

All Saints Magazine



September 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 an article from Fr John-Francis Friendship regarding the relationship of faith to the issues surrounding Brexit. Followed by a précis by Br. Christopher John of Fr. John-Francis' forthcoming book 'The Mystery of Faith'.

The next page is a promotion for our own Michaelmas Fair, our major fund raising event of the year, which we hope you will come to and support.

Our Parish Profile this month is from Liston Siregar and his family, with part 2 next month.

Our centre spread contains the diary dates for church activities, Notices, Baptisms, Funerals, and Weddings, followed by more information about Church Events, including resuming the choir.

The Churchwardens corner is back in its regular slot.

Then a piece, reported in the Diocesan newspaper 'The Bridge', about the official opening day of a new C of E School in Greenwich where two members of our congregation are Co-Headteachers.

Finally the answers to our regular monthly quiz; something to make you smile; and an item from the past that may be of interest.

We thank our regular and new advertisers/sponsors whose support continues to enable us to provide the magazine free.

Brexit and Faith

By the end of October the Prime Minister has stated that we will leave the EU, deal or no deal, whatever the cost. Although I write this between the two great, but often ignored, Feasts of the Transfiguration of Christ and the Assumption of Mary when we affirm our faith in the transforming power of God, none of us can be blind to the potential consequences of this event.



Whilst this parish magazine, which I have been asked to write for this month, isn't the place to comment on the rights or wrongs of that decision it is a place to consider some of the questions that have a bearing on matters of our faith. Whatever our particular views on Brexit we should all be concerned that these are shaped by that faith – how is the Kingdom of God to be incarnated and to what teachings of Jesus do we need to give particular attention at this time? For, as Christians, it is our relationship with Him that must form our thinking and not our political views.

One of the most important, yet easily overlooked, consequences of leaving without a deal is the way it will affect the peace process in Northern Ireland. We mustn't ignore the fact that the UK is a guarantor of that process: having helped broker the Good Friday Agreement (how auspicious the day) which ended years of conflict and murder none of us – especially those who call ourselves Christians – should even consider jeopardising that agreement. For not only do people's livelihoods but their very lives depend on our actions and the English, who were the cause of many divisions in Ireland in the 17th century, need to be very careful about the way we impact that region. It seems to me that the UK needs to be guided by its primary responsibility to maintain peace in that Province and not allow particular political views to dominate its decision-making process.

Of course you may be one of those who can't wait to get out and don't understand why we haven't done so already: if so, then don't forget the saying, 'act in haste, repent at leisure'. Maybe you might recall that one of the important – and difficult – Christian virtues which we need to pray for at the time is that of Patience!

On the other hand you may be one of those (and I've listened to many) who are feeling utterly defeated by the way the government is pursuing a 'hard' Brexit. Perhaps you've become exhausted and disoriented in an existential way and, if so, may be experiencing 'desolation'. This was defined by St. Ignatius Loyola as the consequence of 'evil spirits' working on the soul. Sadly 'evil spirits' have become associated with fundamentalists, but the loss of such an insight into the way we are influenced - for good and ill - by the movements of spiritual forces beyond our control means we can easily become affected - subjected - by those which are not life-giving. We may deny the existence of 'Satan' (meaning, the 'Deceiver') but we must take care not to underestimate the demonic in life and thus weaken our capacity to fight it. Maybe we need to reclaim the term for, as C. S. Lewis pointed out in 'The Screwtape Letters', the devil delights in being overlooked, for then he can work in darkness.

That brings me to mention that church seems to increasingly ignore the spiritual dimension of life. Even clergy, rather than being advised to give priority to their spiritual development, are often encouraged to consider their 'well-being'. Sadly this often gives little attention to any spiritual teaching about the need to make one's relationship with God central to our lives. And if

clergy in particular are not being reminded to prioritise this, no wonder many are unaware of the importance of deepening their relationship with God. No amount of secular 'well-being' courses can touch or address our deepest needs. In spite of the way I pleaded in 'Enfolded in Christ' for the church to take seriously and give priority to the spiritual life of priests, I keep hearing that this is ignored as dioceses grasp for secular answers to what are, at heart, spiritual needs.

No wonder, then, that at a time in this country when we are faced with such an existential malaise ordinary Christians don't look at the spiritual roots of such desolation. Unless priests are relearning the basics of being rooted in Christ it's likely they won't be helping the laity in this vital task. There's a spiritual warfare going on which is easily ignored or denied and that warfare requires us (as it always has) to embrace our faith in the power of the Incarnate, Crucified and Transcendent Christ. We need faith that those dark forces have ultimately been overcome and then to face life with the compassionate love of God - with faith and hope and love. To deepen our prayer, commit ourselves to the Sacraments, meditate on the scriptures and realise the need for regular Retreat – and then to live without denigrating, abusing or ridiculing the beliefs of others (unless they are illegal or immoral).

That's why I developed the *Spiritual Association of the Compassionate Hearts of Jesus and Mary* (www.cchjm.org) to try and offer some on-line resources to address desolation and encourage a renewed heart centred on God. Now, I believe, is the time for the Church of England to remember the importance of the tools it has that are in danger of turning rusty and to reclaim our spiritual heritage.

Fr. John-Francis Friendship SMMS
August 10th, 2019



THE MYSTERY OF FAITH – Exploring Christian Belief

by John-Francis Friendship

Published by Canterbury Press in October 2019 (£12.99) this book draws on the depths and riches of the Christian tradition to explore key beliefs and spiritual practices. Taking the Apostles Creed as a framework it's been written for the average reader who wants to explore Christian belief either as a newcomer to Faith or as someone who wants to explore its riches.

Rooted in the scriptures it addresses the most important insights of Christianity – our understanding of *God*, the Passion of *Christ*, the work of the *Spirit*, *Prayer*, *Worship*, *Mindfulness and Contemplation*, *Sacraments* and *Saints*, *Confession* and our ongoing *Life in Christ*. Each chapter includes reflective questions and the whole book is divided into sections designed to be of use to adult Baptism, Confirmation or Study Groups.

This is the second book written by John-Francis Friendship, author of the best-selling *Enfolded in Christ – the Inner Life of a Priest* published in 2018.

'The author weaves teachings drawn from scripture and the saints with reflections on his own life and ministry, creating an approachable and profound guide to the Christian faith. This is a book for the person seeking a faith rooted in tradition and open to the challenges of real life.'

Br Christopher John SSF, Minister General

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
NEW ELTHAM

MICHAELMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER

10.30am-1.30pm

Church hall, Bercta Rd se9 3tz

Crafts, Games, Tombolas
Cake Stall



REFRESHMENTS

ADMISSION FREE

To live 7.300 miles away

It was spring in 1994, in Jakarta, Indonesia: Lisa and I just got married.

Both of us are the youngest in our respective families and we were ready to become proper adults: Independent, more than a naïve young couple constantly receiving unsolicited life advice from parents, seniors and elder siblings. Before we married, we had accepted an offer to me to work with the BBC World Service for a three year contract in London, about 7,300 miles away from home—14 hours of flight. We were just waiting for all practicalities to be ready, such as a working visa and giving three months' notice to my previous employer.



The Jakarta Skyline

But life is full of unpredictable surprises...

At that time, Indonesia was under an authoritarian regime and about two months after our wedding, the weekly magazine that I worked with had been banned due to a cover story about corruption involving one of the key ministers. I delayed our move to London for a year so that a group of young journalists and I could publish an underground magazine as a statement that people need independent news. The magazine, called *Independen*, later became very popular and received lots of subscribers and donations, but it became a victim of its own success.

In early 1995, the police crackdown on our hidden office led to the arrest of our three friends with sentences of up to two years in prison charged with 'publishing an unlicensed magazine', totally ignoring the freedom of speech that is supposedly guaranteed under the constitution. The justice system was just a tool of a tyrant president, Suharto, who led a military coup in 1965 to topple Indonesia's first president.

Around that time Lisa was already more than six months into her pregnancy and I didn't have a proper job but the time to move to London was coming. London would be a much needed three year break before returning to Indonesia for business as usual: working as journalist as part the democratic movement our country so needs. On the 7th of June 1995, I landed in Heathrow and two months month later, picked up Lisa and our baby son, Juang, from Heathrow in order to become that 'matured and independent' couple we wanted to be for three years.

Yet, again, life is full of unpredictable surprises... we are still here in London in September of 2019.

It is a feeling that has flourished during a long journey we have been on from the very first time we set foot in London, when we realised that living on our own away from families and friends was hard work, much more than the fun challenge we expected before.

Lisa was constantly busy trying to cope with all new daily tasks as a mother looking after Juang as well as a wife looking after the house (and myself)—in Indonesia, we could afford to have helpers at home 24 hours a day—I was also struggling to adapt to my new daily job as a radio journalist, a surprisingly different role to a printing journalist. At the same time we had to start making new friends, which was not as easy as knocking neighbours' door and introducing ourselves, as in our home country when people move to a new area.

In the background, we were also struggling to adapt ourselves to a totally different British climate. It was not just dark winters or windy springs, but also to the fact we sort of had to face four different seasons in an average day. There were times for many years that for up to a week where I was simply feeling too unwell to work during the changing seasons because my body just wasn't used to it.

In autumn 1996, Lisa had a miscarriage and it was devastatingly hard for us to accept it without support from family and friends far away. A mixture of those things, that never crossed our mind in our three years break plan, made me raise the question to myself more than once of “Why did we move to this place?”

However, slowly, day by day, we realised there are tremendous advantages to living on our own. I started to understand it when Matta was born in 1998. We were so happy we rushed home with our new daughter and left all of our bags in a parking space at Lewisham Hospital. Imagine if that happened in 2019! I am sure an anti-bomb unit would be deployed to Lewisham Hospital.



The black bag on the right corner had been left since we were busy taking pictures with a one day old Matta.

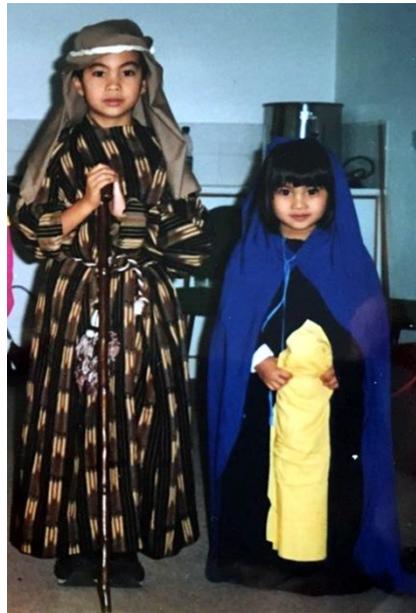
With the arrival of our new baby daughter, there was a powerful spirit of teamwork between us looking after her with no help around us at all. I learnt from Lisa—who at that time had already become sort of an expert—on how to change nappies, disinfect the milk bottle, prepare baby kits in a bag before going out, entertain Juang, and how to cook lunch or dinner for my family, all the while at the same time adjusting to a new work environment. Even Juang contributed a lot by not

being a demanding toddler and staying busy playing with his Thomas the Tank Engine train or reading his Baa Baa Black Sheep singing book.



Juang got a new name after his late grandfather after the funeral ceremony in 2002. He is Mangaraja Salem Muda or Mangaraja Salem Junior.

Growing up in a Christian family, we also tried to find a church and it was a luxury that we could just walk five minutes to the Good Shepherd Church when living in Lee. It is a very different story since in Indonesia—a predominantly Moslem country—where most Christians need to drive to their local church. So we weren't really bothered when we learnt that The Good Shepherd is Church of England even though we grew up in a Lutheran Church. For us what matters is praying to God, in a church that's only walking distance from home, as well as a chance to meet our local community.



Juang and Matta on Christmas play in Good Shepherd Church in Lee

Juang and Matta joined Sunday School, took part in Christmas dramas, and even Juang—who was still eagerly practising piano—was being trained to be one of an organists. It seemed like we got what we expected in that church: a feeling of living in an integrated community. It was sad for us and also for the congregation when we moved to New Eltham, but we needed to find a bigger space to live in as our family (namely the children) got bigger.

Liston Siregar

Liston's family profile continues with their move to New Eltham in next months magazine.

Parish Pump

Weddings

22nd September, Nicholas White and Natasha Lee.

100 Club

The August prizes were won by Betty Macdonald and 'The Fabric Fund'.

Quiz Results.

The July Quiz prize of £20 was won by someone who completed the quiz in the name of All Saint Choir, whose entry was picked from the many correct quiz sheets returned.

Michaelmas Fair

The Michaelmas Fair will soon be upon us, with its usual complement of stalls: Tombolas (including the ever popular Bottle Stall), Cakes, Bric-a-Brac and Traidcraft stall, selling Fairtrade goodies, both edible & beautiful gifts & Christmas decorations.

None of the above will be possible without your help! Please see Ruth Fancett to volunteer to run a stall (training given if necessary). If you have an idea for your own stall, then please suggest, new ideas always welcome! Donations are also welcome: bottles; unwanted gifts (especially smellies); bric-a-brac; Christmas decorations; Toys and, nearer the time, cakes please.

All Saints Choir

The Choir will restart practicing on September 25th, lots of exciting things are happening before the end of the year with some lovely music to sing. Everyone is welcome. We meet every other Wednesday in the vestry at 7:30 pm to 8.30 pm.

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.

Monthly Charity.

This month we are continuing to raise money for Macmillan Nurses, a charity that provides support for cancer sufferers.

Future Events

Saturday 5th October, Deanery Forum Away day

Sunday 13th October, Harvest Festival.

Sunday 3rd November, All Saints-Confirmation Service

Saturday 16th November, Concert for Demelza

Diary Dates for September 2019

Sunday 1st	10.00 am	Holy Communion with Fr Bruce Driver
Thursday 5th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 8th	10.00 am	Holy Communion with Fr William David
Wednesday 11th	10.30-12.00	Fair Trade Café
Thursday 12th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Saturday 14th		Stall at New Eltham Festival
Sunday 15th	10.00 am	Family Service with Rita (no Communion)
Thursday 19th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd	9.00am 10.00 am	Wedding Natasha Lee & Nicholas White Holy Communion with Fr William David
Wednesday 25th	10.30- 12.00 7.30- 8.30 pm	Fair Trade Café Choir practice
Thursday 26th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Saturday 28th	10.30-1.30 pm	Michaelmas Fair
Sunday 29th	10.00am	Holy Communion with Rev'd Christine Latham

Please check the weekly news sheet for any change

Churchwardens' Corner

Brother Maseo's question

John-Francis' recently published book, *Enfolded in Christ*, is full of fascinating insights, experience and stories. We hope that he will not mind if we repeat one of those stories to give you a sense of the highly engaging and challenging book that he has created.

The story is taken from the Little Flowers of St Francis and tells of an encounter between the Saint and Brother Maseo.

Half-jokingly Maseo asks: "Why you? Why does everyone run after you, want to see you and hear you and obey you? After all, you are not handsome, or learned, or wise, or rich. So why is all the world running after you?"

Francis prayed for a long time before responding. Then he replied that God had chosen him because he was foolish and sinful, since "God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world so that no one might boast in the presence of God." (1 *Corinthians 1.27*)

Thank you

To **Peter** for organising and implementing the much-needed painting of the corridor and Savage Room in the Hall and to all those who supported him, including Ruth, Graham, Emma and James, Betty, Bob, Carol, James C., Jenny, Richard and also to Evelyn, Brenda and Vera for helping with the flow of coffees and teas to the painters.

Learning from the lesson of the recent re-painting of the main Hall when it seemed that virtually everyone in the Parish had a proposed recommended paint colour (!), Peter wisely made the decision for all of us by opting to go for "Jasmine White" which has worked well.

To **Ricky and Holly** who have generously donated a new table tennis table as a thank you to us helping to facilitate the makeover of their back garden which is situated at the back of our Hall. It brings the possibility of setting up a small group playing table tennis on a regular weekly basis even closer.

A special thank you also to the following who have covered our Sunday services to date during Annette's sabbatical:

Father John-Francis; Angela Vamplew; Father Gerry Stevenson.

Garden Working Party – Saturday 21st September

For a number of reasons but largely due to a certain Churchwarden failing to look properly at his diary, the working party will not yet be returning to its usual slot on the first Saturday of the month. The next working party will not be until 21st September.

Neal will be there throughout the day so please feel free to drop in at any time from 10.00 – 5.00. The day will kick-start our aim over the autumn/winter period to ensure that the gaps in planting in the Memorial Garden are filled and the entire area is completely mulched. So if you can spare or contribute any of the following we would be very grateful:

Lavender cuttings or plants; Foxgloves; Phlox; Michaelmas Daisies; Bluebells; Spring bulbs.

If you can't make it on the 21st September but could put in a few hours gardening during September that would also be much appreciated. If you could just let Neal when you are planning to do a bit of gardening so that he can make sure you have what you need.

Thank you.

Graham & Neal

All-Through Church of England school opens in Royal Greenwich

Pupils, teachers, councillors, religious dignitaries and special guests celebrated the official opening of St Mary Magdalene Church of England School's Greenwich Peninsula campus with a special grand opening event on Thursday 6 June 2019.

The school will provide over 1,670 places for young people to learn, thrive and excel - from fledgling learners starting in nursery right through to young adults entering sixth form.

At the service Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark, blessed a plaque that was placed in the school's Peace Garden to commemorate the opening.



Danny Thorpe (Leader of the Council), Claire, Victoria, Bishop Christopher

The school, situated on the Greenwich Peninsula, has been developed by the Royal Borough of Greenwich working with Knight Dragon Development Ltd, developers for the peninsula wide site, the GLA which are the landowners and the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education.

Claire Harrison and Victoria Wainwright Federation Executive Co-Headteachers of St. Mary Magdalene C of E said, "It has been a superb day on which we have been able to celebrate with everyone who has been involved on our long journey to make the dream of our all-through campus a reality. We are delighted with our new building and all the facilities and look forward to welcoming many more new families into our school as we continue to expand through to sixth form."

The all-through school is located on the corner of Millennium Way and John Harrison Way and encompasses environmentally friendly technology. It includes a nursery, a two- form entry primary phase, a six form entry secondary phase and 300 sixth form places. The school's high quality sports facilities are available for community use and include a running track, floodlit multi-use games areas, a 4-G external all weather football pitch and a four court indoor sports hall.

Colin Powell (right), Diocesan Director of Education said "The Board of Education (SDBE) is delighted that the community of St. Mary Magdalene School are firmly settled into their new building on the Greenwich Peninsula.



The official opening was a joyous event celebrating the wonderful enhancement of Church of England provision in this Diocese and recognising the strong partnership between Greenwich Council and the SDBE.

My thanks go to everyone who has been involved in making this vision become a reality.”
(Both Claire and Victoria are members of our congregation).

Easy fundraising update

Thanks again to our supporters for continuing to remember to shop using Easyfundraising, a total of £523.27 has been raised this way so far, **at no cost to themselves.**

Currently Easyfundraising are donating £5 every time someone successfully joins and raises £5 as a supporter through our unique link. So if there is anyone you know who shops online, or uses mobile apps for shopping and could support All Saints, then please ask them to sign up to easyfundraising for us.

There now over 3,200 shops and sites including travel agents, insurers, comparison websites, and retailers including Amazon, eBay, Just Eat, Groupon, Tesco & Sainsburys (including grocery shopping), M&S, John Lewis and countless other big name stores, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to All Saints to say thank you for shopping with them.

Easyfundraising also **alerts you to special offers and discount deals, so you could save money too.** All you have to do is:

1. Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/allsaintsneweltham>
2. Sign up for **FREE**; **Don't forget to download the Donation Reminder** on a laptop or PC so you will never forget to collect a **FREE** donation.
3. Select your store/retailer and get shopping—the stores' donations will be collected by easyfundraising and automatically sent to All Saints.

Or: if you have a smart phone or tablet, you can download the **FREE** easyfundraising **app** from the App Store or Google Play Store and follow the instructions on how to sign up.

Alternatively: you can safely register debit or credit cards with easyfundraising. Visit a participating high street retailer. Make an in-store purchase and easyfundraising will do the rest.

Any donations you raise are in addition to any rewards from your card provider and it won't stop you getting any cash back.

It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything.

There are no catches or hidden charges.

Thank you for your support, every penny counts.

Note: All funds raised this way are currently going towards the cost of necessary repairs and maintenance of the flat roofs of the Church.

Answers to the August Quiz sheet

All the following are cryptic clues for London Underground Stations

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. There's One on Merseyside? | Liverpool |
| Street | |
| 2. Royal Route? | Queensway |
| 3. Oriental Pigmeat? | East Ham |
| 4. Elementary My Dear Watson? | Baker |
| Street | |
| 5. A Television School? | Grange Hill |
| 6. You won't find Acrobats at this University? | Oxford |
| Circus | |
| 7. Sound like the Bard was Born Here? | |
| Stratford | |
| 8. Do Rabbits live in this Thoroughfare? | Warren |
| Street | |
| 9. Mad Dogs Stop Here? | Barking |
| 10. Big Gun Road? | Cannon Street |
| 11. What all shops do for Christmas? | Stockwell |
| 12. Created a valley? | Maida |
| Vale | |
| 13. H ₂ O from Ottawa? | Canada Water |
| 14. Open space in Rotterdam? | Holland Park |
| 15. Hair at the top? | High Barnet |
| 16. Heavy weight of building materials? | |
| Brixton | |
| 17. Make them envious? | Turnham Green |
| 18. Sharp Object I Tinned | Barbican |

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.

Smile Lines

Smiling is infectious you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today I started smiling too.

I walked around the corner and someone saw me grin.
When he smiled I realised I had passed it on to him!

I thought about the smile and then realised its worth,
A single smile like mine could travel round the earth.
So if you feel a smile begin don't leave it undetected,
Start an epidemic and get the world infected!

Spike Milligan

From the Archives – *we don't have a copy of the September 1939 magazine, so here is an extract from Mr. Pond's archive book for the time.*

“All Saints Church council acting on the Government's orders appointed Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Pond to carry out the necessary precautions at All Saints Church and the Hall. The following purchases were made:—two loads of sand—a large quantity of sandbags—Hurricane Candle Lamps—many pails for holding sand—a long ladder to reach the church roof—black out material for the windows—much timber for boarding up windows and the shoring up ceilings.

With many willing hands the following Air Raid Precautions were made. Hundreds of sand bags were filled with sand. Our first objective was to make the Choir Vestry into an Air Raid Shelter, by shoring up the Choir Vestry ceiling by four stout timbers: the windows were filled with timbers and then sand bagged from ground level to the roof of the Vestry: the roof of the Vestry was also sand bagged. The Church Vestry door was sandbagged in front of the Vestry steps: from ground level, a wall of sand bags, three bags wide.

During the war the Choir Vestry was used as a Chapel. The Children's Altar was placed under the window facing Bereta Road. All week day services were held in the Chapel. In those perilous days this little sanctuary proved to be a wonderful retreat, a haven of safety and rest. The little sanctuary was open day and night, a small light burned all night, being completely blacked out, lights were burning all day. It became a recognised Air Raid Shelter in the district. People when out shopping, at the sound of sirens would make for the sanctuary for safety. All Sunday Services were held in the Church Nave. Should there be an Air Raid during the Sunday Service the congregation were drilled as follows:—

I. as soon as the sirens gave warning of approaching enemy aircraft, worshippers either remained at the service—or hurried home—or retired to the little chapel.

II. The service would continue at the discretion of the celebrant. If gunfire and falling shrapnel was heavy, both celebrant and congregation retired to the Chapel and the service continued.”

There were no entries in the “Church Logbook” for September 1979.

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