

All Saints Magazine



March 2019

Free

Editorial

Thank you for picking up our magazine, we hope you find it interesting and will pass it round to family and friends.

To start we have a piece from our vicar Annette about the meaning of Lent, followed by some information from the Diocese about sabbatical leave, in preparation for Annette's leave later in the year.

Next there is an article to provoke some thought; reports of recent funerals of congregation members; and an update on the church hall improvements.

Our centre spread contains the diary dates for church activities, Notices, Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings, followed by more information about Church Events over Easter.

Then we have included something a little light hearted, followed by our monthly quiz answers.

Finally items from the past that may be of interest or still have relevance for today.

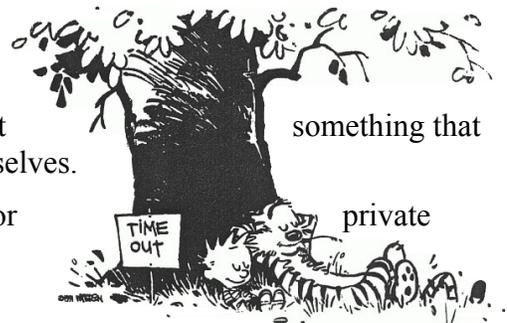
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Lent

Lent is in the churches year a season of penitence and preparation for Easter. It differs from that other season of preparation, Advent, because we are asked to reflect during Lent on our relationship with God, and it is understood that we will be found wanting. In advent we look forward to Christmas with joyful anticipation, In Lent we look forwards to holy week knowing that we must die with Christ to reach the sharing in the resurrection that is Easter.

Reflecting on God is one of those things that most of us don't pay too much attention to most of the time. It is not something that we can share and each individual has to do this for themselves.

Pondering on our relationship with God or giving time for speculation and or Prayer, seems self-indulgent, time should be filled with actions and movement all the time. Or should it?



The trouble we have with giving God time is that we may not always like the answers we get. We may hear truth about ourselves we'd rather not, or we may need to move forwards in a way that challenges us.

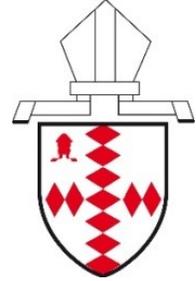
I personally think that God only wants what's best for any of us, and that he helps us to understand that as best he can. However, times of hardship and challenge can make us grow in ways that cannot always be seen. Life can and is often filled with great times of adversity and it is often only in hindsight that we can see God's guiding presence through it all.

In the busyness of life God can get lost and it is up to each of us to try and Pause and pray as best we can. That is why in July August and September I will be taking a sabbatical, this will be covered by father John Francis, William David and some other clergy too. Rita will of course be bearing a huge burden of covering services and pastoral situations too.

A sabbatical is not however a long holiday, it is a gift from the church both to myself and my family, and to you the parish too. It is a chance for me to reconnect with the reasons I became a priest in the first place, to pause and reflect on parish life here in New Eltham, (the good, the bad and the ugly). I am charged to find an area that I would like to study, and given time to do this away from the daily round of life.

The diocese has produced this guidance that can hopefully answer some of your questions

The Diocese of Southwark



My vicar is going on sabbatical, what does that mean?

Frequently Asked Questions answered for PCCs and Parishes.

What is a sabbatical?

The idea of Sabbath rest is a familiar biblical principle: Genesis tells us that God rested on the seventh day of creation and the Jews observed a day of rest, a Sabbath, each week. Sabbatical leave follows that principle of offering a time of rest, refreshment and renewal, every seven years. Sabbatical leave is a period of time away from ministry which may last six weeks (in the case of someone who has been ordained for seven years) or three months (in the case of someone ordained for fourteen years or longer).

Isn't a sabbatical just a long holiday?

Sabbatical leave is not holiday and your vicar will be entitled to take their normal holiday in addition to sabbatical leave. They may choose to add it on and so to be away for up to four months, or simply to take their annual holiday as normal.

What is the value of sabbatical leave to the parish?

Sabbatical leave will give your vicar time to study, to think, and to pray. In planning their sabbatical he or she will have been asked to think about the impact of the sabbatical leave on their future ministry; this might mean focussing on study that will impact on preaching, or visiting other churches with lively youth ministry, or spending time with a mission project overseas. Very occasionally, clergy take sabbatical leave in order to complete a piece of academic study such as a PhD thesis.

Who gives permission for sabbaticals and who should be consulted?

Sabbatical leave is a privilege not a right, and the Area Bishop gives permission to clergy to take sabbatical leave. Your vicar will usually have consulted the Area Dean and Church Wardens about the timing of the sabbatical.

Who pays for a sabbatical?

The vicar will receive their stipend as usual while on sabbatical leave, but will not be claiming any expenses from the parish. A grant towards the sabbatical is available from the diocese, but the PCC may also consider giving a grant to the vicar to assist towards travel or training costs.

What about covering services?

The Church Wardens will be responsible for finding cover for services in the vicar's absence. If the parish has a curate or assistant clergy they may be asked to take on more responsibility during this time. The Area Dean may be able to help in finding clergy cover.

Can I contact the vicar while he or she is away?

Your vicar may well choose to close down his or her email account and divert telephone calls during the period of sabbatical leave. The vicar will leave clear information about who to contact during his or her absence, but the first point of contact will usually be the Church Wardens.

If your vicar is away and his or her family are still in the vicarage, please don't expect them to pass on messages or handle problems, however minor.

What will happen when the vicar gets back?

Your vicar will want to share their learning with the PCC and the parish. They may do this by giving a presentation, writing a report, or you might hear about the sabbatical in sermons.

You may find that the vicar returns wanting to change things! If he or she has developed unhealthy habits of overwork in the past, now is the time to set new patterns. Alternatively, you may find the vicar returns full of energy and new plans.

It may take a little time for your vicar to settle back in to the parish, remember there will be three months worth of stories to catch up, and don't expect them to have time to see everyone all at once.

How can I help?

You can support your vicar by taking an interest in their plans beforehand, and their experiences afterwards.

During the sabbatical support your assistant clergy, lay ministers, and Church Wardens. Remember they are taking on extra responsibilities and thank them!

The Theme from “Time”

I will give you the key. And with this knowledge, please realise, comes the responsibility of sharing it. I will show you the way: It's very simple.

Throughout the Universe there is order. In the movement of the planets . . . in nature . . . and in the functioning of the human mind. A mind that is in its natural state of order is in harmony with the Universe, and such a mind is Timeless,

Your life is an expression of your mind. You are a creator of your own universe, for as a human being you are 'free to will' whatever state of being you desire through the use of your thoughts and words.

There is a great power there.

It can be a blessing or a curse . . . It's entirely up to you, for the quality of your life is brought about by the quality of your thinking. Think about that. Thoughts produce actions. Look at what you are thinking. See the pettiness and the envy and the greed and the fear and all the other attitudes that cause you pain and discomfort. Realise that the one thing you have absolute control over is your attitude. See the effect that it has on those around you, for each life is linked to all Life and words carry with them chain reactions like a stone that is thrown into a pond. If your thinking is in order, your words will flow directly from the heart, creating ripples of love. If you truly want to change your world, my friends, you must change your thinking. Reason is your greatest tool. It creates an atmosphere of understanding which leads to caring, which is Love. Choose your words with care. GO forth . . . with Love.

Funerals

The funeral of our friend and long-standing member of All Saints congregation, Margaret Lyons, was held in Church on 30th January. It was a bright but cold day and Graham, her husband and former All Saints curate, supported by their children, son Kevin and daughter Annie, were there with their children. Annie read a very moving 'Letter to Mum' at the church service before the committal at Falconwood. We will miss you Margaret; Rest in Peace.

Another long-standing member of All Saints congregation, former Gift Aid Secretary Anthony Bennett, passed away on 20th January. It's not that long ago that Anthony and his wife Iris moved down to Hampshire to be closer to their family. A contingent from All Saints travelled to the funeral at St Mary's Church, Hook with Warsash on 5th February.

This poem from Anthony Bennett's Order of Service sheet seems appropriate

God's Garden

God looked around his garden
And found an empty place.
He then looked down upon the earth,
And saw your tired face.

He put His arms around you
and lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful;
He always takes the best.

He knew that you were suffering,
He knew that you were in pain.
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.

He saw the road was getting rough
And the hills were hard to climb.
So He closed your weary eyelids
And whispered "Peace be thine."

It broke our hearts to lose you
But you did not go alone. . .
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.

Hall Disabled Toilets update

By the time you read this the hall toilets upgrade will be completed and will be Disability Discrimination Act compliant.

The improved facilities will include two toilets for disabled access, which will also include baby changing facilities. We have included a number of energy saving and ecologically friendly improvements; movement activated lighting and taps, so that these can no longer accidentally be left on; and hot air hand dryers, to save a few trees worth of paper towels. The necessary redecoration and other improvements will bring the toilets up to modern day standards of comfort.

Whilst the Hall has been closed the Main Hall has also been repainted. We hope you like the new look.

Since 2014, the hall hire hourly rates have not been increased, pending these hall works, despite the increasing costs of running the hall, such that the hall ran at a loss last year. It will therefore be necessary to increase the hourly rates at some time later this year. We will be contacting regular hall users with the details in due course.

Diary Dates for March 2019

Saturday 2nd	10.00-12.00	Parish Office
Sunday 3rd	10.00 am	Holy Communion with Father William David
Wednesday 6th	ASH WEDNESDAY	
	11.00 am	Holy Communion with imposition of Ashes
	5.30-6.30 pm	Imposition of Ashes by New Eltham Station
	8.00 pm	Communion Service with imposition of Ashes
Thursday 7th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Friday 8th	11.00 am	Funeral of Joyce Leach
Sunday 10th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Monday 11th	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer for Lent
Wednesday 13th	10.30 -12.00	Fair Trade café
	6.30 pm	Evening Prayers for Lent
	8.00 pm	PCC Meeting
Thursday 14th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Friday 15th	12.30 pm	Lent Lunch
Sunday 17th	10.00 am	Family Communion
	12.00 pm	Baptism Beau
Monday 18th	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer for Lent
Wednesday 20th	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer for Lent
Thursday 21st	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Friday 22nd	12.30 pm	Lent Lunch
Sunday 24th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Monday 25th	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer for Lent
Wednesday 27th	10.30 -12.00	Fair trade café
	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer for Lent
Thursday 28th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Friday 29th	12.30 pm	Lent Lunch
Sunday 31st	MOTHERING SUNDAY	
	11.00 am	Holy Communion

Please check the weekly news sheet for any change

Parish Pump

100 Club

The February prizes were won by Betty Macdonald and Annette Rose.

Quiz Results.

The February Quiz prize of £16.50 was won by Eda Comb who's entry was picked from those with the most correct answers.

Monthly Charity.

This month we are raising money for the "Bishop's Lent Appeal" and the Bexley & Greenwich foodbank. Please place your donations in the wall safe by the main entrance. Thank you for your support.

Fair Trade Café

Now that the upgrading of the Hall toilets is complete the Fair Trade Café will re-open, in the Savage Room, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 10.30 am to 12 noon. Profits go towards our nominated monthly charity.

Lent Course

It is hoped to run a Lent Course based on the Churches Together in Great Britain text. "**The Mystery of God.** In 2019, our Lent course delves more deeply into the mystery of God, seeking to rediscover what it is that draws us so deeply in our search for God. We will follow Jesus through the Lenten readings, allowing him to draw us, in love and wonder, into the mystery of God's plan of salvation".

It is hoped that the Churches Together in New Eltham (Redeemed Christian Church of God-Victory Assembly; Novar Christian Fellowship; The Methodist Centre; and All Saints), will be able to host sessions on one Wednesday each, either the 20th or 27th March or 3rd or 10th April. Times and locations were not available on going to press, so see weekly newsheets, notices for details.

Future Events

Lent Evening Prayers will continue on Monday and Wednesdays at 6.30 pm throughout the rest of Lent, ending on Wednesday

13th April, Saturday at 6.00 pm, Agape meal, in the hall.

14th April, Palm Sunday, 10.00 am, Mass with palms procession

17th April, Holy Wednesday, 11.00 am, Stations of the Cross, and later at 7.00 pm, Tenebrae Service

18th April Maundy Thursday, 11.00 am, Holy Communion with foot washing; and at 8.00 pm Holy Communion with foot washing, followed by the Maundy watch.

19th April, Good Friday, 10.00- 12.00 noon, Messy church for children and parents in the church hall; 10.00 am Churches Together Walk of Witness starts from Clare Corner; 2.00 pm, Reflection on the last hour in Church

20th April, Holy Saturday, 8.00 pm, Easter Vigil

21st April, Easter Day, 10.00 am Holy communion followed by Easter Egg Hunt.

I'll just re-phrase that!

The following actually appeared in church magazines/newsletters or were announced in church. This collection appeared in an East Kent parish magazine. It was put together with fervent thanks to heaven for the less-than-perfect keyboard or communication skills of the authors.

Weight Watchers will meet in the hall. Please use the large double doors at the side entrance.

The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.

This morning's sermon: "Jesus walks on the water". This evening's sermon: "Searching for Jesus".

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again" giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Barbara is recovering well but still needs her medication. She is also having trouble sleeping and has requested tapes of the vicar's sermons.

After the Priest has preached his farewell address the choir will sing "Break forth into joy".

Michael Smith and Jane Carter were married last Saturday. So ends a friendship which began in their school days.

Sunday's sermon is entitled "What is Hell?". Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are needed due to the arrival of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 8pm there will be hymn singing in the park. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for Sunday's Pancake Breakfast.

The Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet on Thursday. Please use the back door.

The Friends of Preston Church

Answers to the February Quiz sheet

How Alphabetical is your plant knowledge?

A) A plant of the snapdragon family.

Antirrhinum

B) Deadly nightshade.

Belladonna

C) A hard, valuable wood of the ebony family.

Calamander

D) A perennial plant with brightly coloured flowers.

Dahlia

E) A shrub - the flowers and fruit of which can be used to make wine.

Elder

F) A plant from which the drug 'digitalis' is produced.

Foxglove

G) A plant with sword-shaped leaves and brightly-coloured flowers.

Gladioli

H) A spring plant sometimes called the 'Lenten Rose'.

Hellebore

I) These are commonly known as 'bizzie lizzie'.

Impatiens

J) An invasive plant that we need to eradicate.

Japanese

Knotweed

K) 'Red hot poker' plant.

Kniphofia

L) We can use this to help us sleep.

Lavender

M) A large daisy-like plant.

Marguerite

N) A garden climber with orange, yellow or red flowers and edible leaves.

Nasturtium

O) A plant of the wood-sorrel family related to geraniums.

Oxalis

P) The flowers of this plant are said to resemble the five wounds of Christ.

Passion

Flower

Q) A golden, round or pear-shaped fruit used for jellies or marmalade.

Quince

R) A plant producing black or redcurrants of the saxifrage family.

Ribes

S) A pretty drooping white flower of early spring.

Snowdrop

T) A spring flower originally brought over from Holland.

Tulip

U) You could shelter under this when it rains.

Umbrella

Tree

V) A small purple flower of the pansy family.

Violet

or **Viola**

W) A peppery flavoured plant often used in salads.

Watercress

X) A family of trees and shrubs of the custard apple family native of the tropics.

Xylopia

Y) A tree native to Mexico and cultivated in gardens because of their splendid appearance.

Yucca or Yuca

Z) A plant popular for their bright showy flowers.

Zinnia

A new quiz is available from the first Sunday of each month at £1 a sheet. Half the money collected is paid as a prize for the winner, drawn on the last Sunday of the month. The other half goes towards necessary works for the upkeep of the Church and Hall.

From the Archives – *we don't have a copy of the March 1939 magazine, but this piece from 1939 about the PCC, written by a PCC Secretary, may be of interest.*

The Parochial Church Council – Its past and its future.

Until the year 1919 laymen, except through Parliament, had no part in the government of the Church of England. In that year powers were given to the laity by the setting up of a central representative body, the National Assembly, and of a Parochial Church Council in every parish. These Councils have now been in existence for nearly twenty years, and it may be well to consider how far they have fulfilled the purposes for which they were formed.

It is the primary duty of the Council (PCC) in every parish to co-operate with the incumbent in the initiation, conduct, and development of Church work both within the parish and outside. In addition it has full control of the financial affairs of the parish.

GENERAL CHURCH WORK

Let us consider first the conduct and development of Church work within the parish. This is the responsibility of the incumbent by reason of his office, and the extent to which the Council will be able to co-operate with him will largely depend on himself. For this purpose parishes may be divided into three types. In some the incumbent is a man full of energy, who has been accustomed for many years to carry on the business of the parish unaided, and consequently finds it difficult to adapt his ideas to a new procedure. The PCC may meet for the minimum number of four meetings in the year to hear what he has to say, but takes little further action, and to all intents and purposes might not exist. Then there are parishes, particularly country parishes, where the people are quite satisfied with things as they are. The parson goes about his work quietly and efficiently, and the PCC does not meet very frequently because there is apparently no business to be done. In the third type of parish the incumbent may be quite as energetic as in the first type, but he is a man who understands that with the co-operation of a loyal Council he will be able to work far more efficiently than he could alone. The people in this type of parish are never quite satisfied with things as they are, and the Council enables them to take part in the development of Church work and to appreciate the difficulties which have to be overcome. It is the Councils in parishes of the third type, fortunately by no means uncommon, which prove the capacity of the laity to bear real share in the government of the Church.

A further part of the duty of the PCC is the development of Church work outside the parish. Its most effective way of doing this will naturally vary in different parishes, but there are two ways in which every Council can assist. The first is by paying the Diocesan Quota promptly and in full, the second by seeing that the parish contributes its share to the great Missionary Societies of the Church. Largely perhaps because of its forbidding name, the Quota is a mystery to many people. Yet it is simply a contribution to a fund to assist parishes in need and to deal with the financial problems of the Church as a whole; for example, the providing of pensions for retired clergymen, and the training of candidates of Ordination.

FINANCE

The Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1921 provides that there shall be transferred to the Council all powers of the churchwardens relating to the financial affairs of the church, including the collection and administration of all moneys which may be raised for Church purposes. It is in financial affairs that the Council can be of the greatest assistance to the incumbent; it is inevitable that in the majority of parishes considerable time must be devoted to the raising of money necessary for the current Church expenses, such as cleaning, heating, and

repairs, and if the incumbent can leave these matters with confidence in the hands of the PCC he will have more time for work of greater importance.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Once a year the whole body of Church people whose names are on the Electoral Roll of the parish have an opportunity of giving their verdict on the Council and its work. This they do at the Annual Meeting which, among other business has the important duty of electing (with a few exceptions) the councillors who are to hold office for the next twelve months.

This election should be taken seriously. The influence of Parliament would soon decline if, after each dissolution, the same members were returned unopposed to save the trouble of election; but this is practically what happens in some parishes. If a Council is to be healthy and vigorous there should be an election every year, and young people as well as old should be invited to stand. In every parish there are certain persons with long experience or special qualifications whom it is obviously desirable to appoint to the PCC. Their membership can be ensured if they are nominated as delegates to the Diocese or Ruri-decanal Conferences. These delegates are nearly always elected unopposed and they automatically become *ex officio* members of the Council, so that interest may be stimulated

by an election without risking the loss of the service of these important councillors.

CONCLUSION

To sum up, the Councils have not brought about a spectacular revival in religion, nor was it ever supposed that they would do so. In some parishes there may even seem to be little justification for their existence, but there can be no doubt that they have done a great amount of good work. There is much still to be done, and there is every indication that through the Councils the laity are becoming more aware of the part they ought to play in the active everyday life of the Church.

The "Church Logbook" for March 1979 records:

The Rev. E. B. Wood was elected as Sub Dean of Eltham in place of the Rev. Clifford Lacey, who was made Borough Dean of Greenwich.

The Service of Installation was held at All Saints on Wednesday May 30th. A Parish reception followed in the Hall.

We hope to provide "snippets" from the relevant month of 80 and 40 years ago.