



All Saints Magazine



December 2020

Free

Editorial

This month's magazine has an article on baptism, which continues our look at the sacraments

An update from our church wardens, including details of our new PCC

A reflection on Christmas past from Barbara Avery

A prayer request for Peru from Penny de Marcés

Along with all the usual diary notices, and parish updates, We end as usual with our look at the history of All Saints New Eltham.

Enjoy.

Dear Friends

Wow its Christmas time again and yet we have had such a strange year one like no other. It has been the year of the small quiet things, where all our big plans have fallen by the way side. No big celebrations, no festival services, no fetes, no big birthdays, no weddings, and yet in these quiet times we can find God, we can him in the pause that has been this year, look to God for comfort, for rest and for renewal. The challenge of the church is to evolve and change, to be what we are but also to accept that we are no longer 12 men in an upper room but so much more than that. We have a chance to review our life together like never before and I would ask you to fill out the short survey we have with the magazine and return to me either by email revannette,rose@btinternet.com or by post All Saints Vicarage, 22 Bercta Road, New Eltham, SE9 3TZ

Annette (Vicar)

Many things to many people,
Gifts and parties, candle glow,
Hymns for carols, prayers for healing,
Holly berries, mistletoe.
Times of sadness, lonely feelings,
Memories to fill the nights,
Children's faces, bright eyes shining,
Santa's grotto, fairy lights.

Stories of the Christmas angel,
One enduring, guiding star,
Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Wise men travelling afar.
Christmas has another meaning,
Here and now or far away,
Hope and peace and love for sharing,
Make it Christmas every day!

Iris Hesselden

Baptism (or Christening)

Baptism is the beginning of our faith journey, and for most of that journey begins as a child. We are plunged into water, sometimes literally. The word baptism comes from the word to plunge. Jesus himself is baptised in the Jordan by John, and then by the Holy Spirit immediately afterward, we hear God's voice, "this is my son in whom I am well pleased".

Christ asks us if we are willing to share in his death and resurrection. He is plunged into death and then raised up by the father giving him the holy spirit. We share in Christ's death and resurrection when we are baptised.

It is a two way commitment we commit to Christ and the christian life, and all that that entails, and Christ commits to us, to share in eternal life, to share in his kingdom, to shine out as lights in the world.

Often children are baptised, parents see their children as precious to them and precious to God. They want the very best for them, and so does God. They want them to make right choices in life, for themselves and for others.

A christening is just the beginning of this and so much more.

Over the years to come, it's a journey you'll share together with your child by:

- **Being there for your child** to talk to about the bigger questions of life – questions about hope, faith and love.
- **Praying for your child** through the ups and downs of their faith journey.
- **Showing them practically** how to make those good choices in life.
- **Helping them to learn more about their Christian faith**, through their church and in other ways.

So it's a commitment to start as they mean to go on.

Choosing the right people as godparents for your child is a big decision. Here are some key things which might help you decide:

- Godparents will be people who'll be in touch with your family for many years to come. They may be relatives or friends of the family.
- They'll be people who you know you can trust and who'll be there for your child to talk about the bigger questions in life; questions about faith, hope and love.
- They should feel ready to make some big promises about faith for your child in church.
- Every child should have at least three godparents, two of the same sex and at least one of the opposite sex to your child. Although there is no official maximum number of godparents, three or four is usual. If you'd like more than that, talk to your vicar about the practicalities and they'll be pleased to advise.
- Parents may be godparents for their own children, providing they have at least one other godparent.
- Because of the very special role they have in supporting your child's faith journey, godparents must be baptized themselves. Ideally they should be confirmed too, but check with the vicar about local policy on this.
- If you're thinking about asking someone who is under 18 to be a godparent, talk to your vicar first. There's no minimum age for godparents, but they must be mature enough to

understand the responsibilities they're taking on; your vicar can help you decide if this is the right choice for your child and the young godparent.

You can talk to your vicar about choosing godparents and involving them in the christening preparation.

Baptism and Christening are both words for the same ceremony. Christening is slang for becoming a christian and getting your christian name. In an ideal world baptism should take place in the main Sunday service, however it is possible to be baptised outside of this as it is the baptism that is important.

Although many are baptised as children, baptism can happen at any age, and this can be combined with confirmation. Baptism is a once and for all time occasion but you can renew your commitment to God in many ways, just ask.

Baptism is open to all and is the starting point of the christian journey, not the end point.

On the day of Pentecost 3000 people were baptised, in Act chapter 8 Philip baptised an Ethiopian eunuch at the side of the road, Baptism is for all by the grace of God.

Recollections of Christmas in the 1950s

In my early years, my parents and I spent Christmas with my grandparents, but I do not remember them.

My sister was born in 1950 and we spent her early years also with our grandparents. They lived in Cadwallon Road, so not too far to walk from Tiverton Drive where I lived.

Our grandmother cooked goose at Christmas as turkey was not so popular then. My sister and I slept in the back bedroom and on Christmas morning woke up to find that Santa had been to visit us. One year he left a rocking horse, and another year we found a blackboard and easel. On Christmas Eve, Santa drove around the roads on his sleigh with Christmas carols playing. We knew he was on his way as he rang a bell.

Our father was very good at D.I.Y. and made beds for our teenage dolls, a wardrobe for their clothes and a drop-leaf dining table and chairs. Mum upholstered the chairs and made bedding too. We still have these things along with the rocking horse and blackboard and easel.

We have happy memories of bygone Christmases.

Barbara.

Parish profiles-Janet Clifford

My name is Janet Clifford, but I prefer to be called Jan. I was born in Stoke-on-Trent in 1951, the only child of 2 lovely parents. After school I went to what is now called Coventry University and did a 4 year degree course in Modern Languages, French and Spanish and spent one of those years studying in France and Spain.

When I graduated, I got a job as a lecturer in Languages at a College of Further Education in West Bridgford, Nottingham, which is where I stayed until I retired in 2009. I didn't really know Nottingham before I came to live here, but I really do like it and have never found a reason to move away.

In 1978, I married my husband, Paul. We met at College in Coventry where he was studying Production Engineering and, luckily, he was able to find a job in Nottingham. 1978 was a difficult year for us as Paul's Dad died in March and, after marrying in July, my Dad died in October. Paul is an only child too so we knew that our Mums needed us. My Mum was still living in Stoke-on-Trent and Paul's Mum lived in South Wales.

In 1983 we had our first child, Lauren and we were absolutely delighted to have a daughter. In 1985, my Mum wasn't coping in Stoke so she bought a little bungalow near to us in Keyworth, which is the village where we live in Nottinghamshire. That was wonderful because I was back at work by then and she used to look after Lauren 1 day a week and they formed a very special bond. Lauren often used to go to spend the night with my Mum and loved helping her to make (and eat!) marzipan figures as my Mum was excellent at making and decorating cakes.

Sadly, Mum died of cancer in January 1988. In February 1989 we had a beautiful little boy whom we named Rory. Lauren absolutely adored her little brother. Rory wasn't particularly well after we brought him home from hospital and we spent many weeks trying to find out what was wrong with him. Only after he died when he was 14 weeks old that we were told he had inherited from both Paul and myself, a very rare metabolic disease. There was a 1 in 4 chance in every pregnancy that I would have a baby with the disease. We had been so lucky with Lauren that she didn't inherit it and, by the time I became pregnant with my next child, there was a test which could be done in early pregnancy. God was certainly with us then as Jack, was born safe and healthy in 1990.

The children grew. Lauren went to University and became a Paediatric Cardiac Physiologist and works at the Evelina Children's at St Thomas'. Jack trained as a drummer but sadly, couldn't make a living with that so he now has a career with a social housing company in Nottingham. He is living with us at the moment as his plans to buy a house in Nottingham had to be put on hold this year.

When Lauren was 19 she spent a gap 6 months in Banff in Canada, working as a housekeeper in a hotel so that she could ski to her heart's content. Ben was on the same scheme. They had never met in England, but, during their time in Banff, they fell in love. They married in 2011 and bought their house on Green Lane in 2014. Later that year, we came to spend Christmas with them and, as I am a regular church goer in Nottingham, I wanted to go to church on Christmas Day and found that I could walk to a church called All Saints on Bercta road. . There weren't many people there because, I think they were all there for midnight mass, but I felt very welcomed, especially by Annette.

In 2016 we again spent Christmas with Lauren and Ben and, again, I went to church on Christmas Day and, oh my goodness, Annette remembered me. How amazing is that?

Jacob was born in January 2017 and, as soon as I could, when I went to stay with them, I took him to All Saints. It was lovely and I got to meet so many lovely people, in particular, Jenny with her granddaughter Jessie, who was virtually the same age as Jacob. Jacob was christened there in July

2017 and in all the times I've been going there with him, he's loved it. I will always remember, when he was about 2 and a half, he was playing with the toys at the side of the church and Annette said she was going to tell us a story, I think it was about The Good Samaritan. Jacob took his little plastic chair from the play area, walked through the pews, sat in the middle of the aisle and was entranced. Annette said she'd never had a better audience for a sermon.

And then, on 23rd March 2020, lockdown happened and Zac was born on 26th March. Boy was that difficult, but legal or not, we isolated here for 6 weeks as did they and I finally met him when he was 6 weeks old.

I remember vividly, during lockdown, my church here in Nottingham did an audio service every Sunday which was a great comfort to me. Early one Sunday morning, Jacob facetime'd me and he said, "what are you doing today Granny." and I said, "I'm going to church Jacob" (virtually) and he said "Is that the church you take me to Granny?" How lovely was that?

So, eventually, we were allowed to go to church in person and, the first time I could, I took both Jacob and Zac to church. It happened to be a service when Annette was not officiating. Jacob was brilliant. He was so good. He did some coloring and, after the sermon he said, "Granny, can you write down what that man is saying?"

Zac slept through the whole service. I took them both up to be blessed. The vicar blessed Jacob and I pointed to the buggy where Zac was sleeping, and he blessed Zac too. His first blessing. It was wonderful. We were able to go once again when the church was open before the second lockdown and, this time, Zac was awake and Annette was able to bless him properly. Jacob just loves going, although he is very disappointed that he can't have his cheese and biscuits after the service in the Church Hall.

So, hopefully, after all this awful time is over, we can have Zac christened. It will, of course, be 2021 - some time.

All I can say is that, I am just so grateful to have been welcomed so much to your wonderful church. I remember vividly, on VE day, walking to Fairy Hill and seeing Cynthia in her front garden, and meeting Jenny too, and I felt so welcomed and encompassed by all of you. Also, in the lovely days before lockdown, it was so lovely that all the young girls from the congregation spent so much time with Jacob in the church hall. He just loved it.

So, this is my story. I love my church here in Nottingham, but, oh my goodness how I love being part of All Saints and being welcomed as Annette once said to me, being part of your family.

Thank you so much.

Diary Dates for December 2020

Sunday 6th 10.00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 13th 10.00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 20th 10:00 am Holy Communion

Carol service online https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpDM3WoXkNKV7-TBYh1SDxg?view_as=subscriber

Thursday 24th **CHRISTMAS EVE**

Christmas Eve for Children online https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpDM3WoXkNKV7-TBYh1SDxg?view_as=subscriber

11.30 pm Midnight Mass

Friday 25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**

Online at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpDM3WoXkNKV7-TBYh1SDxg?view_as=subscriber

Sunday 27th 10.00 am Holy Communion

These Services maybe subject to change, depending on the R rate and current government legislation

Please check the weekly news sheet for any change

Parish Pump

Baptism

Sunday 11th October, Robyn Tara Rose Bryan

Funerals.

17th November, Marion Grain

19th November, Sylvia Bouraciar

100 Club.

The winner of the October prize draw was Simon Garson.

The winner of the November prize draw was Pat Flaherty.

Quiz Results.

The October Quiz prize of £13.50 was won by Ruth Fancett.

Due to the November lockdown, the November picture quiz deadline will be extended to Sunday 27th December 2020. Answers will appear in the January magazine.

Monthly Charity.

This month we are raising money for The Children's Society, the Church of England charity that supports vulnerable children.

Christmas raffle

We are holding a Christmas Raffle and this will be pulled on Christmas Eve see the photo below, if you want to buy tickets you can do so when we are open for prayer (Sunday Afternoon 4-5 pm) or by letting me know that you want a ticket 0208 850 0374, 07570715525, or

revannette.rose@btinternet.com



Churchwardens Corner

At our APCM in September changes to ASNE's PCC membership occurred. Our grateful thanks go to those that have now stepped down from serving on the PCC for all the hard work, commitment and contributions over the years and to the responsibilities in the running of ASNE and its mission. Our appreciation therefore for their dedication and efforts go to Bob Avery, Carol Reed, Ben Ripley, Steve Keirle and Michael Lewis, all hard acts to follow!!

However, we are fortunate to welcome onto the PCC, Paul Lawal as our new treasurer, Ayo George-Taylor and Pam Piper and to their valuable contributions to come in the future. No pressure then!!

As a recap, the current PCC members are Reverend Annette Rose, Rita Mather, Graham Dix, Neal Long, Paul Lawal, Louise Dix, Simon Garson, Peter French, Ayo George-Taylor, Beryl Garson, Sharon Broadey, Ruth Fancett, Pam Piper, Evelyn Green and Emma Lewis.

As a PCC, we need and rely on the varied expertise, experience and skills of its individuals to help in the smooth running of ASNE's as well as its progress of the Mission Action Plan.

As there are still a couple of places available on the PCC, if you feel that you would like to help and be involved, please let us know.

Memorial Garden Makeover

During the last three months, on most Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, Ged, James and Neal have been steadily working their way through the Memorial Garden to give it a much-needed makeover. All of the roses and many of the shrubs have been pruned and mulched with home-grown compost from the Monk's Garden. Over the next three months we plan to dig over the borders again and fill the gaps with a few new roses and many perennial plants.

To enable us to do that, if you can help in providing any perennial plants that would be greatly appreciated. We are particularly keen to add more lavender, foxgloves, michaelmas daisies, japanese anemones, marigolds, phlox and allium to our growing collection.

Our thanks to: Brenda, Evelyn and Vera who are already contributing plants from their gardens; to Betty who continues to support our garden team; and to Cynthia who is also contributing a range of plants which include the winter-flowering pansies that have lit up the War Memorial area to which she has given special attention. Thank you.

Graham & Neal

All Saints Day Candle

Our All Saints day candle was appreciated by many who cannot be with us during these times. I even had a letter from Iris Bennett, which says:

“Thank you so much for the candle and order of service. I can’t tell you how much it meant to me . I wasn’t able to go to St Marys so having your candle and prayers I could be with you in spirit. I was beginning to feel that Warsash was my home and then everything closed down and I miss Anthony, and New Eltham so much, you can’t erase 50 Years.

I have much to be grateful for, Theresa lives opposite and my grand daughter Laura has just got married and lives nearby.

Please give my love and remember me to all my All Saints family I miss you all.

God Bless.

Iris xx”

Many of our members expressed such sentiments too.

We are together yet apart .

Annette



Praying for Peru

Dear Friends

Most of you will by now be aware of the fact that in addition to the health and economic crises, Peru is now also facing a grave political crisis, worsening over several months but resulting on Monday with the overthrow of (now ex-)President Martin Vizcarra. Thank you for all those who are already praying for this situation.

A brief background to help put things in context. Normal elections were held in 2016 as a result of which the President (Pedro Pablo Kuczynski) was from a different party from the prevailing Congress party. This resulted in a lack of cooperation between Congress and Cabinet/President. Congress wanted to get rid of the President, and having accused him of corruption he decided that resignation would avoid future confrontations and be a better move for Peru. Therefore, in March 2018, 20 months after PPK took office, his Vice President Vizcarra took over. The hostility continued and in Sept 2019 Vizcarra dissolved Congress, a move greeted with overwhelming approval by the population in general. New elections held in Jan this year led to an interim Congress with no party holding more than 20% of seats, but the hostility has been the same. Vizcarra is not perfect, and has not been as open about some things as would maybe have been helpful, but nor is the corruption of which he has been accused affecting the day to day running of the country; it could also be said that over half the 135 members of Congress (and who have just overthrown him on the grounds of moral incapacity to lead the country) ALSO have lawsuits against them, in one case of murder. Generally, people supported the idea that he SHOULD be tried, but on completing his term of office in July 2021.

Since Vizcarra was only President because the previous President had resigned, and the "second Vice President" had (for political reasons) resigned from the position a while ago, the Constitution stipulates that if this President is no longer able to continue (for whatever reason) then the President of Congress becomes President of Peru. This in effect removes any difference between Cabinet (nominated by the President) and Congress, and allows Congress to pass any laws without any check. (Suffice it to say that in the last few months they have tried to pass more than one law which is against the constitution, to say nothing of laws which help the personal interests of some, such as the creation of new (private) Universities which are often staffed by unqualified people).

Vizcarra survived a move to impeach him in September, but on Monday the Congress vote was 80% for his overthrow. He decided not to fight the decision, saying "History and the people will judge". "The people" are indeed showing their reaction to this. There is widespread rejection of the measure, and demonstrations are taking place. A comment overheard on the street that "Congress is supposed to represent the voice of the people" was a plaintive reminder of how the situation should be, and how far from that we are. A huge march is planned for this evening; tear gas has been used at demonstrations over the last couple of days and today is hardly likely to be easier. PLEASE PRAY for peace here, not only tonight but in the coming days

PRAY too for the elections which are already timetabled for 11 April 2021 (elections are every 5 years), that God will raise up men and women for both President and Congress, who will fear Him and serve the country. The new President, Manuel Merino, has said the date will be respected, so pray this continues to be the case. Despite the fact that Peru is technically a Christian country, there has been no mention of God in anything official since the covid crisis began. Pray that those in power take into account the fact that there is a God who has far greater power, and that they will one day be giving an account to Him. A few weeks ago it was finally recognised that people DO have spiritual needs; from 1 Nov Churches were allowed to offer "special" services eg Baptisms, weddings and funerals; Churches will be allowed to open for "normal" services from 15 Nov, but

each individual Church has to have presented protocols to the Health Ministry and local Council in order to be allowed to open, and the Anglican Church has put 20 Dec as opening date.

PRAY that we continue to be able to bring the light of the Lord into this dark situation.

Many thanks!

God bless

Juan Carlos and Penny

Easyfundraising update

Thank you to our 23 supporters, who have now generated £645.26, for All Saints, **at no cost to themselves**. So far these funds have been put towards replacing damaged gutters, and repairing flat roof surfaces, money that would otherwise have had to come from funds we currently need just to keep the church running.

As a result of the pandemic more people will be shopping on-line and many of you will be doing your Christmas Shopping online or booking next year's holidays so, please share our "cause page" <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/allsaintsneweltham>

with family and friends or those shopping for you, and remember to shop via. Easyfundraising

If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely **FREE**. 4,300 shops and sites, including travel agents, insurers, and retailers including Amazon, ebay, Just Eat, Groupon, Tesco & Sainsburys (including grocery shopping), M&S, and countless other big name stores, that will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping - **at no extra cost to you!**

Easyfundraising also alerts you to special offers and discount deals, so you could save money too. It's really simple, and there are no catches or hidden charges.

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 provided and it won't stop you getting any cash back.

Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up & share today.

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

CHRISTMAS CRIB

A very delightful feature of our Church at Christmastide is the Crib. It is appreciated equally by children and grown-ups, and helps us to realise the Divine simplicity of the coming of God in the flesh. It is interesting to recall that we owe the idea of the Crib to St. Francis, who first made one in the fir wood of Greccio. Many designs are, of course, possible. Some aim at historical accuracy and set the scene in a cave, which so often serves as a stable in the East. Some have the suggestion of an English stable, and others again may be very elaborate and highly decorated. It is our hope this year to have a 'rustic' crib after the manner of St. Francis: and we should like very much to increase the number of figures. As you probably remember, we have some very nice figures, but so far we have only the Holy Family. Could we add the Shepherds this year and then perhaps the Wise Men another year? The Sunday School and Children's Corner Fund will be able to bear part of the cost of the three shepherds, and we wondered if any members of the congregation would like to help towards it? The figures are about 24 ins high, and are made by skilled craftsmen. They are, therefore. Not cheap. They cost £3 each. Would anyone who would like to help, even in a very small way, towards the provision of these figures, please let one of the clergy know as soon as possible? The order must be placed during the early part of December.

AIR RAIDS

Since our last issue more damage has been done in the parish by raids and some houses have been completely destroyed and other badly damaged. Fortunately there have been few injuries and many wonderful escapes. To the injured and to all who have lost house and home or in any other way, we tend again our sympathy and assure them of our thoughts and prayers.

The "Church Logbook" for December 1980 records:

December 9th, Wyborne Carol Service in Church.

December 10th, Children's outing to Godspell at Bromley Theatre.

December 16th, Dulverton School Carol Service in Church

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