

All Saints Magazine



August 2020

Free

Editorial

The relaxation of restrictions on movement and social distancing is allowing us to open the Church for public worship again from 9th August. So we are continuing to produce printed copies of the magazine. If you have missed previous month's editions, they are available on our website.

The Church of England has advised Vicars to take their annual holiday before church services start again, so while the Vicar was away, we start with a compilation of things the church has been doing after lockdown.

The next item is about returning to church and what the "new look" services will be like while social distancing remains in force.

Our centre spread contains the diary dates for church activities that are currently planned to take place in church and also the continuing on-line Services, other Notices and the current restrictions on Funerals, Weddings, and Baptisms etc.

So far the content has been largely Covid driven and our thoughts and prayers are with those who are ill or have suffered loss. We are also mindful of those for whom the continued restrictions are depressing, so we thought we would try to add a bit of humour to help lighten the mood for a change.

At long last we are providing the answers to the March Quiz so that we can draw a winner in early August, then start quizzing again in September.

Finally, we have our regular 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.

STOP PRESS

The Government has just announced that face coverings must be worn in places of worship. This should not prevent anyone wishing to come to church from doing so as the church has a supply of masks for your use.

Church after lockdown

During lockdown life at church seemed relatively simple to understand, the church shut and everyone stayed at home, unless you were deemed a key worker and carried on working. Several of our congregation fell into that category and others continued working from home including the Vicar.

However the work of the church did not stop. Initially, the weekly bible reading sheets were either posted or e-mailed to members of the congregation, where these details were known.

Soon other forms of social media also came into their own. Wednesday prayers were videoed from the vicarage and posted to All Saints facebook page, (still available). As soon as the clergy were allowed access to the church buildings again, Sunday Services with readings and prayers were videoed from All Saints Lady Chapel and again posted to our facebook page at 12 noon on the Sunday, (also still available).

The Vicar then mastered the technology of “Zoom” so that the PCC could meet on-line to discuss how to keep in touch with the congregation and what steps the church could take to enable re-opening while maintaining the people’s safety.

Members of the congregation continued to check on each other, usually by phone, as many of those checking were themselves deemed “at risk”. I am sure that many an essential food shopping trip also included a social element with conversations from the street to the front door.

Once restrictions started to lift, things became a little more complicated. The church was allowed to re-open in July, principally for private prayer, and to maintain a 72 hour gap between openings, to save additional cleaning, the opening times were agreed as Monday and Friday, 10.00am – 12.00 noon and Wednesday evening 6.30pm-8pm.

This has remained the situation for the whole of July with volunteer stewards enabling access, available for people maintaining social distancing, the use of sanitisation and PPE; and complying with the requirements of track and trace.

Meanwhile the video recordings of Wednesday prayers and on-line Sunday Services have continued to be posted on the All Saints Facebook page and have now been extended to a new All Saints page on “You Tube” as well.

So there is virtually no excuse for missing a virtual experience of God’s word.

But what has been going on in the church building does not cover the whole church family experience. After the initial lockdown other things have been able to happen.

The gardening team, after 12 weeks enforced inactivity, have started the fightback against the weeds in the memorial garden.

The gentlemen on the grass cutting rota have ensured that it is still grass rather than meadow, despite the squirrel and fox’s efforts to turn it into a ploughed field.

Donations of food for the foodbank have been given again, and following an earlier presentation of the charity money raised for them before lockdown, delivery of the food to the foodbank has been restarted.

After the restrictions were lifted to enable garden visits, a limited number of opportunities have been made available for socially distanced FairTrade coffee mornings to start again. We understand that face masks are available to order.

Throughout the Covid19 period the Communications team has been regularly updating the All Saints website with access to prayers and readings and with the times and access to the videoed services, apparently over 80 people have accessed these services. They have also added a new page

“Supporting the Church” with details of how to support us by sponsoring the magazine or doing your on-line shopping via Easyfundraising and becoming an All Saints supporter.

From the 5th July we re-opened the Church Hall, however with hirers being responsible for taking the same recording, hygiene and social distancing measures as are in place for the Church.

Unfortunately the additional cleaning requirements mean that the kitchen is still not accessible, but as the washing and hand drying facilities in the toilets are now automatic, the toilets are open.

We understand that the Tap Dance Class has already started, and Slimming World are hoping to re-start in August. Other regular users have been contacted but indicate that, due to social distancing, they are unlikely to be able to resume until September, when it is hoped that the restrictions can be safely relaxed.

We are sure that there are many other indications that the work of the church is continuing, whilst overcoming the difficulties in complying with the current restrictions. We hope to bring you more next month.

Returning to Church

Following the relaxation of the Government restriction on movement, churches have been allowed to open from 5th July. However, the guidance from the Church of England has previously prevented the church from opening for anything but private prayer until now. Guidelines for opening for Services are now available but with restrictions on social distancing etc still in place and the varying layouts of churches it has been left to individual churches to decide when it is safe to open.

The Standing Committee of the PCC has met and decided that with the implementation of the remaining Church of England guidance All Saints will be able to open for Sunday Services again starting on **9th August**.

This has meant that the church now looks somewhat different in that, to facilitate the required one way system for social distancing and to reduce the need for additional cleaning, areas of the church (Chancel step and the Lady Chapel) have been cordoned off. Also for social distancing a number of pews have been taped off and designated seating arranged to safely maximize the number of attendees, currently 16 households.

So to start there is now a one way system for coming in and going out of church. On the way in, hand sanitising facilities are available for everyone, and gloves and masks are available for those that want them and anyone stewarding will need them. To comply with “track and trace” it is essential that we have your contact details, if you have not already supplied them. These will not be shared with anyone else and destroyed after 14 days.

Following the guidelines also means three changes to the Sunday Service as we know it. There won't be any hymns, as the act of singing is considered as a possibility of projecting droplets rather than the 2 meters for social distancing and therefore a potential danger. Another change concerns Communion in that only the Vicar will be able to partake of the chalice, however distribution of the wafers can continue, with partakers social distancing while waiting. The other change is that sharing the peace will be verbal only from your social distanced position, no more moving round the church shaking hands.

These changes will also have other implications on the service and for other church helpers. The Sacristans will not be required to prepare the elements (wine and wafers) as only the Vicar will access these. Servers are also unlikely to be required as the elements will go straight to the altar rather than being processed from the back of the church and social distancing will prevent the usual gospel procession. The last obvious consequence is that as there is no singing there will be no separate choir.

The final thing is that after the service, even though the hall is able to be open, the kitchen is currently still closed, so we can't have the usual tea/coffee after the service, so many of the social announcements will have to take place in the “Notices” section of the Service.

Set out in this fashion it may seem that draconian cuts have had to be made to the Sunday Service to keep the clergy and congregation safe. However to those who usually attended on Thursday mornings, with the exception of the change to the Communion, the content of the Service will be exactly the same. There will still be the usual prayers, bible readings, gospel and sermon. There is still a place where you can light a candle to remember loved ones who have died, to pray for this sick, or to share God's love in prayer. You will still be able to; pick up a free copy of the magazine to keep in touch; find out who won the quiz; discover who are the lucky winners of the last three months 100 club draws; make donations to the foodbank; support our designated monthly charities; and support your church with donations so that we can continue to serve you in the safest way we can.

We look forward to seeing you in church as soon as you feel safe to do so and hope we can fit you all in.

Diary Dates for August 2020

Annette will continue to video Wednesday Prayers and Sunday Services (from 12 noon) and post them on the All Saints Facebook page and All Saints “You Tube” page for the foreseeable future. Even though the Church will be open for its first “quiet” Communion on Sunday 9th August.

Sunday 2nd 12.00 noon Sunday Service on video
First Reading. Genesis 24.34-38, 42-49
Second Reading. Romans 7.15-25a
Gospel. Matthew 11.16-19, 25-30

Wednesday 5th 7.30 pm PCC meeting by Zoom

Sunday 9th 10.00 am Holy Communion.

Sunday 16th 10.00 am Holy Communion.

Sunday 23rd 10.00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 30th 10.00 am Holy Communion

At this time the Church will continue to be open for private prayer on Monday and Friday, 10.00 am – 12.00 noon and Wednesday evening 6.30pm-8pm, depending on volunteers to supervise access etc.

As the next PCC meeting is not until 5th August, no decision has been taken yet as to the resumption of the Thursday Service, as this may compromise the current 72 hour guidance between meetings or the need for a deep clean, and the continuation of the Wednesday and Friday openings for prayer.

As Government changes to the guidance are now being given at short notice, please check the website for any changes to the above.

Parish Pump

The church is open again for Funerals, Weddings and Baptisms but to make it safe to do so, total numbers are still limited to a maximum of 30 and while the 2 meter social distancing restrictions remain, All Saints capacity is for 16 households.

The restrictions on Funerals, Weddings and Baptisms are correct at the time of publication:

100 Club

The 100 Club monthly prize draws will recommence when the church fully re-opens in August, with the April to July draws the first to take place. Unfortunately with the last of this series of prize draws due to take place in September, it will also be time for people to sign up for next year.

Quiz Results.

Now that the Church has been partially open and the 'shielding' restrictions are being eased, last month we indicated that those who have not handed in their March Quiz have until Friday 31st July to do so. As the church will be open for the first Service on Sunday 9th August, we will make the draw then. The current prize fund is £17. We now intend to have a new quiz available on the first Sunday in September, when hopefully everyone can be back in church.

Monthly Charity.

This month's charity is for Penny de Marcés (nee Everness) mission in Peru, supporting our own missionary as she works supporting the indigenous population coping with coronavirus.

All Saints Choir

Due to the restrictions, Choir practice has been suspended until further notice

Future Events

The future events remain planned but are now subject to Government and Church of England guidelines on restrictions on gatherings in place at the time.

Saturday 26th September, Michaelmas fair.

Sunday 11th October, Harvest festival.

Smile lines.

Looking Good

I may look 40, but really I am 18 with 22 years experience.

Ageing Experience

Middle age is when your narrow waist and broad mind begin to change places.

Never Ending Job

Just when a mother thinks her work is done, she becomes a grandmother.

Covid confused

Did you hear the one about the West Ham supporter accused of threatening to invade people's household space. In his defence he said he was only singing "I'm forever blowing bubbles"!

What is a Grandparent? (Thoughts of a class of 8 year olds)

Grandparents are a lady and a man who have no little children of the own. They like other peoples.

Grandparents don't have to do anything except be there when we come to see them. They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run. It is good it they drive us to the shops and give us money.

Grandparents can take their teeth and gums out.

Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television because they are the only grownups who like to spend time with us.

Answers to the March Quiz sheet

What do you know about Arts & Literature?

1. How long did it take for Phileas Fogg to go round the world? **80 days**
2. Who painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel? **Michelangelo**
3. What was the name of Sherlock Holmes' brother? **Mycroft**
4. How many lines are there in a sonnet? **14**
5. Which French novelist was exiled to the Channel Islands? **Victor Hugo**
6. Which famous adventure was based on the real life story of Alexander Selkirk?
Robinson Crusoe
7. Who said "*A thing of beauty is a joy forever*"?
John Keats
8. What long-suffering teenager was created by Sue Townsend?
Adrian Mole
9. By what name was Lord Greystoke better known?
Tarzan
10. Which book starts with the words "*Marley was dead*"?
A Christmas Carol
11. Which writer's Christian names were Herbert George?
H. G. Wells
12. Who invented Peter Rabbit?
Beatrix Potter
13. Who is Jeeves' young master?
Bertie Wooster
14. Who drew the Mr. Men?
Roger Hargreaves
15. What was Superman's alias?
Clark Kent
16. Which story had a fairy called Tinker Bell?
Peter Pan
17. Who was the chief pig in *Animal Farm*?
Napoleon
18. Which artist's life is depicted in the film *Moulin Rouge*?
Toulouse Lautrec
19. What was the name of the Hunchback of Notre Dame?
Quasimodo
20. With which three words does the Bible start?
In the beginning

A new Quiz will be available from the first Sunday of September 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 August magazine of 1940, price twopence*

THE MAGAZINE.

Owing to evacuation the circulation of the Magazine has declined since the outbreak of war by almost 100 copies—from 750 to 650. We are therefore very anxious to get new subscribers, and if possible to prevent further decline.

If you do not already take the Magazine, please give your name for it to the Secretary, Miss Steel, 41 Southwood Road.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

We now have 120 names on our list of men serving in the Forces. There must be many more in the parish. Please help us to make this list as complete as possible by sending in names of any men you may know. All names are read out at the 7 a.m. Eucharist every Tuesday.

ANONYMOUS GIFTS.

As announced last month the Vicar received an anonymous gift of £10. The donor expressed the wish that a stirrup pump should be provided for the church.—This is being done, and the rest of the gift given to Church Expenses account.

Another £10 gift has now been received for the provisions of a new Violet Altar Frontal for the Lady Chapel. This has long been needed, and we say a grateful “Thank you” for this opportunity of providing the new frontal.

The “Church Logbook” for August 1980 records:

Beginning of a series of Sermons on the change over from the 1662 to the Alternative Service Book.

Aug. 17 “Why Change” — The Vicar.

Aug. 24 “The Words” — Michael Kingston.

Aug. 31 “The Eucharist” — The Vicar.

Sept. 7 Our approach” — Michael Kingston.

New Rite of the Eucharist Rite A introduced on Sept. 7th.

In preparation for this and on the Borough Dean’s temporary approval, the Riddle Posts have been taken down and the platform extended forward so that the Altar can be brought forward within the Sanctuary and the Priest conduct a Westward Celebration. Reaction from majority of the congregation, very favourable.

The Sanctuary has been hung with new damask curtains.

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