

All Saints Magazine



January 2020

Free

Editorial

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

To start we have an article from our Vicar Annette about Epiphany and the relevance of shepherds and wise men to the birth of Christ.

Following last month's article about pilgrimage, we have the first part of an account of a recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land undertaken by a member of our youth group. (Part two next month).

Christmas could not be allowed to pass without some carol singing, so here we record an event attended by a member of the congregation, followed by the Royal College of Nurses prayer, as we remember those working for the NHS at this busy time of the year for them.

Our centre spread contains the diary dates for church activities, and although there are no Baptisms, Funerals, or Weddings to report this month, there is further information about ongoing Church Events.

We then have an article about more community Christmas activities we supported in conjunction with the other churches in New Eltham.

This is followed by an account of a 'pilgrimage' of a different sort undertaken by some of the older members of the congregation.

Finally, we have the answers to our regular monthly quiz; 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.



The best things in life are free
And it is important to never lose sight of that.
So look around you.
Wherever you see friendship, loyalty, laughter and love
There is your treasure.

The Season of Epiphany

O Star of wonder, Star of night, star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading still proceeding, guide us to that perfect light.

The chorus of one of the most recognisable hymns of epiphany and one that we sing quite a lot over the Christmas season . When in fact we should be saving it for today and the coming few weeks.

For epiphany happens at least a few days after the shepherds have been and gone and certainly before Mary & Joseph hotfoot it into Egypt with their child.

When epiphany happens is really not as relevant as that it does happen, for it shows us that Jesus is not just for the Jews - phew otherwise over half of us here have got it all wrong. But that Jesus comes for everybody and he comes to us all time and again.

Jesus comes to us all. He comes as our saviour and we are all his people. We are privileged to be part of the plan of God, and we can help take the message to all people everywhere.

The wise men are foreigners they probably do not follow the Jewish faith and they have no idea of messiah or Christ but they do know how to read the signs how to recognise events as they happen and how to seek the king and all that this new King could mean for Israel, for them for the world and for us today.

It makes our sense of inclusion all the more powerful. Jesus was there for ALL mankind right from the beginning, and it is such an important message that Matthew includes it here in his gospel.

Matthew's gospel is thought by scholars to be the most Jewish of the gospels, in the language, the stories included and in his interpretation of events. Matthew, a Jew, is talking to other Jews and yet here he is flagging immediately that Christ is not just for them but for everybody. God's love reaches out beyond the confines of religiosity to all the world.

We have seen Jesus announced and displayed firstly to the shepherds, the out casts of our society, the brave and daring yes but the rejected, the isolated and those given a task which takes them beyond the day to day timetables of normal everyday society.

And then we have the wise men, they too are on the edges of society. They are left to watch the skies and to interpret dreams and they have travelled far searching all the while for the fulfilment of a prophesy, a dream and the vision of a star.....The star of wonder.

And it is a capturing of a little bit of the wonder that we need right now. We need to be brave and step out for Christ and sometimes that will be in the doing of our everyday. As we meet with others, as we talk the day through, as we go about our everyday business. And at other times it may mean being rather bolder with the gospel.

Announcing who we are and what we do to those around us.....

Stepping out of line and standing up for what is right, and maybe being the first to do so.....

Choosing the right path whatever the consequences may be.....

I am sure you can think of a few more.....

Whatever we do we must keep Christ at the centre and if we are unsure than we should come and pray and wait on the Lord until it is clear. Sometimes we need a break and sometimes we need to take action but it only with God that we can know when the right time to move is and when is the right time to wait. We have seen his star in the east and we too come and worship but we do so with our eyes opened and our hearts ablaze for we know that Jesus comes to us all and that it is only by Gods grace that we can begin to take part in the Christmas story at all.

AMEN

Annette

Pilgrimage

With the support of All Saints New Eltham, I was able to embark on an inspirational and unforgettable trip to the Holy Land. In the next two editions of our church magazine I will share my experience with you.

This Christmas time is a good opportunity to tell you about the sites I visited in the Holy Land which are associated with the nativity. In the October half term 2019, I, along with 19 other teenagers in the Diocese of Southwark went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 2019 – the young pilgrims at the start of their journey.

This trip was an incredible and life changing experience; it has allowed me to see other religions in practice, explore my faith further, and see the four gospels come to life.



Church at Shepherd's Field – us in our yellow caps!

Whilst in Bethlehem we worshipped by the church at Shepherds' Fields. This is the spot where the angels are believed to have visited the shepherds to tell them that baby Jesus had been born. In the church, on the walls, there are many paintings that depict the angels announcing to the shepherds about the birth of Jesus, and the shepherds paying homage to Jesus and celebrating the birth of our Messiah.

We also went to the suggested place of Jesus's birth, the Church of the Nativity.



Church of the Nativity

Here we went underneath the main building, where the stable would have been. We saw where the star of David would have shone down from above, and the site of the manger where Mary would have laid the new-born baby Jesus. Although these are only two of the many places I visited in the Holy Land, these are two of the most important places in the story of the nativity. For me, being able to visit and worship at these prominent sites really bought the Christmas story to life and has helped me strengthen my faith in God and in Jesus.

Emily Lewis

Carol Singing

On Thursday 12th December, my cousin Frances (who is also a nurse) and I met up in Bond Street. We stopped for a quick catch up over a cup of tea and a hot chocolate in John Lewis then walked around the corner to Cavendish Square, where the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) headquarters is based.



Here we joined fellow nursing colleagues for the Royal College of Nursing Carols at Christmas 2019. It was a joyous event and we sang: Once in Royal David's City, Little Donkey, Jingle Bells, Ding Dong! Merrily on High, Silent Night, O Come All ye Faithful, Hark the Herald Angels Sing and finished with We Wish you a Merry Christmas!

There were poems and extracts by the likes of Charles Dickens, Mary Seacole, Dr Maya Angelou and John Clare. The evening finished with the RCN prayer, some mingling and networking, a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie.

Emma Lewis

RCN Prayer

Almighty God. our heavenly Father,
whose only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
where upon the earth, healed the sick and suffering,
look with favour upon the work of the Royal College of Nursing,
and bless our efforts to forward your purpose of love in His name.

Give wisdom to our Council and officers
and all those who hold positions of influence and leadership
within the College.

Strengthen the vocation of those who nurse wherever they are:
enable them to give of their best
and sustain them when they are tired or discouraged.

Deepen in them the patience, gentleness and unselfishness
which should mark their ministry,
and help them to consecrate their knowledge and skills
to the welfare of all

And the glory of Your Holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Diary Dates for January 2020

Thursday 2nd		No Service today
Sunday 5th	EPIPHANY	
	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Monday 6th	7.30 pm	CTNE meeting. At the Methodist's
Wednesday 8th	10.30 -12.00	Fair Trade Café
	6.45 pm	Evening Prayer
Thursday 9th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 12th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 15th	6.45 pm	Evening prayer
	8.00 pm	PCC Meeting
Thursday 16th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 19th	10.00 am	Family Communion
	4.00 pm	CTNE Joint Service for Christian Unity. At the Methodist Centre.
Wednesday 22nd	10.30 – 12.00	Fair trade café
	6.45 pm	Evening Prayer
Thursday 23rd	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 26th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
	12.00 am	Baptism Albert Stevenson
Thursday 30th	11.00 am	Holy Communion

Please check the weekly news sheet for any change

Parish Pump

Wednesday Evening Prayers

Please note that the start of this service has moved from 6.30 to 6.45pm.

100 Club

The December prize was won by William Ball. (Friend of Betty Macdonald).

Quiz Results.

The November Quiz prize of £14.50 was won by Ruth Fancett, whose entry was picked from the correct quiz sheets returned.

Last year our quizzers won £180 in prizes and raised £180 for the church fabric fund for ongoing repairs and maintenance. Thank you.

Monthly Charity.

It has been All Saints practice to support different charities throughout the year. Last year we supported Christian Aid, The Falconer Trust, Macmillan, Crisis, The Children's Society, Action for Children, the Bishop's Lent appeal, the DEC Cyclone Idai appeal and our own missionary in Peru (Penny), raising over £2,000 between them, mainly from direct appeals or profits from the fair-trade coffee mornings on Wednesdays.

This is on top of the year round supply of donated food to support the Bexley & Greenwich food banks.

The congregation cannot support all the deserving charities and is currently considering the charities it would prefer to support in 2020. At the time of printing no decisions have been made.

All Saints Choir

The Choir will be meeting 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. All abilities welcome.

Future Events

Sunday 2nd February, Candlemas, 10.00 am Holy Communion

Wednesday 26th February, Ash Wednesday, which marks the start of Lent.

It is hoped to run a Lent course this year, in conjunction with the other churches in New Eltham. Further details in next month's magazine.

Churches Together in New Eltham (CTNE)

A small but hardy group of singers from All Saints and the Methodist Centre formed this year's CTNE Carol singing outside the Co-op on the morning of Saturday 14th December. After half an hour of singing in a cold wind and still no sign of the collection buckets for the 'Action for Children' or any more support, we retreated to the comparative comfort of the New Eltham Library and provided an impromptu carol rendition for the stall holders and supporters of the CANE (Community Association New Eltham) Christmas Market instead.



The donations received were given to the CANE appeal for 'Demelza'.

Much better attended was the Joint Carol Service at All Saints the following evening, with a choir from All Saints and the Methodists accompanied by Aaron Mather our Organist and an attendance of just short of 80. A retiring collection raised £137.87 for Action for Children' making up for the previous day's disappointment.

The next event takes place at the end of the week for Christian Unity with a Service at the Methodist Centre on Sunday 19th January at 4pm. The service will be based upon the booklet produced by Churches Together in England, further details will be on the weekly pewsheets.

CTNE will next meet on Monday 6th January at 7.30 pm at the Methodist Centre when we hope to co-ordinate a series of Lent and Easter Activities for all congregations and members of the New Eltham community to participate in.

Bob Avery, Secretary CTNE

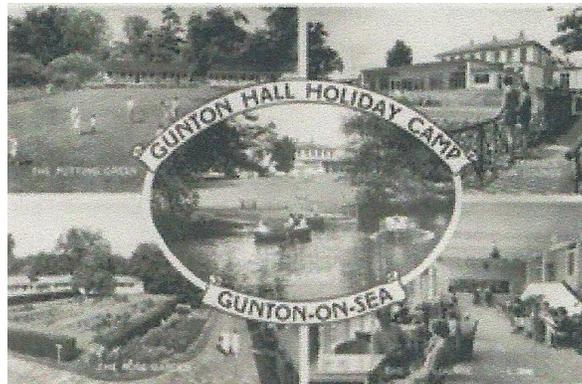
Holiday to Gunton Hall

Vera and I have just spent five days in Norfolk for a 'Turkey & Tinsel' week run by the local SIDARA Group (Sidcup Active Retired Association).

Gunton Hall was originally built in 1810 by Thomas Fowler, whose family lived on the Estate until the 1930's. The Fowler family sold the Estate to Charles Lambert, who turned Gunton Hall into a holiday 'camp'. Mr Lambert was determined to create an upmarket version of the successful camps created by Harry Warner and Billy Butlin, and was beginning to build an excellent reputation amongst the more discerning holiday makers when the Second World War broke out, bringing the industry to a grinding halt.

The Hall became the headquarters of a young soldier training unit and after the war ended, the Estate was transferred to the Admiralty and used as a rehabilitation unit for injured sailors. It was at this time 1945, that the entire establishment was put under the control of Lieutenant Commander Edgar Hammersly.

The property was eventually handed back to Charles Lambert, and in 1950 he sold it to a consortium of local businessmen who found a new company called Gunton Estates. Taking charge of this company was Edgar Hammersly. The Hall began to rebuild its reputation as an upmarket alternative holiday camp, and through the high standards and watchful eye of Hammersley the business flourished.



Several improvements were made over the years, from new luxury accommodation with en-suite bathrooms, to the building of a new ballroom in 1968.

The now thriving Holiday Centre was sold or taken over a number of times after 1970 until 1987 when the then owners of the now 'Holiday and County Club' Mecca sold it to Rank Holidays and became Haven Warner.

In May 1994 Warner became adult only, a first in the domestic holiday market and continued to thrive.

After this brief history of Gunton Hall we also visited a spectacular event at Thursford Steam Museum, which was turned into a Christmas fairyland with an approach of many, many trees with lights, leading to the main building, containing a stage of three theatre widths wide. The entertainment consisted of hundreds of actors forming all kinds of dancing, singing, choirs and even Cirque du Soleil. The main building also housed steam powered carousels, tractors and Wurlitzer organs to add to the magic. I must say I was so pleased to see it after having heard so much praise for it. It really is indescribable.

BMW.

Answers to the December Quiz sheet

Can you name the TV Comedy shows and actors

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. A prison based comedy that featured David Jason | Porridge |
| 1a. but who played "Lukewarm" in it? | Christopher Biggins |
| 2. Leonard Rossiter rented out rooms in this comedy | Rising Damp |
| 2a. but who played "Miss Jones"? | Frances De La Tour |
| 3. A grocer was played by Ronnie Barker in? | Open All Hours |
| 3a. but who played "Mavis"? | Maggie Ollerenshaw |
| 4. Rodney Bewes played Bob Ferris in this 60's comedy? | The Likely Lads |
| 4a. but who played "Terry"? | James Bolam |
| 5. A World War II comedy starring Gordon Kay | 'Allo 'Allo |
| 5a. but who played the linguistically challenged policeman? | Arthur Bostrom |
| 6. A domestic comedy starring a grumpy Richard Wilson | One Foot in the Grave |
| 6a. but who played his long suffering wife? | Annette Crosbie |
| 7. A Yorkshire set comedy featuring Bill Owen | Last of the Summer Wine |
| 7a. but who played "Auntie Wainwright"? | Jean Alexander |
| 8. Houseproud Hyacinth is the "lady of the house" in? | Keeping Up Appearances |
| 8a. but who played her hen pecked husband "Richard"? | Clive Swift |
| 9. A suburban self-sufficient couple, Barbara & Tom lived? | The Good Life |
| 9a. but who played the overbearing neighbour? | Penelope Keith |
| 10. "Don't mention the war" is a line from? | Fawlty Towers |
| 10a. but who played the hapless waiter? | Andrew Sachs |

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 is currently going towards necessary works for the upkeep of the roof and redecorating parts of the Church.

From the Archives – snippets from the January magazine of 1940, price twopence

OUR SERVICE MEN

As already announced, we will welcome names of men in our parish for our Services List in the Church Porch.

The men are remembered every Tuesday at the 7 a.m. Eucharist, when their names are read out, and prayers asked for them. Relatives and friends might like to be present at the Tuesday Eucharist, 7 a.m. and join in prayer with us for their own.

Names already received are:-

Arthur Binstead, 412 Footscray Road; **Douglas Stonham**, 47 Sidewood Road; **Leslie Fisher**, 290 Avery Hill Road; **Robert Strong**, 5 Agaton Road; **James McKinley**, 68 Dulverton Road; **Eric Digby**, 84 Southwood Road; **William Kirk**, 123 Southwood Road; **Alfred Manchester**, 21 Southwood Road; **Kenneth & John Boatwright**, 6 Telford Road; **Eric Mead**, 26 Cambridge Green; **David Grant**, 6 Gaitskell Road; **Edgar & Harold Wheeler**, 89 Gerda Road; **Philip Macdonald**, 75 Gerda Road; **James Lines**, 481 Footscray Road; **Olaf Sandy**, 465 Footscray Road; **Donald Parker**, 22 Lannoy Road; **Douglas Spon-Smith**, 23 Castleford Road; **Alan Walker**, 61 Brownspring Drive; **Ronald White**, 58 Brownspring Drive; **Jack Faro**, 145 Brownspring Drive; **Albert Fuller**, 96 Brownspring Drive; **Arthur Roberts**, formerly of 23 Domonic Avenue; **Alan Loosemore**, Birmingham, (formerly of 21 Gerda Road); **Derrick Coupland**, 64 Southwood Road; **William Carswell**, 9 Mervyn Avenue; **Jack Dunmore**, 116 Domonic Drive; **Norman Coles**, 97 Green Lane; **Edward Chapman**, 117 Green Lane; **Eric Milstead**, 76 Cadwallen Road; **Albert Woods**, 151 Brownspring Drive; **Eric Dyke**, 74 Montbelle Road; **Fred Parker**, 28 Lannoy Road; **Charles Lord**, 486 Footscray Road; **Edwin Page**, 59 Felhampton Road.

VESTMENTS

We hope to have Vestments for Lent to match our Lenten Frontal and Hangings, and if anyone would like to help towards the cost, which will be comparatively small, such help will be gratefully received by the Vicar.

The "Church Logbook" for January 1980 records:

Hall converted to Gas heating and working successfully.

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