

## All Saints Community Newsletter Sept 2017

Welcome! There are lots of events coming up in our communal life together. It would be wonderful to be able to share them with as many as possible so please do think of any family or friends who you can invite or share the events on Facebook if you use it! **All are most Welcome.** Please do make contact if I can be of any help or provide further information.

[therevdgregroberts@outlook.com](mailto:therevdgregroberts@outlook.com)

Harvest Supper, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September 6.30 pm

Tickets are available from Deirdre and Rachel for £7.50

[deirdre.wellham@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:deirdre.wellham@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Harvest Festival**

Sunday 1st October 10 am

The preacher will be the Jun Kim. Donations of non-perishable items are invited and we will be giving them to Peterborough Foodbank



**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October : Pilgrim Group**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 7.15 pm

All Saints Fellowship, Oriental knotting with Wendy Smith.

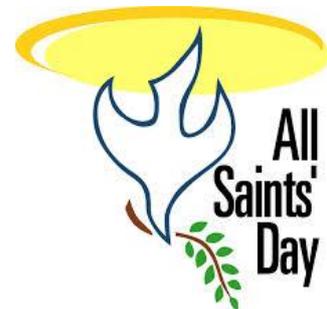
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October : Pilgrim Group

Thursday 2nd November 7 pm All Souls Day Service – our annual opportunity to remember loved ones departed.

( there will be lists at the back of church to add names)

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November

Winter Fayre from 12 noon in the Church Hall, stalls, refreshments, raffle, tombola, games



**All Saints' Day Service** 10 am

**Sunday 5th November**

A day to celebrate together as God's people who gather at All Saints and to reflect on our calling to be saints today.

The service will be followed by a Bring and Share lunch. There will soon be sign-up sheets at the back of church for people to choose what to bring and share!

Tuesday 7th November, 7.15 pm

All Saints Fellowship – Southern India part 2, Fr Peter

**Advent Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 10 am and Advent Carols by candlelight 5.30 pm**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 7 pm Quiet Space**

**Friday 8th to Sunday 10th December: Christmas Tree Festival**

**Sunday 17th December 5.30 pm Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols by candlelight**



## **All Saints PCC**

The PCC oversees and leads together with the Incumbent the life of the church community. Once approved, minutes of meetings are displayed on the PCC notice board. The PCC function's include co-operation with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole Mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, ecumenical ( from the Synodical Government Measure, 1969) There is necessary business that includes fabric and finance but we also discuss our hopes and plans for the future growth of the church. At the last meeting the PCC thought about Welcome:

### **Ministry of Welcome**

Research indicates that visitors who come to church for the first time make up their mind on whether they are coming back in the first 4 to 8 minutes. The Welcome received on the doors plays a key role. Most congregations say that they want visitors to feel welcome. Most think they are welcoming. Yet many church congregations are unaware of how cliquish they can appear to visitors.

Are all welcome? People come to church for many reasons; it is a place of refreshment, a sanctuary, a community, a place to meet God in a particular way. People may come because of the music or due to a specific need. The PCC thought about whether our welcome is conditional on people fitting in, and whether new people have an ongoing feeling of being welcome. Members shared with each other their experiences of first coming to All Saints or first attending another church, what impressed them most and least, and tried to identify any negative or anxious experiences.

We noted that All Saints is blessed with a good range of ages and many young people; there are about 50 young people who either sing, attend Junior Church, serve or are babes with their

parents. Historically the Mum's and tots group was a way into the church.

The challenge for All Saints is for the good spirit of welcome to continue through to the coffee and onwards to helping people take their place in the life of the Christian community.

A good Welcome requires a significant proportion of the congregation to be welcoming and engaging new comers at coffee. The good news is that all ages can do this, those who've been in the church 6 months to those who have attended over 60 years. After all, we don't invite someone to have supper in our home and then ignore them!

## Taking Part

On average 100 different people come through the doors of All Saints every Sunday! From the start of my ministry I have been struck by the huge generosity and commitment of the people of All Saints. In the last 18 months many people have had to step up to fill roles as terms of office come to an end or when people retire after periods of long and dedicated service. It has meant that a number of people are filling numerous roles! It is critically important that All Saints widens the group of those who help to lead and organise our life together.

Please think and pray about what you could offer. There is no need to wait and be asked! If you would like to see something happen within the church then think about who has the skills and calling to fulfil it. Training, guidance and oversight is available. Please consider among other things:

Being part of the Altar party

Junior Church leader

Helping with Events

Website editor

Assisting with administration

Becoming a visitor ( to the housebound, lonely, bereaved...)

Contributing to church communication and advertising

Becoming a Reading Buddy at All Saints School

Singing in the choir

Organising a visit ( Walsingham...)

Assisting with confirmation classes

## Curate's Reflections

Jun periodically keeps us updated with his progress through curate training and his experiences as a new priest.

Alba and Felicity are cute baby girls. Harry is a two year old boy. Fife is a girl who comes to Junior Church with her mum Nofisat. Ian is a resident of Park Vista who is at the end of his life. They are all different from each other in age, gender, culture, background, colour. But there is one thing that they all share in common. They were all baptized in All Saints' and we have welcomed them all into the life of the church.

Recently during the PCC meeting, we had a small session to talk about the welcoming of our church. How can we welcome those who are new to All Saints' and faith? How shall we make our church more inviting? To be honest, it is a quite difficult question. Of course we all know we should be welcoming and friendly. And I believe we as a church do welcome the new comers and are being as friendly as we can. However we still wonder how to welcome in the church as if there might be something more in it than just greeting and being friendly.

I remember that when I was old enough to go out by myself as a child, my mother used to remind me to be careful with strangers. That was one of the first lessons that I had to learn to live in this world. As I grew up, learning things happening in the world, I came to understand why she gave me such teaching. I came to know that it was the teaching that she inherited from her mother, my grandmother and beyond. In fact, it is the teaching that this world gave to our ancestors long before human history began: You are a stranger in here. You may not be safe. You are not welcome. That was what Adam and Eve learnt right after they took the forbidden fruit. Suddenly they realized that this world God has created is not safe. They couldn't trust others. They must not show themselves as vulnerable. So they hid themselves from the world, even from God. The story of Genesis in the Bible is a symbolic account about the fundamentals of our nature and our world rather than a scientific account.

Christian faith offers something very contrary to this teaching while acknowledging that it is one of the primal fears in our nature. It teaches us that we are not meant to live in fear but in love and freedom. It teaches us that God has created us and welcomed us in his freedom and he wants us to live freely, love freely. Freedom comes with risk and yet God was willing to take that risk and wants us to do the same. The life of Jesus was a sheer example of what potential risk we might take when we pursue the life of freedom and love.

St. Paul said in his letter to Romans.

“Do you no know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6.3-4)

To be baptized means to take the risks. The risk of love, risk of freedom, risk of living as God's welcomed children with others. This means a constant challenge, learning and discipline through which we may gain strength to overcome our fear and to welcome our true selves and others. The Church is where we practice this while encouraging and supporting each other.

In a world that is becoming more and more selfish and cold, living as Christians, living as a member of the Church might seem foolish. It may well seem as a burden rather than a blessing, especially when we hear or see unpleasant things around the life of the Church. The Church has never been an ideal place since its beginning. The early Church had many problems, conflicts, disagreements. However that was how Christians learned how to live together, how to love, how to forgive and how to welcome. One of the early churches that had many problems and conflicts was the church in Corinth. St. Paul said this in his letter to Corinthians.

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, through many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, Jews or Greeks, slaves or free.” (1Cor 12.12)

As a faithful entertainer once said, when we pray for courage, God gives us an opportunity to be courageous. The Church is God's gift and opportunity for us to learn to live in love and in the warmth of welcoming spirit which reflects God's love and warmth toward us. In doing so we may gradually get closer to the fullness of our life. St. Irenaeus said, ‘The glory of God is the human person fully alive.’ I believe that is the mission of the Church. And that is our mission.

Fr Jun

## **A new way to be a Pilgrim**

Over the last three year groups have been meeting to study the new Pilgrim Course produced by the Church of England. A new course is being offered, starting on 11<sup>th</sup> October, and sign up sheets are on the tables by the South door. Robert Raven writes:

There are eight six-session short courses. Each session contains opening and concluding prayers, visual presentations, scripture reading, reflection and discussion. Some members were more comfortable reading out loud and others were more passive listening. The meaning seems to jump out of the page at you.

As a disciple I need the support of other Christians and to be part of a community. Pilgrim gives the opportunity to reflect and pray together and to explore the riches of our faith. It was also very nice to meet and chat and learn about each other's Christian life and how their faith plays an important part.

To date, we have covered the Lord's Prayer, The Ten Commandments and The Beatitudes. The next group will start soon and I thoroughly recommend each and every one of us considers joining the course. Groups are friendly and usually you will be offered tea and coffee often with yummy biscuits provided by Deirdre.

Hope to see you there. Robert

## **Thank You and Welcome**

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September we said a big thank you to Susan Strand for the 12 years that she has led the Junior Church. This part of the church's life has flourished under her care and been valued by many. We appreciate all that she has done and will continue to do with the other areas she is involved with!

Siobhan and Brenda have offered to lead jointly the Junior Church. Thank you!

Having said thank you to Andrew Reid and his family at the beginning of the summer as they move to Durham we welcomed Stephen Hession back to All Saints on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> as Organist and Choir Director. We wish him well as he picks up the reigns of the choir.

## **Fabric**

The fundraising has gone really well over the summer. A huge thank you to all who organised events and to all who contributed time and money to our endeavours. We have a new roof over the Nave and during the next 3 weeks the roof over the South Aisle should be completed. Once the roof is water tight then we will see our organ being renovated and taking its place back above the choir.

**Park Streets Ahead Residents Association invites neighbourly people of all ages who live locally - and their friends - to**

## **Tea & Cake & Music**

**at All Saints Church Hall, Park Road**

**2-4pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays monthly 8 Oct, 12 Nov, 10 Dec**

**Drama workshop for age 8+...Activity table for toddlers...Welcome for everyone!**

Helpers, musicians and cake donations are very much appreciated . *If you need help getting to the church hall, please ring Sue on 349907 or Beki on 764130 To book your child into Drama workshop, email [parkstreetsaheadra@gmail.com](mailto:parkstreetsaheadra@gmail.com) and bring £5*