).

Or, if it wasn't anything else, it was Holy Communion (with hymns, and not many visitors or noisy children). Depending on what it was going to be, some stayed away.

Added to that, within the church, different people liked different styles of worship, and different types of songs! Many wanted a liturgical pattern and good old classic hymns (played on the organ). Others, who for example had come to faith through Alpha or were otherwise new to church, preferred something less formal with modern songs, led by a band and (even) with words on a screen.

So, what was happening? Well, as you can imagine, for some it was too modern; while for others it was too traditional. People began to leave... A radical solution was needed; one that would provide two separate and distinct worship services – one 'Classic', the other 'Contemporary' – with no compromise. In 2006, with the backing of the Church Council, a new Sunday pattern was launched, with new service times:

9.15am Common Worship Holy Communion, with hymns (on the organ) – recognisably 'classic' Anglican.

11am, a new Parish Praise – more free; songs led by a band, and words on the screen via a newly-purchased projector.

Did it work? Was everyone happy? To be truthful, yes, it did work. Quite quickly, though the new times didn't suit everyone to start with, most were pleased to have made the change. There were a few vocal complaints at the AGM, and a few even left. But the new pattern of worship welcomed far more people than previously, and provided a basis for growth. The 9.15 service grew almost immediately; Parish Praise, as a new venture, was encouraging right from the start, though it took time to become established.

Here in All Saints, we have been seeking to Extend God's Welcome to All; a great deal of prayerful, committed hard work is put in to our services of Sunday Worship. But there is not a lot of growth; while we do see new people from time to time, most of them do not stay. For this reason, we need to consider if there is an opportunity to make changes. I hope that throughout the church, we can talk together (and listen to one another) to find the best way forward.

I heard this quotation at a recent funeral: What you do for yourself dies with you; what you do for others lives for ever. So the question we face is: What can we do with our Sunday services to help others to worship the Lord our God? I'd love to hear from you.

With best wishes and prayers, Martin

Future events :

Family Fun Hour this month will be on 26th February 3-4pm in the church hall. For more info or to get involved, contact Sue on: susanethomas@aol.com or 07870 318366

Coffee Pot is on 10th and 24th of February 10-12pm. All are welcome for coffee, cakes and company.

Fresh Encounters will be on Sunday 19th February at 6pm. The theme for this term is "A Sacred Gaze: encountering Jesus through Art" - Meditations on paintings by Sieger Koder.

Join us on 11th February for an evening of socialising and dancing to Steve Cooke's band. A chance to get together and have some fun. Bring your friends. Tickets £10 which includes a cheese platter. Further information and tickets from Judith Robinson 02086574679 or Jane Cooke 02086511574.

Women's World Day of Prayer is on March 3rd 2017. You are invited to join us at St. Antony's for Women's World Day of Prayer at 10.30am when we join together with our brothers and sisters around the world praying for the Philippines. Refreshments afterwards.

Quiet Morning On Saturday morning 11th March at All Saints church, Ways in to Prayer, an ecumenical group will offer a quiet morning led by Susanne Carlsson who is the Spiritual Adviser for Rochester Diocese and also works with Ignatian retreats and formation in England and Scandinavia. The subject will be "Finding God in All Things". Coffee will be available from 10am and Susanne will lead us from 10.30 to 12.30. You will be very welcome but please let Penny Bird know of your intention to come if you possibly can so that we have an idea of numbers.

Exhibition and Sale of Pictures by Local Artists Saturday 18 March 10 am – 4.30 pm, United Reformed Church Hall, Admission 50p, 20% of picture sales and all other proceeds will be donated to The Children's Society. Now in its 43rd year, this exhibition is always a lively event with a wide variety of art to enjoy, both framed and unframed, from lovely landscapes to animal studies and a chance to buy original works for yourself, friends or family at very reasonable prices. Around 50 artists' work will be on display and 20% of all profits go towards the Society's work with disadvantaged children. There will also be a home-made cakes and preserves stall, plus tea and coffee to enjoy and a chance to win a raffle prize. Do drop in morning or afternoon if you have the chance. We'd love to see you.

All Saints' AGM will be 11.30am on 2nd April in the Large Hall. The APCM will be on 30th April.

News :

Eco Church please do go and have a look at the display boards in church They will be up for the whole of February and will coincide with the Special Green Service on Sunday 5th February.

Green Team Boxes Thank you to everyone who so kindly regularly contributes to the boxes outside the Parish Office (or the box at the back of the All Saints'). As a church, we have unique responsibility for the wellbeing of creation, and these small scale actions can help to reduce our environmental impact. So please continue your good work.

DRY AND TINNED FOOD is required for the Refugee Day Centre and Paul James is the contact here.

EGGBOXES are reused to sell eggs locally. NB only 6 or 12 space boxes.

MILK BOTTLE TOPS (clean with no foil or paper attached) are recycled by a company in Portsmouth, via a large garage in Bookham, via Ann Brown.

CORKS are taken to Laithwaites who break them down and re-construct into new corks.

MAGAZINES (not more than 3 months old) are taken regularly down to Croydon University Hospital and are much appreciated.

STAMPS are collected by Piers Hubbard for the Bible Society. Sanderstead Neighbourhood Care also collect them.

Litter Pick Day Saturday 1st April 9.30 – 10.30am approx. Any helpers would be much appreciated to tidy up around the church before our Easter celebrations. Thank you. Ann Turner

New All Saints Rectory. Things have moved very slowly since 53 Glebe Hyrst was purchased by the Diocese of Southwark last July. A plan of action is now being drafted; and it is hoped that, once plans are approved and contractors appointed, work on adapting the house may be started before Easter. We do not know when it will all be completed, for us to move in. Martin & Emma

The Southwark Diocesan Board of Education supports and resources Church of England schools across the whole diocese; it is an incorporated body in its own right. Following the retirement of the present Chair, the Board is looking to appoint a new Chair of its Audit Committee from 2017. This voluntary position helps to ensure that the Board's resources are used appropriately in order to serve the mission of the Diocese in education. If you feel that your skills could help to serve the diocese in this way, please could you contact the Director of the Board, Mr Colin Powell (colin.powell@southwark.anglican.org) for an initial conversation.

The Road to the Cross Oddments Theatre Company present a 90 minute production filled with sketches based around the life of Jesus and the people he met, culminating in Jesus' death and resurrection. They will be performing 'The Road to the Cross' on Tuesday 11th April. You're welcome to join St Mary's as we discover how Jesus came to Rescue, Restore and Resurrect.

Tanzania Development Trust "Will you help build a dispensary* in my Matongo valley?" says 14 year old Ghati Marwa. "I remember when I was 8 years old, I was sick and, my mother carried me on her back to Kiagata Health Centre 15km away. It's a very steep climb over the hills and my mother was sweating a lot. When we got to the Centre, she was laughed at and was told to move away from the nurses because she had a bad smell. That was unkind but they didn't understand she had carried me 15km. I have a dream that one day we will get treatment from our own Matongo Dispensary. Surely country people should have health care not just the people who live at the trading centres where there are roads and businesses?" *In Tanzania, a Dispensary is the first tier of local healthcare. It is like a small hospital with a maternity ward and a room for minor operations and for mother and baby clinics.

Matongo Village lies between 2 ranges of high hills. The nearest health care facility is 15km away (as the crow flies) crossing hills. The only road to Matongo is a cart track. Yet here and in surrounding hamlets 10,000 people live. They want their own dispensary to care for local people.

The problems faced by the local people in Matongo Valley:

- No routine immunisation for babies and children. After the construction of a staff house sponsored by TDT, nurses from a dispensary 15km away come once a month for a mother's clinic.
- The biggest health problems are malaria, pre-natal mortality, deaths of young mothers, lack of immunisation and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS.
- Since the area is surrounded by hills on all sides, pregnant mothers have to climb the high footpaths that go over the hills and may take five hours to reach the nearest dispensary. As a result, many get no maternity care.
- Other chronic diseases occur such as TB and sometimes kwashiorkor, cholera, diarrhoea, trachoma and scabies.
- Although the government fights against FGM, up to 90% of girls are victims. Very little girls aged four to eight years old are forced to undergo FGM. As a result, they suffer a lot. Our community needs education to get change.

Matongo is in Butiama District. Although the District Council can only contribute £3000 of capital funds to build the dispensary, the District Medical Officer and District Commissioner are very keen to see it completed. The DMO has allocated funds to staff and equip the dispensary and it is a priority for connection to mains electricity in 2017 under Tanzania's Rural Electrification Programme. Water is currently brought to the dispensary and staff house by the donkey cart, however the completed buildings will also have water harvesting.

Julian Marcus is the project officer for Matongo and is currently out in Tanzania with Ann. On their return this month, they will share the latest news of the project.

Further afield :

Sanderstead Neighbourhood Care Quiz Night will be 13th May. Put the date in your diary!

Piano Recital On Sunday 12th Feb, 3.00pm in the United Reformed Church: A Piano Recital by John Hayden with mezzo-soprano Stephanie Crooks. Music by Bach, Liszt, Rachmaninov, Gershwin, South American composers and a selection of 'Songs from the Auvergne'.

Jumble Sale On Saturday 18th Feb, 11.00am in the United Reformed Church Main Hall.

Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Patience' Utopians Unlimited are making a welcome return to St John's Church, Coulsdon on Saturday 18th February at 7.30 pm to perform Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Patience'. UU's performances are always very popular and I can guarantee a great evening. Tickets: £15 (reserved front rows); £10 (unreserved). Available from the church office (01737 552461 or stjohns@coulsdon.net) or at the door on the night.

Vocations Fair This diocese event provides an opportunity to explore vocation, to think about what it means to be called by God and to receive information about the wide variety of vocations offered within the Church. 25th Feb, 2.30-5pm at St Mary Magdalen, Croydon, CR0 6QD

Dementia Friendly Church This diocese training day in partnership with Livability will cover information about dementia and how to be a dementia friendly church. Contact Caroline for more information or to book your place 020 7939 9475. 23rd Feb, 10am-3pm at Trinity House, London Bridge.

Check out [www.http://southwark.anglican.org/downloads/ministry/Deepening-Discipleship-2016.pdf](http://southwark.anglican.org/downloads/ministry/Deepening-Discipleship-2016.pdf) for other diocese training events and retreat days.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals at All Saints' :

5th Jan Funeral and Burial of Herbert Cecil Smith

8th Jan Baptism of Isaac Mark Munday

8th Jan Thanksgiving for Freddi Hutja

23rd Jan Funeral of Moyra Coombs

24th Jan Funeral of Iris Cotton

February Calendar Dates

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| 5th | 8.30am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist |
| 12th | 8.30am Holy Communion 10am Parish Praise with thanksgiving |
| 19th | 8.30am Holy Communion 10am Parish Eucharist 6pm Fresh Encounters |
| 25th | Prayer Meeting 9-10am in church |
| 26th | 8.30am Holy Communion 10am Morning Worship in church 10am Sanderstead Light in hall 3pm Family Fun Hour |