



All Saints

Shooters Hill

www.allsaintsshootershill.org

Newsletter

April 2017

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation

In our March newsletter, we talked about being “Rooted in God;” and said that if we are, it will provide us with the power to understand how wide, long, high and deep his love can keep us up straight, because we cannot be a church firmly rooted, built up and established in our faith if our roots are not deep rooted and strong to stabilize growth. We also said there is no short cut; it takes times for the roots to go down deep, to stabilize growth. It demands your time and there are lots of obstacles to break through. It also means that you have to go through a process of Renewal - Spring season; Rest - Summer season; Reflection - Autumn season, and Reverence - Winter season. The spiritual atmosphere to help us go through these seasonal processes demands God’s currency called faith, which gives life to our prayers and cultivates intimacy with God through studying his word. Although this process is silent, the final product will be irreplaceable and invaluable.

So on reflection how did we do since our last AGM in April 2016? It was not without its challenges but generally there were many blessings as we (All Saints) went through the:-

Season of Renewal - where we set for ourselves a memory verse that was to remind of why we were part of All Saints (*“For if you remain silent at this time ... who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?” Esther 4:14*). It was also during this renewal time that we began to embark on the teaching series of themes beginning with **“United in Christ”** and throughout the year beside our memory verse, the key verses to remind us of our unity in Christ said *“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope ... one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.” {Eph.4:4-6}*. As this is the beginning of a new church season, we are encouraged to look afresh at how we as a family can take an active role so as to lighten the load on those already doing too many little jobs, or help start those that are needed like home groups, music group/choir, pastoral teams, messy church team etc.

Season of Rest - God considered that this planet needed several months of summer and it goes without saying that his people are equally in need of refreshment and rest (Hebrews 4:9-11).

| All Saints Church exists to help people live the best life possible through our
| commitment to serving God, the community and one another. |

Renewal does take a lot of energy and is not always easy when you are just trying to deepen your roots. Dryness and humidity in the atmosphere both can demand that you take a rest. The kids' church organized a family outing in July. Not all the children had the opportunity to go, but the few who went were blessed. Many thanks to the kids church for organizing it. We look forward to more outings.

The season was not a restful time for us here at All Saints because our long awaited project for the new Church Hall failed at the point of lift off. I am sure many of you were as disappointed and frustrated as I was. No explanation can reclaim the lost hope and energy that we had spent on the project over five/six years. It was a moment to be reminded that no plan is perfect and that things are not always what they seem. I thank God for being there with us (as he promised) as our roots had to break through this one big obstacle. This doesn't mean the project for the new church hall is dead, but through prayer we need to start again.

Beside all the other things happening, we were also encouraged to rest in the Lord by the help of our second theme **"The Lord's Prayer."** {**Matthew 6:9-15**}. We looked at God's **Paternity**-(v9a *our Father*); **Priority**-(v9b *Sovereign God*); **Programme**-(v10 *His kingdom*); **Provision**-(v11 *our provider*); **Pardon**-(v12 *forgiving God*); **Protection**-(v13 *conquering God*); and **Postscript**-(v14-15 *forgiveness matters*).

Season of Reflection - all good things does not always seems to last, but it does gives us also opportunity to revisit the museum of our memories which helps us evaluate the way we were and establish the way we want to be. Without fanfare, God moves upon our lives and guides us from the season of rest (summer) into the season of reflection (autumn). During this reflective season we planned to meet as a family outside Sunday worship to share stories and get to know each other on a monthly bases; and I thank God for bringing us together for the harvest supper and the film evening which was a blessing because it gave us the opportunity to sit and play together - the young and the old. I look forward for such church family gatherings to be part of serving one another.

As part of our community service, we hosted the Light the Life service in remembrance of all those who were cared for by the Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice. This is a service in which the families come together for the lighting of the Christmas tree as an act of remembrances for their loves ones.

Your generosity enabled us to extend our mission giving to ten charities.

To help us to reflect on our Christian life and to ask ourselves those serious questions like **"Do I take God seriously?"** we were helped by our third theme **"Faith! What Faith?"** (The book of James) because when the winds of adversity are picking up you feel afraid and this was to remind us that the roots grow deep when the winds are strong.

Season of Reverence - if summer is the time to rest, winter is that time to slow down and invest a few extra hours in quiet reverence; after all the nights are long and days short. But in reality, there seemed to be no frigid feelings of depression, even though the harsh winds stole our smiles; the world was as busy as ever.

We as a church were also busy waiting for the Lord's second coming (Advent). Among the many activities that took place here were:-

- We had our first Opera Carol service, and we give thanks to the Lord for this working opportunity with WOW Opera, not forgetting the wonderful performance from the choirs and especially the children choir.
- Christmas dinner provided us with the opportunity just to sit down and take a break and invest in each other by sharing food together. Thanks to all the families and friends who made the evening special.
- Our first Opera concert brought about a wonderful ending to winter and a positive response from the community. This is one of the many concerts that will take place in the 150th anniversary year of All Saints being a spiritual hub in this community.

As we reflect on what 2016 has been for us here, let's give thanks and be glad that God changes times and seasons because our lives would have been dull if he didn't paint nature's scenes in different colours several times a year.

As we go forward into 2017 let us once again allow the four seasons to offer fresh and vital insights because hidden beneath the surface are colourful silent truths that touch every area of our lives. Each quarter of every year holds its own mysteries and plays its own melodies, offering sights and smells, feelings and fantasies. So it is in the season of our Christian life. Seasons are designed to deepen us, to instruct us in the wisdom and ways of our God; and help us grow tall and strong like a tree planted by the water. Let this year's memory verse be our reminder that every season changes us. ***"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come."*** {2 Corinthians 5:17}

May God make us strong as the winds whip against us, because roots grow deep when the winds are strong. Let's commit ourselves to growing strong in our prayers, bible study, worship, community service, and walk together as God guides us through the seasons this year.

Rev. Herbert Aparanga

Church Office

For information about activities at All Saints (including weddings and baptisms) please contact the Priest in Charge, Revd Herbert Aparanga.

To get it touch with Revd Herbert Aparanga please email

vicar@allsaintsshootershill.org, write to him at 106 Herbert Road

London SE18 3PU, call at the **Church** on any **Friday morning** between

10am – 11am (if the church door is closed look for the bell) or phone

020 8854 2995 (but this will only be answered and messages listened to on Friday

mornings). General enquiries should be sent to **office@allsaintsshootershill.org**

For Hall Bookings see allsaintsshootershill.org and follow the links.



PCC meeting: Sunday 19 March

World War 1 Plaque

Linda reported that some funding for the restoration of the World War 1 plaque has been promised and we can now proceed with getting an estimate for the restoration. The restorer we have found lives locally. Paul has offered to try to arrange that the Greenwich Concert Band play for a Remembrance Day concert on Saturday 11th November which will be in aid of the plaque restoration. There will be a cost involved to cover the band's expenses.

WOW opera

Herbert thanked all those who had participated in the WOW Opera afternoon. It had been a great success. WOW had expected to make a loss on this first concert but actually nearly covered their costs. The church raised nearly £200 on the refreshments which should at least cover the costs of hosting WOW's events. The next WOW event is *Incanto: the music of Naples* on 30 April at 4pm. We learnt lessons from the event that should allow the next to run even more smoothly.

Special services

The services for Ash Wednesday, Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday were discussed. Lent Studies were underway using the York course.

150th anniversary

Gala Concert This will be on Sunday 25th June at 4pm.

The celebration service for the 150th Anniversary will be on Sunday 9th July at 3pm, followed by afternoon tea. The social committee is to meet soon to plan the catering arrangements. We need to invite: local MPs, local councillors, the Mayor, the new Bishop of Woolwich, local clergy from Plumstead Deanery, Churches Together, Welcare, Street Pastors, Food Bank, local police, Army, Chaplain from the QE and past ministers and members of the congregation. We will check the list of people who were invited to the Licencing. Margaret will sound out the male gospel choir to see how much they would charge to perform.

It was suggested that we might have a church outing to the seaside.

Finance

Geoff reported that the church is in a fairly healthy position at the moment partly because of increased Hall lettings. A detailed account would be given at the AGM.

Hall lettings: Rippings are requesting to move from 15 to 30 hours per week which would mean that on weekdays in term time the hall would be used from 6am to 6pm. Geoff talked about the reasons he had turned down some booking – if the group was too large, the event ended too late or the activity was potentially noisy. There were issues if other Christian groups wished to use the hall as the Archdeacon needed to approve.

Charitable giving

Lent appeal: We agreed to support the Bishop of Southwark's lent call. The theme for the 2017 Lent Call is 'I was hungry... .. I was thirsty'. It was supporting projects in the Diocese of Southwark and Food Security in Zimbabwe. Envelopes are to be made available in church.

More information is available at <http://southwark.anglican.org/about-us/what/the-bishop-of-southwarks-lent-call/>

Music and worship

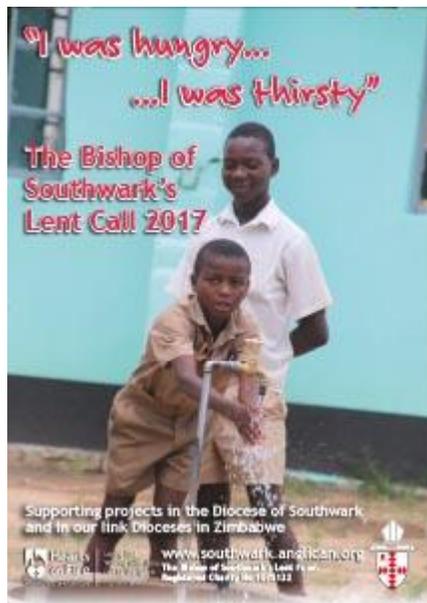
Our hymn books are now 25 years old and many need replacing. We could invite members of the congregation to sponsor one or more hymn books. If we decided to stick with Mission Praise, the current edition is the 30th Anniversary edition which has 1385 hymns and songs. The new edition costs £10 but if we buy 80 copies the price is reduced to £5.00 each. If we retain Mission Praise we could keep the better old ones to use as spares because the numbering is the same. Richard Taylor was keen that we did this before the special service in July. Herbert said that we need to pray for extra musicians and for people to lead the singing. Maybe we could look for ways to draw on the African culture of many of the congregation possibly in the first place in an extra service once a quarter/ a month on Sunday afternoon or evening. We could develop the format of the Family service to involve young people more. Margaret and Subu suggested that we use our screen and projection system more and maybe update it. Herbert prays for money to completely upgrade the sound system in the Church.

Fabric

Richard raised the need to repaint the front doors of the Church before the celebration services as it has been graffitied. Geoff suggested it might be stained black. We might need a carpenter to make minor repairs. The Church sign also needs to be refurbished.
Action – refer to the Building Committee.

We need to make sure the gutters and downpipes are clear. The disabled fire exit needs a push bar rather than the current bolts and lock. Kathy suggested that we do an audit of the state of all the doors but it was felt that we should defer this until the position of the current hall is clearer. Geoff and Herbert will check on progress on the feasibility study for the hall.

The police have suggested that we install some CCTV cameras to protect the Vicarage and Church buildings. An extra hard wired Wi-Fi system has been installed in the Church to provide better coverage. CCTV could be connected to this so that, if the alarm went



off, the pictures could be viewed on a smartphone. We are also considering upgrading the heating system controls to connect to the internet to enable our heating to be controlled remotely and more “intelligently”.

Social events

We intend to hold a breakfast on Easter Sunday, 16th April at 9am probably including boiled eggs, fried breakfast, toast etc.

The Vicarage site and New Hall

Herbert has been told that the plot at the back of the vicarage has been sold for “a very good price”! The modernisation of the Vicarage will go ahead to provide housing for a Vicar plus additional accommodation suitable for a Curate / youth worker.

Roger Molyneux, who drew up the original plans for a new hall, has been given the task of drawing up the feasibility study for a possible new hall. The current hall site is probably worth a lot of money and would have to be redeveloped to give us the money to build a new hall. It might be possible to keep the freehold to the site which would give us a continuing income.

Rotas

Kathy has drawn up rotas for the year but these will need to be tweaked as people plan their holidays etc. People are volunteering to read but may benefit from some training. A workshop could be arranged for all readers to listen to each other and to check for speed and clarity. There was a request that we get the children to read more frequently at the Family Service.

Church Office

This is opened every Friday by the church wardens and Herbert. The church cleaning group usually meet on a Friday. There was a plan to change this from Friday to Saturday [It was tried but has gone back to Fridays as the cleaning team found that more convenient] A ‘Thank you’ lunch was held recently for the cleaning team.

Weekdays in April

Church office and cleaning group Every Friday at 10am in Church

Our big social event is WOW opera’s *Incanto: the music of Naples* at 4pm on Sunday, 30 April.

The last concert was fabulous and drew wonderfully positive comments all over local social media like Plumstead People.

We need your help this time to. Please invite your friends, relatives and neighbours. If you can, please provide us with refreshments to sell and offer to help on the day to show people to their seats and help sell refreshments.

'INCANTO'

THE MAGIC OF NAPLES

FREE CONCERT



SUNDAY 30 APRIL 2017 AT 4PM

A delightful celebration of the Italian composer Donizetti's comic opera *Elisir d'Amore* with excerpts and narration followed by famous Neapolitan songs such as 'O sole mio' and 'Funiculi funicula'.

WOW OPERA PRESENT THREE EXCITING SOLOISTS

CHIARA VINCI SOPRANO **TRISTAN STOCKS** TENOR **TONY BAKER** BARITONE

All Saints Shooters Hill, Herbert Road, SE18 3PU

WOWOPERA.CO.UK

Refreshments will be sold at the interval and there will be a retiring collection for the musicians

All Saints Shooters Hill: April 2017

We warmly welcome you to our Services

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:7

2 April 2017

5th Sunday of Easter

10:30 AM

Holy Communion - God's answers to Prayer!

Led by: Rev Herbert Aparanga

Reader: L Bailey: Genesis 24:4-20, Luke 11:5-13 Prayers: J McQuillen
Sunday School

Refreshments: F Olarewaju, K Byfield Sidespeople: H Nwolu, F Decaneva

9 April 2017

Sunday next before Easter

10:30 AM

Palm Sunday - The King coming to town!

Led by: Geoff Sheath, Preacher: Linda Bailey

Reader: C Elemike, Psalm 118:19-24, Matthew 21:1-11 Prayers: H Aparanga
Sunday School

Refreshments: P Sheath, C Elemike Sidespeople: N Umeokafor, M Umobi

13 April 2017

Maundy Thursday

7 PM

Maundy Thursday Service

Led by: Rev Herbert Aparanga

14 April 2017

Good Friday

2 PM

Good Friday Service

Led by: Rev Herbert Aparanga

16 April 2017

Easter Day

10:30 AM

Holy Communion - The birth of Uprising!

Led by: Rev Herbert Aparanga

Reader: O Ogundemi, Colossians 1:15-23, Luke 24:13-32 Prayers: S Nwolu
Sunday School

Refreshments: M Akpewrene, J Anyasi Sidespeople: K Endelay, A Okoro

23 April 2017

2nd Sunday of Easter

10:30 AM

Family Service - Step out with God!

Led by: Rev Herbert Aparanga

Reader: P Winslow: Romans 4:20-21, Prayers: K Byfield

No Sunday School: children in church

Refreshments: S Okolie, C Naefulu Sidespeople: M Popoola, B Jatta

30 April 2017

3rd Sunday of Easter

10:30 AM

Morning Prayer (BCP) - Lost & Found!

Led by: Geoff Sheath, Preacher: Colin Wilkinson

Reader: Ezekiel 34:11-16, Matthew 18:10-14 Prayers: O Ogundemi
Sunday School

Refreshments: M Popoola, B Jatta Sidespeople: P Sheath, Archie

Easter Sunday morning at 9am

Join us for breakfast before our Easter service at 10:30

Please sign up at the back of church or email office@allsaintsshootershill.org by Good Friday so we can have enough food available.