

All Saints Magazine



Autumn 2022

Free

Editorial

Dear Friends

Welcome to our final edition of the magazine.

It is not the end but a pause as we rethink how we communicate and where we go from here. It is a sad reflection of this world that the printed word becomes less and less accessible. In order to have a magazine we do need news and contributions and these have been rather lacking in the past three years.

This time we hear about the influence of music on us all and about Rev. Richard Coles of Communards fame.

There are reports on the successful Asian Festival day and the Churches together in New Eltham Jubilee celebrations.

Along with the quiz answers and a look at the history of our church there are the usual dates and parish pump information too.

Please do see our website for what is happening week to week.

www.allsaintsneweltham.org.uk.

God Bless

Annette (Vicar)



STOP PRESS!

The current version of All Saints magazine has been printed in-house since the November 2013 edition No 296. Your printer would like to thank the editors and contributors for nearly always making the deadlines necessary for producing a dated publication, but particularly to thank, on behalf of the readership, the advertisers for their financial support that has enabled the magazine to remain free of charge during this time.

The Power Of Music

'Sing to the Lord a new song' (Psalm 98:1)

In another article in this magazine I began by recounting a 'musical experience' in our garden..... This started me thinking about the power of music in general, and I remembered quotations such as *'Music expresses that which cannot be said, and on which it is impossible to be silent'* (Victor Hugo); and *'Music has charms to soothe the savage breast'* (William Congreve).

The amazing power of music over human behaviour depends on its appeal to our deepest emotions. When music is linked to fine words in song, then it appeals to the mind as well as the heart. Yet the brain alone can't control how somebody behaves; music arouses the emotions.

That's why music is mentioned so often in the Bible. The book of Psalms was the hymn book of the Jerusalem Temple. It calls on us to *'Sing to the Lord a new song'*, and to play musical instruments too: *'Make music to the Lord with the lyre...with trumpets and the sound of the horn, sound praise before the Lord, the King.* And let's not forget those harps!

From time to time at *Jubilate*, our children's singing group on Wednesday evenings, we play a little 'running around' game when we call out the names of musical instruments that make up an orchestra, and the children have to identify which group a particular instrument belongs to – is it Brass, Woodwind, Strings, or Percussion, by running to a particular area in church representing that part of the orchestra – where the first child to arrive receives a reward if they have got it right!

Our Lady sang the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55), and at the end of the Last Supper, Jesus didn't leave the Upper Room until *'after they had sung a hymn'* (Matthew 26:30). St. Paul sang hymns when he was in prison in Philippi (Acts 16:25) and he exhorted his friends: *'with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God'*.....and so on.

Emotion is needed in our lives and in our worship because reason alone can't stir us to loving behaviour. That's surely why we use so much music in church. Indeed, some people find they are first attracted to churchgoing because of the beautiful music, and the chance to have a good sing!

So the Bible describes heaven in terms of poetry and of music – saints and angels praising God in endless song. It's a sign that we should all be prepared to use our emotions in the praise of Almighty God. Or, as one of our *Jubilate* children's songs puts it:

*Hey now, everybody sing,
Everybody sing to the Lord our God!
Hey now, everybody sing,
Everybody sing to the Lord our God!
Everybody join in a song of praise,
Come and sing along with me!
Glory. Alleluia, glory, alleluia,
I'm so glad I'm free!*

(LHON 799)

Fr. Derek

The Vicar Dunit!

Many of us are familiar with the name of the Reverend Richard Coles, and those old enough will remember him as one half of the pop duo *The Communards*. Since those days however, he has not only been a parish priest, but has made a name for himself as a broadcaster – most notably as co-presenter with Nikki Bedi of BBC Radio 4's *Saturday Live* programme, and for being a contestant on *Strictly Come Dancing*.

In April this year Fr. Richard stood down from his role as vicar of the Northamptonshire parish of Finedon, where he had served since 2011. He is forthright about the C of E's role in current affairs, and in an interview with Ed Grenby for *Radio Times* says *'The Church is quite rightly wondering what's happening to the poor and destitute, and why food banks are booming. When people say it shouldn't meddle in politics, all that tells you is that they don't understand the first thing about Christianity.'*

He has retired to a village in East Sussex where he planned a certain amount of 'sitting in the garden doing nothing' but is finding, like so many before him, that 'the minute you retire, all these organisations that rely on volunteer efforts pounce like birds of prey.' He is fending them off by, among other things, working as a prison chaplain, and writing murder mysteries – he says that he is spending more time in prison and planning murders!

The *Radio Times* article explains:

'One thing very few people understand about Christianity is how it prepares you for detective work. The hero of Coles' debut novel, "Murder before Evensong" is Canon Daniel Clement, who spends as much of the book investigating homicide as he does on issuing homilies.

So why are so many men-of-the-cloth sleuths in crime fiction? "I think it's because vicars have a particular relationship to their communities", says Coles. "You're often standing back, looking at them and trying to work out why so many people are behaving in baffling ways. So you get to be quite expert at spotting little anomalies and disruptions to the pattern that tell you what you need to know."

He is clearly speaking from experience, but it's normally more mundane matters, no? "It's all sorts of stuff. When I left my parish in central London for Finedon, I thought it was going to be very sleepy, all village fêtes.....then in my first week we had a murder" (It was "nothing to do with me!" he adds hastily when I suggest that timing might be considered incriminating).

He goes on to say "Having ministered in prisons, I've found that people who have committed horrendous offences are often the victims of horrendous offences themselves. So at what point do you switch off your sympathy?"

As well as the distinctly Christian take on criminality, the late-80s-set story offers readers a touch of that slightly nostalgic, semi-bucolic, very British comfort reading familiar to fans of Richard Osman's phenomenally successful "Thursday Murder Club" books, complete with references to Club biscuits, Vaughan Williams and Radio Times.

There are more Canon Clement books in the works, so Coles' retirement isn't about to get any quieter. But he is enjoying his new cottage – and not being the vicar. "It's nice sitting in the pews, actually. I can't stop the odd twitch when the priest does something different from what I'd do, but it's lovely to be receiving sermons rather than delivering them."

(Extracted from a slightly longer article in the *Radio Times* 11-17 June 2022).

Richard Coles' book, *Murder before Evensong* is published in hardback by Weidenfeld & Nicolson. It's cover price is £16.99, but at the time I'm writing this, RT Bookshop is offering it for £15 including p&p. Call 03302 232 639 or visit radiotimes.com/shop24.

Fr. Derek

Rejoicing in Asian Culture at All Saints Asian Festival

The day came about as a result of the church's Mission Action Plan (MAP) committee, where they aimed to build community engagement. This was led, in particular, by Lisa and Liston Siregar, who are from Indonesia. "The theme was chosen because they are passionate about showing our diversity to the whole community and for All Saints to be hospitable to all."

On Saturday 16th July, around 200 people came to All Saints Church to experience Asian culture through our Asian Festival, an open day event to celebrate diversity in Greenwich and in the UK. It started with Rev Annette Rose welcoming the audience, which was followed by Kabokang Dance, a traditional dance from the Province of East Nusa Tenggara in Indonesia, around 8,180 miles from New Eltham.

The Kabokang Dance was performed by Indonesia Flobamora, 4 women wearing beautiful sarongs, to welcome the guests.



Yet, there is no festival without food. On the day there were Burmese Rice Noodle Salad, Chickpea Curry and Indonesian meatball soup with lots of sweet and fried snacks. The Indonesian food stall also sold the 'green jelly juice' which was perfect for the hot and sunny day, but there were also traditional English cupcakes, sold by 2 local scouts Jasmine Reeks and Callum Hall, who were fundraising for their trip to 2023 World Jamboree in South Korea.

As well as trying a variety of Asian food, visitors were also able to buy hand crafted items, such as rattan bags from Handep.co, a Manchester based charity helping traditional weavers in Kalimantan (Borneo), or accessories and jewelry, who's style is based on the life of fishermen in Lampung, a coastal province in Sumatra Island, Indonesia.

It was then the turn of the Thai Music Circle to keep the momentum going. The compositions they presented were like bringing green rice fields to New Eltham. For about half an hour, the soothing music filled the air while the audience sitting quietly to listen to the music



The Thai Music Circle in the UK was formed in June 1991 under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand. It is the Circle's aim to deepen the appreciation of Thai music amongst the world community.



Next a move to China with Wanyuan Song, who plays Erhu, the centuries-old Chinese instrument, which is a two-stringed bowed spike fiddle that shares certain similarities with the violin.

Wanyuan has been certificated as a professional Erhu player by one of China's most prestigious music academies, the China Conservatory of Music. She performed the classic touch of Erhu with the background of Chinese musical's piece. "Please let me know if there is another festival, I'll play a longer composition," said Wanyuan.

The peace and serenity presented by Thai Music Circle and Wanyuan Song was soon replaced by the boisterousness of a Ja'i Dance. It is a mass dance from Indonesia for gratitude and happiness. Led by Evelina and joined in by many of the dancers and stall holders.



After the fun of the Ja'i dance it was back to the stage for a Candlelight Dance. This Myanmar traditional routine was elegantly performed by Htet Khaing Zar Lwin, who has won several awards in dance competitions in Burma before moving to London 20 years ago. The Candlelight Dance, developed in the 11th-13th century, is still preserved and relevant today as part of religious ceremonies and rituals in the paying of homage to the Buddha and praying for peace of humankind.



Meanwhile in the church hall there was a photo exhibition of the resilience of Myanmar people against the military coup in February 2021. The photos show the civilian people standing up to restore the elected-civilian government with the risk of being shot by the military. As one of the visitors said, "Beautiful photos but with a very sad story." The exhibition is a collaboration between a UK based humanitarian group, Stars of

Myanmar Friendship Club, and Latt Thone Chaung, a group of photographers covering the coup and the demonstration.

Also in the hall there was a picture/poster book that children can walk along to read the story 'Komodo Want To Play Music'. It's about a Komodo Dragon, an endangered species in Indonesia, who can't play music because it's too big, but finds it can play the gong with its tail.

The book is by Felicia Siregar-Nayoan with illustrator Astri Sefrina Van Eenbergen in 3 different languages: English, French, and Indonesia.

The last performance in the stage was a traditional Javanese Gamelan by Jagat Gamelan, a group that formed in 2010 in London. Gamelan was originally an entertainment only in the royal palaces on the island of Java, but later on became an important part of every social and cultural event.



In closing the performance on stage, Jagat Gamelan offered the audience an opportunity to try out the Metallophones instruments. So lots of people came to try it which formed a perfect picture of 'East meets West'.



We ended the afternoon with another Ja'i Dance, accompanied by Jagat Gamelan, this time everyone joined in although many did not understand Ja'i dance moves but eagerly imitated Evelina's movements as best they could, and all were happy, including one lady who is in the wheelchair and Brian, who wore the costume of Godzilla, a character from Japanese cartoon film.

Diary Dates for September 2022

Thursday 1st - Saturday 3rd		Diocesan Conference at Bacon College
Sunday 4th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 6th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 11th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 13th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 14th	10.30-12.00	FairTrade Café
Sunday 18th	10.00 am 1.00 pm	Holy Communion Baptism Maud Said
Tuesday 20th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Saturday 24th		AMY BOUCHER PYE
Sunday 25th		HARVEST FESTIVAL
	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 27th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 28th	10.30-12.00	FairTrade Café
Thursday 29th	7.30 pm	Deanery Forum (In Church Hall)

Diary Dates for October 2022

Sunday 2nd	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 4th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 9th	10.00 am 12.00 pm	Holy Communion Baptism Kaia Rae Evie Westwood
Tuesday 11th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 12th	10.30-12.00	FairTrade Café
Sunday 16th	10.00 am pm	Holy Communion Baptism Grace & Baby Howe
Tuesday 18th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Saturday 22nd	10.00-1.00 pm	October Event
Sunday 23rd	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 25th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 26th	10.30-12.00	FairTrade Café

Sunday 30th	ALL SAINTS	
	10.00 am	Holy Communion with Penny & Juan Carlos Marcés
	5.00 pm	Confirmation Service with Bishop of Southwark

Diary Dates for November 2022

Tuesday 1st	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 6th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
	4.00 pm	All Souls
Tuesday 8th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 9th	10.30-12.00	FairTrade Café
Sunday 13th	REMEMBRANCE DAY	
	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.45 am	Act of Remembrance
Tuesday 15th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 20th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 22nd	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 23rd	10.30-12.00	FairTrade Café
Sunday 27th	ADVENT	
	10.00 am	Holy Communion
	4.00 pm	Christingle

Do please check our website for any immediate changes.

Parish Pump

Weddings

Baptisms

3rd July, Lorella Graham.

7th August, Luna-Rae Harriet Dixon.

28th August, Rae Parry.

18th September, Mabel Said.

9th October, Kaia Rae Evie Westwood.

16th October, Grace & Baby Howe

Funerals

5th July, Robert Harvey

11th July, Ronald Buss

25th July, Rev'd Margaret Mabbs,

100 Club.

The June prize of £35 was won by Ged Bull. The July prize of £35 was won by Betty Macdonald but donated to the Church Fabric Fund. The August prizes of £35 & £30 were won by Joe and James Carrick-Lawson, and Bob Avery respectively.

Quiz Results.

The May Quiz prize of £13.50 was won by Brian Leach. The June Quiz prize of £11.50 was won by Wayne Jones, who donated his prize to the church. The July Quiz prize of £14 was won by Douglas Garson. The winning entries were picked from all the entries with the correct answers received.

Fair Trade Café

The Fair Trade Cafés take place in the Savage Room in the Hall, from 10.30 to 12 noon on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. Profits go to the monthly charity.

Monthly Charity

Provisionally our monthly charities are: for September, Penny de Marcés, Missionary work in Peru; for October, The Falconer Trust, an orphanage in Zambia; and for November, Greenwich Night Shelter, a local charity that provides support for the homeless.

We continue to support the Bexley and Greenwich foodbank with food donations and donations of clothing for Ukrainian refugees.

All Saints Church – New Eltham



October Event

Coffee Morning and Stalls

Our pre-Christmas event is back at last

Saturday 22nd October 2022

10am to 1pm

Please come and join us, have a coffee and
bag a bargain

Refreshments

Cakes Sale - Toy sale - Book Sale

White Elephant Stall - Chocolate Tombola

Drinks Tombola - Prize Every Time Tombola

Toiletries/Nearly New Sale

Raffle and more

We look forward to seeing you

Churches together in New Eltham (CTNE)

On Sunday 6th June CTNE celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee at All Saints with a service of thanks followed by afternoon tea. Although planned as an open-air celebration, the inclement weather meant the service was held in the church and the afternoon tea in the hall.



Four of the six churches were represented and over forty people attended, including our own royalty Evelyn Green MBE.

We will be meeting in September to co-ordinate our November through to Christmas activities.

Bob Avery, Secretary, Churches Together in New Eltham (CTNE)

Easy fundraising update

Please join our 24 supporters who know that whenever you buy anything online, you could be raising a FREE donation for All Saints Church, New Eltham.

Currently we are raising funds to maintain the flat roofs of the church and eventually redecorate areas in the Lady Chapel and Chancel where leaks have occurred.

There are now over 7,000 retailers including Amazon, Argos, ebay, John Lewis, Tesco & Sainsburys (including grocery shopping), M&S and countless other big name stores and companies, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to All Saints to say thank you for shopping with them. You can even access donations by buying holidays, insurance, broadband, gas & electric, or even using Just Eat online.

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 provided 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.

All Saints is really grateful to our supporters who have already signed up, currently we can get a £5 bonus donation when you refer a friend, and for the £765.91 in donations you have generated so far that have helped us update the hall toilets and repair church guttering.

Even if you don't shop online but know of family or friends who do, please feel free to share our "cause page" (link above) with them on facebook or twitter.

Thank you for your support, every penny counts.

Smile Lines (hopefully your holiday experience was better!)

These are actual complaints received by "Thomas Cook vacations" from dissatisfied customers:

1. "They should not allow topless sunbathing on the beach. It was very distracting for my husband who just wanted to relax."
2. "On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food."
3. "We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish."
4. "We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price."
5. "The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room."
6. "We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as white but it was more yellow."
7. "It's lazy of the local shopkeepers in Puerto Vallarta to close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time -- this should be banned."
8. "No-one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared."
9. "Although the brochure said that there was a fully equipped kitchen, there was no egg-slicer in the drawers."
10. "I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local convenience store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts."
11. "It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair."
12. "I compared the size of our one-bedroom suite to our friends' three-bedroom and ours was significantly smaller."
13. "The brochure stated: 'No hairdressers at the resort.' We're trainee hairdressers and we think they knew and made us wait longer for service."
14. "When we were in Spain, there were too many Spanish people there. The receptionist spoke Spanish, the food was Spanish. No one told us that there would be so many foreigners."
15. "We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning."
16. "It is your duty as a tour operator to advise us of noisy or unruly guests before we travel."
17. "I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes."
18. "My fiancée and I requested twin-beds when we booked, but instead we were placed in a room with a king bed. We now hold you responsible and want to be re-reimbursed for the fact that I became pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked."

Spotted in the local New Shopper:

"Check out a local community website or notice board at a library or church for any free events in your area." Suggests TopCashback's Elle McAtamney. "There's usually plenty on from arts and crafts to taster sessions for dance and marital arts, and events are usually put on more often during holidays."

Answers to the June Quiz sheet
All the questions relate to: geography

1. What is the capital of Iceland?
Reykjavik
2. What is the smallest country in the world with an area of 0.49 square kilometres?
Vatican City
3. What is the second largest country in the world after Russia?
Canada
4. What country is landlocked meaning it is not bordered by the sea or ocean?
Kyrgyzstan
5. Which European country is divided into administrative divisions called departments?
France
6. What country is shaped like a high heel boot?
Italy
7. Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa, is located in which country?
Tanzania
8. In which country can you visit Machu Picchu, which used to be the citadel of the Inca Empire?
Peru
9. Which country will host the 2024 Olympic Summer Games?
France
10. Which country is often called the Land of the Rising Sun?
Japan
11. On 15th August 1947 British India was separated into India and which modern day country?
Pakistan
12. Guitar originated from which country in the 16th century?
Spain
13. Which two nations share the longest border in the world?
USA, Canada
14. What is the only country in the world that has a national flag that is not rectangular?
Nepal
15. What is the first country in the world to grant the vote to women?
New Zealand
16. Which country was called Santiago when Christopher Columbus first discovered it in 1494?
Jamaica
17. The Nobel Peace Prize is held every year in which country?
Norway
18. In which country do people say 'Shalom' to greet people?
Israel
19. Which country is the current world's leader in coffee exporting?
Brazil
20. What is the highest mountain in Britain?
Ben Nevis

Answers to the July Quiz sheet

A medley of questions on well-known or classic literature?

1. Who wrote the novel *'Emma'*? **Jane Austin**
2. Who wrote *'Treasure Island'* and *'Kidnapped'*? **Robert Louis Stevenson**
3. Who created Dracula? **Bram Stoker**
4. Betsey Trotwood is a character in which Dickens novel? **David Copperfield**
5. What was the name of the fairy in *'Peter Pan'*? **Tinkerbell**
6. Which literary detective uses his 'little grey cells'? **Hercule Poirot**
7. Who wrote *'Jane Eyre'*? **Charlotte Bronte**
8. Who was the winged horse in Greek mythology? **Pegasus**
9. What did Aesop write? **Fables**
10. Who was the donkey in *'Winnie-the-Pooh'*? **Eeyore**
11. Who wrote *'Rebecca'*? **Daphne du Maurier**
12. Who wrote the stories of *'Thomas the Tank Engine'*? **Rev. W. Awdry**
13. Who wrote *'Gulliver's Travels'*? **Jonathan Swift**
14. Who wrote the Barchester series of novels? **Anthony Trollope**
15. Which swashbuckling trio were created by Alexandre Dumas? **The Three Musketeers**
16. Which author's real name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson? **Lewis Carroll**
17. What were the names of the opposing families in *'Romeo and Juliet'*? **Montague and Capulet**
18. Who wrote *'Little Women'*? **Louisa May Alcott**
19. Which Shakespeare play begins: 'now is the winter of our discontent'? **Richard III**
20. Who created Horatio Hornblower? **C. S. Forester**

There was no quiz in August as many would have been on holiday. In the absence of a magazine, future winners, prizes and quiz answers will be published in the first week's pew sheet of the month.

From the Archives — *snippet from the October magazine of 1942, price twopence*

MISSIONARY NOTES

1) We are glad to have recent news of Mrs. Leech, from China, and of Miss J Chapman, from India, who after her 200 miles trek from Burma, is now in Calcutta working with Burmese refugees.

2) The Lecture on Poland by the Rev. R. Brinker was well attended, and an excellent lecture resulted in the formation of a "Polish Group," members of which undertake to assist in any way possible, men from Poland serving in England.

The Film on Poland will be shown in the Hall as soon as arrangements can be made.

SALE OF WORK AND FETE

Evidently the age of miracles is not past. We have had wonderful Sales and achieved remarkable results, but in some ways this year's effort is perhaps the most remarkable. Considering all the war-time difficulties and the restrictions necessitated by coupons and rationing, to have reached the figure of £238 net is a veritable triumph, and reflects great credit on all concerned. We tender our sincere thanks and hearty congratulations to everyone. A special word of praise is due to the coupon sellers, who have worked regularly all the year round and have been a great help in bringing in orders, for goods, etc.—for let us remember our wonderful result is due to an all-year-round effort on the part of many workers. The stallholders, too, worked miracles in stocking their respective stalls, and may be justly proud of the results of their labours.

There was a wonderful spirit about the whole business, in fact, a subtle something which we have come to know as the All Saints' spirit. We again welcomed many visitors from surrounding parishes, and their kindly help and interest is much appreciated.

The Sale was followed by the Fete and Vegetable Show on the Saturday, and this, too, proved a wonderful success and a very happy and popular event. Again there was a fine family spirit abroad, and everyone enjoyed the attractions and sideshows provided.

A special word of praise is due to Mr. W. Graves, to whose unremitting labour and enthusiasm the fête owes much of its success.

The Vegetable Show was just wonderful; the exhibits reached a high standard, and competition was keen.

— *snippet from the November magazine of 1942, price twopence*

THE CHURCH GROUNDS

Everyone with eyes to see must have noticed the transformation being carried out in the church grounds. It is really wonderful, and we hardly seem to know ourselves—old iron bottles, and rubbish of all descriptions have mysteriously vanished. The grass is cut and rolled, trees trimmed, and leaves swept up; and, I'm told, further improvement are to be carried out. The joy of it all is that it is a labour of love, and we are all very grateful to our good friend, Mr. Matthews of Gerda Road, for the enormous amount of work and energy he has so freely given to bring about the transformation.

The Church Council, at its recent meeting, unanimously expressed its thanks to Mr. Matthews, and this, I am sure, voices what we all feel. By the way, cyclists can co-operate, assist, and show appreciation by dismounting at the church gate, and not riding in the church grounds.

CHRISTMAS CRIB

It is hoped to add the figures of the Wise Men this year, and contributions towards the cost will be welcome.

The "Church Logbook" for September 1982 records:

The Revd. E. B. Woods (Vicar) celebrated 25 years in Holy Orders with a Mass and Parish reception in the hall. He was made a Deacon on 21st Sept. (St. Matthew's Day) in 1957.

The "Church Logbook" for October 1982 records:

Harvest Festival and Supper at the beginning of the month.

The "Church Logbook" for November 1982 records:

The celebration of All Saints was anticipated this year and held on Oct. 31st, being a Sunday. High Mass was celebrated in the morning and a Festal Evensong at 6.30. pm. at which Fr. Michael Kingston was the preacher. This was followed by a parish reception in the hall at which he was presented with a cheque from the people of All Saints.

Although he has not worked here but at St. Edward's, Mottingham, for 2 years, he is still our official curate. Now, he has just been appointed as Vicar of The Ascension, Plumstead.