

All Saints Magazine



May 2019
Free

Why does Notre Dame matter?

Isabelle Hamley writes: Growing up in France, I never really thought of Notre-Dame de Paris as the best French cathedral. Or the best example of early gothic architecture. Or even a place of deep spiritual meaning for me. It was – well, that’s it, it just, *was*. And so I wasn’t really prepared for the tidal wave of emotion I felt as I watched it burn against the backdrop of the city.

Within an hour or so of the news hitting the headlines, I read a grumpy Facebook post complaining that this seems to be such big news, compared to the many parts of the world devastated by suffering that we so often ignore. And more this morning – blogs and posts sharing their righteous outrage that so much money would be used to rebuild, when it could be used for the poor. For good causes. For much more valuable human lives. Let the ruins stand, and turn the ground into a park. And of course, at one level, this is absolutely right. There is so much need in the world, so much misery, that we should do everything we can to combat it. The question is, are these things mutually exclusive?

Or, to put it another way, do those calls to leave the ruins to stand, to concentrate on ‘what really matters’ profoundly misunderstand the nature of being human? There are only a few things that distinguish human beings from other creatures. One, according to Aristotle, is laughter. Another, according to scientists, is self-consciousness. Another, I would argue, is art. Art in all its forms—the creation of beauty for its own sake, not for utilitarian purposes, but because it calls to something deep within us that we cannot explain, something that connects us to a reality beyond what we can see or hear or touch or feel. One might even suggest, it is a key aspect of the divine image within us. As human beings, we do not do things simply because we have to, or because they pass a rigorous test of usefulness. Human beings, even when facing the most desperate circumstances, make music, draw, write, tell stories. It is woven into the very fabric of who we are. And so watching a well-known, well-loved, irreplaceable building devastated by fire, calls to something within us that we may not be able to explain or rationalise – and yet something that has the potential to bring out beauty and help us recognise and rejoice in our common humanity.

The very first message of support the rector of Notre-Dame received, he said to journalists yesterday, was from the Chief Rabbi. Somehow, something about beauty, symbol, meaning, and loss had the power to bring people together. Many of those interviewed on the streets, and personalities and celebrities speaking, talked of ‘our’ cathedral, regardless of their faith background. I wonder what those who had the vision to build the cathedral, and those who lavished the best of their abilities and talents on the building, to give glory to God, to draw the eyes towards heaven along the vaulted ceiling, to teach the faith to those who could not read designed Biblical stained glass, I wonder what these men and women would say, when seeing that the fruit of their labour has spoken deeply to many who would not immediately describe themselves as Christian? Isn’t this part of what cathedrals are for? Isn’t communicating the beauty of the Gospel, awe at its power, an essential aspect of mission? And when we recognise our common humanity, and lift our eyes above utilitarianism, then, hopefully, we recognise that there are many, many other situations we need to attend to.

But this is just the start. There is something even more important that makes us human: we are people who *remember*. We may distort our memories, we may be selective, we may try to forget. But we remember. Sometimes in words, sometimes in pictures, sometimes in habits and symbols that have the power to bring out what we have buried deep. The memory of a people is not held simply in history books. It is held in the very land they inhabit, in its landscape, in its buildings. The suggestion I saw in a blog this morning, that history is always there, we do not need

buildings to remind us of it, is but an expression of an old heresy, or of a destructive modern trend. It suggests that we are but spiritual beings, that the material world around us is something we may use, but that its destruction or absence does not matter because we, supreme beings, have the power to hold things in our spiritual/cognitive memory. It also seems to suggest that we can make ourselves what we want to be, regardless of what is, or isn't, around us. Both of these assumptions are deeply flawed. We are who we are through a complex interaction of the culture we live in, the history that has shaped it, the landscapes we inhabit, the languages – verbal and non-verbal – that we speak, the symbols that structure our ways of thinking and reasoning.

And out of all of these elements, we weave narratives that tell us who we are, why we are here, where we have come from, and, perhaps, where we are going. Notre-Dame is a keystone of those narratives of French identity. keystones are rarely obtrusive, but nevertheless they ensure that the beautiful, visible parts of a roof all hold together. Notre-Dame holds many strands for us: all French roads are measured from its *parvis*; it inspired countless other cathedrals, some of which have surpassed it greatly in beauty and elegance; rulers were crowned there; it was a focus of anger in the French revolution; one of the greatest stories ever told by a French novelist, Victor Hugo, was set in its belltower; in living memory, our older citizens remember the bells ringing the end of years of war in 1945. These are the visible strands. Other, less visible strands are there too, and some of them were surfacing for the first time in many years last night. France has a deeply religious past, and a deeply ambiguous relationship to this past. It champions secularism, and religion is usually discussed with mild condescension, if not outright suspicion, in public life.

It was therefore deeply moving, last night, to hear journalists groping for words they had almost forgotten—words that speak of faith and what faith had meant to the nation over the years. Many of them were trying to put into words the sense of connection they felt to the cathedral, how moved they were to hear hymns and prayers from Christians surrounding them, and find words that would nurture hope.



April 17, 2019 by [Ian Paul](#)

This morning, journalists were tentatively using the word ‘miracle’ as they contemplated the picture of the inside of the cathedral, the cross illuminated from the side windows, still intact,

and heard of the news that many windows had survived, and the organ maybe too. To hear these words spoken with awe and genuine interrogation is nothing short of a miracle – and it may be short lived. But as I listened, I realised that Notre-Dame had lived up to its destiny: it reminded a people of its past, and of the hope of new life we find at the foot of the cross. France has tried very hard to push God away, and forget the faith of centuries. But when the people fell silent, the very stones cried out. The question is, now that we remember, what will we do with these memories for the future? There is a small window of opportunity for the nature of public discourse to change. For the derision and suspicion of faith to morph into respect and attentive listening. Yesterday, the French president embraced the rector of the cathedral. Church and state in a long forgotten embrace? It was a fleeting image, and yet a hint that new life, new ways of imagining our life together are always possible.

And for me, this is the real question of the rebuilding. What is it we are rebuilding? What kind of vision will animate the endless years of work ahead? Will we listen to the memory of stones, and honour the God whose cross triumphed over destruction, fire and ashes? Notre-Dame held memories we had forgotten; will we accept God's gift of memory, and reshape some of the distorted, incomplete stories we tell ourselves, so that we can move into a better future? I hope and pray that we do; and I believe that we can, because I believe in the God of Good Friday and of Easter Sunday, who ultimately holds all memory, all past and future in his hand.



Dr Isabelle Hamley is Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury. She was previously in parish ministry and theological education, and her PhD explored the interpretation of texts of violence in the Old Testament, published by Wipf and Stock as [*Unspeakable Things Unspoken*](#).

Missionary News

All Saints has a long history of supporting missionary work overseas. In its early years the then planned giving scheme was called the Duplex scheme as contributors pledged some money to support the parish and some for overseas mission.

In the 1930s the parish supported Rev H Hinkley's offer to go to Namibia in Africa, Miss Chapman went on a mission to China and in this month's Archive page we read that Rev. F. D. Halliwell was setting sail for Bombay.

More recently we are currently supporting Penny de Marcés (nee Everness) in her mission in Peru. Daughter of Pat and Brian Everness who until they recently passed away were stalwart members of the congregation, Penny has now been in Peru for over 20 years. Long enough to marry local vicar Juan Carlos and have three children.



Apart from Penny attending her father's funeral, the last official visit the family made to the UK was four years ago and the magazine recorded Juan Carlos carrying the Cross on the Good Friday Walk of Witness during their time in New Eltham.

We now have news that Penny and Juan Carlos will be back in the UK arriving on 2nd May. They will be attending the Alpha conference from 6-8 May in London. From the 9th to 16th May they will be in New Eltham, staying with members of the congregation, and have tentatively put a Sunday visit to All Saints for Sunday 12 May.

In their latest newsletter from Peru "Marcés Mailing (April)" they say they hope to be able to see many of you apart from on the Sunday; after four years we have lots to catch up on.

Thank you for your fellowship with us; we hope to be able to see as many of you as possible whilst in UK so please contact us, especially if you are near one of the Churches we will be visiting. We will be based in Dorking in May and August, and in Birmingham during June/July. Please contact us, by email or whatsapp at +51-942612987

God bless you,

Juan Carlos & Penny (& Rebeca, Elizabeth & Jonatan)

Itinerary for UK visit 2019

- 2 May arrive UK
- 6-8 May Alpha Conference, London
- **9 - 16 May: All Saints, New Eltham**
- 18 May: Special anniversary All Nations Christian College
- 19- 21 May: Holy Trinity, Springfield, Essex
- 26 May: St Paul's, Dorking
- 2 June: St Peter's Ipsley, Worcester
- 9 June: St Anne with Emmanuel, Nottingham
- 13-16 June: St Mary's Maidenhead
- 23 June: St John's Harborne
- 30 June: St Paul's Carlton, Nottingham
- 7 July: St Germain's, Edgbaston, Birmingham
- 10-14 July: St Peter's, Littleover, Derby
- 18-21 July: St John-in-Bedwardine, Worcester
- 28 July: Trentside Parish, Burton-on-Trent
- 21 August: return to Peru
- *Pending: visits to SAMS Ireland, and to visit family (Leeds, Bolton, Switzerland....)*

All Saints continues to give the opportunity to support Penny's mission by donations of pennies to Penny's penny pot, (larger denominations accepted), and from the proceeds of the sale of greetings and birthday cards available in church.

If you wish to support Penny and would like to know more about her work in Peru, copies of the latest "Marcés Mailing (April)" are available from Cynthia Peacock.

Churches Together in New Eltham (CTNE)

The Walk of Witness on Good Friday saw a much larger attendance than in previous years, with over 50 people from All Saints, the Methodist, and the Redeemed Christian Church of God, Victory Assembly congregations taking part in the walk, following the Cross, from Clare Corner to the Methodist Centre. There could have been more people but Novar Christian Fellowship had a joint service at Coldharbour Evangelical Free Church at the same time.

The walk is at a sedate pace, on the pavements and so is suitable for everyone, and has five stopping places; Clare Corner; Wybourne School; the Co-op; opposite the Post Office; and outside the Methodist Centre, at each stopping place we listen to a bible reading and sing an Easter hymn.

After the walk, on a glorious hot and sunny day, the Methodists provided refreshments and hot cross buns, before the walkers took part in a short inclusive service of prayer and reflection.

CTNE's next meeting on the 13th May is due to make plans for a picnic in Southwood Park on 16th June. Look out for details later.

The background of the poster is a photograph of the interior of a church. In the foreground, there is a large, ornate, octagonal baptismal font with a dark metal frame and glass panels. The font sits on a marble base. Behind it, rows of wooden pews lead towards the altar. The church has high ceilings with blue and gold painted vaulting. The text is overlaid on this image.

**The Eltham & Mottingham
Anglican Forum**

**To teach, baptize and nurture
new believers:**

exploring the Second Mark of Mission

Led by Bishop Jonathan Clark

Bishop of Croydon

Wednesday 1 May 2019

at All Saints'

Bercta Road, New Eltham SE9 3TZ

drinks from 19.30

start at 20.00

**And for your diaries: Deanery Forum Away Day on Saturday
5 October—more details to come**

Diary Dates for May 2019

Wednesday 1st		7.30 for 8.00 pm	The Deanery Forum with Bishop Jonathan
Thursday 2nd	11.00 am		Holy Communion
Saturday 4th	10.00-12.00		Parish Office
Sunday 5th	10.00 am		Holy Communion
	2.00 pm		Inter Ashes of Jean Foyster
Wednesday 8th	10.00-12.00		FairTrade Café
Thursday 9th	11.00 am		Holy Communion
Sunday 12th	10.00 am		Holy Communion (beginning of Christian Aid week)
Thursday 16th	11.00 am		Holy Communion
	7.00 pm		Archdeacons Visitation at the Cathedral
Sunday 19th	10.00 am		Holy Communion
Wednesday 22nd	10.00-12.00		FairTrade Café
Thursday 23rd	11.00 am		Holy Communion
Sunday 26th	10.00 am		Holy Communion
	12.30 pm		Baptism
Thursday 30th			ASCENSION DAY
	11.00 am		Holy Communion
	8.00 pm		Ascension Day Service

Please check the weekly news sheet for any change

Parish Pump

Baptisms

16th April, Robin Felicity Fowley.

100 Club

The April prize was won by Simon and Beryl Garson.

Quiz Results.

The March Quiz prize of £17.50 was won by Betty Macdonald whose entry was picked from those with the most correct answers.

Each month we run a new quiz starting on the first Sunday of the month and ending on the last Sunday of the month. Each quiz sheet costs £1 and can be bought throughout the month. Half the money raised goes to a fund for necessary repairs to the church, and the other half is given as the monthly prize, so the more quizzes sold the bigger the monthly prize.

Monthly Charity.

This month we are raising money for Christian Aid. Christian Aid is the official relief and development agency of 41 British and Irish churches, and works to support sustainable development, stop poverty, support civil society and provide disaster relief in South America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia including the Middle East. Please place your donations in the wall safe by the main entrance. You can also show your support by coming to the FairTrade Cafés, (2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 10.30 am to 12 noon), as the profits from this also go to these charities. Thank you for your support.

Christian Aid Week.

This year Christian Aid week runs from Sunday 12th May to Saturday 18th May. Once again Simon and Beryl Garson will be organising the house to house collection and are looking for volunteers to deliver leaflets and later for people to collect them. House to house collections are now highly regulated so collectors need to be registered and issued name badges before the event. Anyone who wishes to volunteer for either activity should notify Simon as soon as possible.

Future Events

Saturday 16th June, Churches together in New Eltham picnic in Southwood Park.

Saturday 5th October, Deanery Forum Away day.

Churchwardens' Corner

Looking back on our first year

Graham and I were appointed as Churchwardens on 23rd May last year at a powerful service in Southwark Cathedral. We felt that as we seek re-election for a further year, it might be useful simply to reflect on our first year in the role.

The front page of the Archdeacons' Visitation News given to us at the service, reminded us that a key element of the responsibilities of a churchwarden, as set out in the Canons of the Church of England, is that "they should use their best endeavours by example and precept to encourage the parishioners in the practice of true religion". Hmm... we have a sinking feeling that "**nul points**" could be the score of the All Saints jury on that front!

However, there are some real positives that All Saints Church has achieved as a whole:

- A Parish Mission Action Plan was approved by the PCC in January 2018, which sets out our vision for the development and growth of our church community over a two-year period from 1st January 2019 until 31st December 2020.
- The works to provide Disability Discrimination Act compliant toilets have been completed and the hall has been re-painted. Our thanks go especially to Peter, Bob and Emma.
- A new Website was created for us by James Phillips who continues to develop and maintain our site.
- The Church windows both internally and externally are now being cleaned on a regular basis while a start has been made to de-clutter certain parts of the church.
- Sunday School has been re-started thanks to Victoria.
- The Choir is now rehearsing regularly thanks to the appointment of Aaron as our Head of Music
- The regular Garden Working Party Mornings are helping to maintain the Memorial Gardens on a more shared and collaborative basis

These are some of a growing number of encouraging signs of progress. But, as the Parish Mission Action Plan shows, there is much more that needs to be done if we are to become a church community whose love of God and the care and support that we show to fellow parishioners, truly place us at the heart of the parish community of New Eltham.

Garden Working Party – Saturday 4th and 18th May

As we mentioned in last month's edition, over the next three months, in a determined bid to keep on top of the work required to properly maintain the All Saints Gardens, we are holding a Garden Working Party on both the first and third Saturdays of the month.

Our special thanks go to Pam, Betty, and Roberta who are taking responsibility for the area, including the roses, close to the church, and to Ged and my nephew James who are continuing to concentrate on the Memorial Garden.

My particular thanks also go to Peter who in his usual unsung and direct way gave a much-needed trim to the large evergreen tree near the entrance to the church.

Unfortunately for Peter, a certain churchwarden, feeling a little guilty that the tree had been allowed to outgrow its space, offered to help. The certain churchwarden duly fell off the ladder that was being used, executed what he thought was a perfect SAS style roll when landing on the cement path and then promptly leapt up as if this was standard practice! Message to the certain churchwarden – in future let Peter do what he does quickly and efficiently without interference, without fuss, and without any amateur dramatics! Thank you.

Graham & Neal

All Saints Choir

Since I have taken over the choir we have been meeting nearly every week on a Wednesday evening for an hour. The choir are enjoying the more frequent rehearsals and are really keen to push on and sing more regularly. My aim for the future are for the choir to sing more regularly and recruit more members both young and old,

If you enjoy singing and would like to join our choir, we meet in the Church vestry on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 to 8.30.

If you are interested and would like more details please contact Aaron Mather by e-mail at anjmather@gmail.com or just come along to one of our rehearsals. All abilities welcome.

Financial Matters

Planned Giving Scheme

Firstly can I thank all the members of the congregation who participate in our “planned giving scheme”, either by weekly or monthly envelopes or by standing order directly into the church bank account. Without your regular support it would be impossible for the church to continue to have its own vicar, as your contributions make up about half of All Saints annual income. Every year we are required to make a contribution to the Diocese, now known as “Parish Share”, to contribute towards costs of having a Vicar. Having a regular income makes estimating what the parish can afford to pay each year a little easier. Maintaining a Vicar in a parish is estimated to cost around £78,000 p/a and we currently contribute £28,600, therefore if you are not currently part of our “planned giving scheme” please consider joining. The envelope system we use ensures that what you give remains confidential.

Gift Aid

Many people don't realise that each Church of England parish Council is a charity in its own right and therefore entitled to claim Gift Aid on donations. This boosts donations to the parish by 25% and as such is an extremely valuable source of income that costs the donor nothing. Unfortunately you have to be a taxpayer to enable the parish to reclaim the tax, however higher rate taxpayers can claim the remaining 15% of a gift aided donation on their tax return.

In the recent budget the personal tax free allowance was raised to £12,500, significantly above the pension's increase, so please check that you are still a taxpayer if you previously made a gift aid declaration. If you are a taxpayer and have not previously made a gift aid declaration, please consider doing so. Forms are available, or we have special gift aid envelopes for occasional donations. HMRC now insist on us providing the address of gift aid donors, to prevent fraud, we will keep your address data confidential and will not use it for any other purpose.

Church Accounts

A booklet containing the 2018 church accounts was presented at the APCM on 28th April, after the Service. The bottom line shows that in unrestricted funds we spent £3.444 more than we received last year.

Further copies of the Accounts booklet are available in Church. Please take this opportunity to consider how you can best support your parish church.

As Time Goes By

When the years flash by
In the blink of an eye,
No sooner the start than the end.
When the bells of Time
Have a hollow chime,
And bits of you creak when you bend.
When that wavy hair
Is no longer there
And nothing hangs quite where it should,
And the spirit is willing
For all that is thrilling,
And, oh, but you would, if you could.

Well, don't lose hope
On the downward slope.
Relax, and enjoy the view.
Let the edifice crumble
As pipes groan and grumble,
That's just the façade, never you,
Life's swift little feet
Can never defeat
That secret, quite hid and unseen,
Which no-one can know,
But undoubtedly so...
Deep inside, you are still seventeen!

Tricia Sturgeon

Answers to the April Quiz sheet

Do you know the names of these Famous Americans

1. President known as the Great Emancipator. **Abraham Lincoln**
2. Author of the Declaration of Independence. **Thomas Jefferson**
3. Irish-American President. **John F Kennedy**
4. Known as the March King. **John Sousa**
5. Inventor of the Telephone. **Alexander Graham Bell**
6. Former chief of the FBI, with a dam named after him. **J Edgar Hoover**
7. Famous civil rights leader who was assassinated. **Martin Luther King**
8. King of the wild frontier, of Alamo fame. **Davy Crockett**
9. Said, "Give me liberty or give me death". **Patrick Henry**
10. Inventor of the electric light bulb. **Thomas Edison**
11. First to fly over both North and South Poles. **Richard Byrd**
12. Author of "Life on the Mississippi". **Mark Twain**
13. First to set foot on the moon. **Neil Armstrong**
14. Developer of the "Magic Kingdom". **Walt Disney**
15. Commander of the Allied forces on D-Day. **Dwight D Eisenhower**
16. Famous as an early automobile maker. **Henry Ford**
17. President who led the Roughriders. **Theodore Roosevelt**
18. First woman to fly solo across both Atlantic & Pacific. **Amelia Earhart**
19. His first flight was at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. **Orville Wright**

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.

From the Archives – – *snippets from the May magazine of 1939, price twopence.*

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER.

The feature of Holy Week was the Passion Play. At the final performance on Good Friday evening, three to four hundred people witnessed the Play.

We have received many expressions of appreciation of this work, including several from outside the parish. Our grateful thanks are due to Mr. Salinger who produced the Play, and to all who so ably supported him; also to all who were responsible for staging.

In this connection special mention must be made of Mr. Graves, who made and designed the new scenery, and to Mr. Farlow, who so ably assisted him; also to Mr. George Prior. For his usual efficiency with lighting effects. Few people realise the many hours of labour given to these staging arrangements. The Open Air Procession was well supported, and we continue to receive expressions of appreciation of this Annual Procession of Witness, assuring us how well worth while it is.

Easter was just glorious in every way—it established at least two records—first a record number of Communicants—namely 520; and secondly, a record number for any one Communion Service—namely, 315 at the 8 a.m. Service.

What a joy it was to see those crowds at Communion! Truly a Happy Easter.

ROGATION DAYS

The three days before Ascension Day, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 15th-17th are Rogation Days.

They are days of prayer for all material needs, particularly for God's blessing on the crops, and the planting time, and upon labour and industry. They are also days of preparation for the Ascension Festival.

FAREWELL SOCIAL

A "Farewell Social" to the Rev. F. D. Halliwell who sails for Bombay, on June 9th, is being arranged for Wednesday, May 31st, 8 p.m.

Please keep this date free, and let us have a record crowd, that we may express our appreciation to Fr. Halliwell for his untiring and devoted work.

There were no entries in the "Church Logbook" for May 1979.

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