



# All Saints

## Shooters Hill

[www.allsaintsshootershill.org](http://www.allsaintsshootershill.org)

Newsletter

December 2017

### Be a winsome witness this Christmas

There are enough rumours today to drive someone up the wall. Everyday there are some new rumours to make us lock the world outside because someone/thing is coming to get us. Is this something new? No it's not, but the intensity is new; and has become infectious, and we have baptized it as fake news. Way back in 1887, twenty two years after Abraham Lincoln's assassination, such fake news swept America - not once but twice - that his coffin was empty. Despite the protest of his son, Abraham Lincoln's body was exposed just to provide that the rumour is false. Fake news not only creates unrest but also harm to people. Those who feed on fake news are small, but they find satisfaction in dropping subtle bombs that explode in others' minds lighting the fuse of suggestion. This it destroys God's beneficial therapy called laughter that is needed now more than ever. Many families don't enjoy a

#### **Christmas Events**

##### *Christmas Party*

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm in the Church Hall

##### **Children's**

##### **Christmas Service**

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am

*A Service by and for children*

##### **WOW opera**

##### **Bellini to Broadway**

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> at 4pm

*FREE.*

##### **Carols by Candlelight**

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> at 4pm

*Carols and readings*

##### **Christmas Eve**

##### **Communion**

Christmas Eve at 11:30pm

*Communion Service with carols*

##### **Christmas Day**

##### **Family Service**

Christmas Day at 10.30am

*Family service followed by a shortened Holy Communion*

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

healthy, happy, laughing environment. When was the last time you invited laughter for a meal?

Like fake news, frowning started way back in the first century, and was best displayed by the Pharisees. Their ritually rigid life style caused Jesus to be disgusted. If you look at how some religious leaders are stern-faced, steel-jawed and frowning you may think that in his thirty-three years as a carpenter and a discipler of the twelve, Jesus never enjoyed a few minutes of fun and laughter with them. I am sure that is not the case or people wouldn't have been drawn to him. That is why **Jesus is winsome**.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon was a character of his time. Many of his fellow vicars were incensed by his habit of introducing humour into his sermons. He loved life, and his best sound was laughter. He infected people with cheer germs, and those who caught the disease found their load lighter and their Christianity brighter. **Spurgeon was winsome**.

Winsomeness is the ability to cause joy and genuine pleasure in the thick of it all. When a teacher has it, students will love the course, when a welcomer has it, the church is considered friendly; when the team manager has it, the team shows it; when a restaurant owner has it, the community knows it; and when parents have it, their children grow into it.

**What is the motivation of winsomeness?** To take the sting out of reality by releasing the stranglehold grip of the daily grind. By doing so, a situation suddenly become less complicated, less severe, and less bothersome because winsomeness simplifies things, and enables you to see light at the end of the tunnel. It also encourages you without ignoring the wrong, to focus on the benefits, the hopes, and possible answers. Yes, you will be faced with disappointments, but winsomeness refuses to pitch its tent in such a place.

Winsome humour is an asset that every child of God must have, and if you lack the ability to find something to smile about in diverse and difficult situations, then you need to refresh your mind with some of the wonderful teachings and parables of Jesus like that of *The woman and the Judge in*

*Luke 18:1-8; The lost son Luke 17:11-32; The ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-13, or The cleaning of the temple in Mark 11:15-17; Religious leaders questioning Jesus' authority in Luke 20:1-8; and The Judgement of the gentiles in Matthew 25:31-46.*

I am sure some of you frowning people would say laughter is for kids and youth; not for adults and especially good, Christian adults. No kids/youth disagrees that life has its demands and being mature involves discipline and responsibility. (This is how Bishop Stortford College ethos puts it: "Faith, Justice, responsibility, truth and compassion") Who needs to have an ulcer and drive themselves and others to distraction as a way of fulfilling God-given mission? I am sure we all agree that no good Christian adult is less efficient than the person on the brink of a breakdown, who has stopped having fun, who has begun a one-man crusade, lost the ability to relax and laugh without feeling guilty. Such a person is not much of an asset to society let alone the cause of Christ. This is reality, not a criticism. Having fun and laughter doesn't mean you should be distasteful, inappropriate, offensive, but you should have the ingredient of enjoyable, delightful expressions and thoughts that lifts our spirits and lighten our day.

We are stuck in today's rat-race that has sucked life out of us; and no one hears laughter in our homes anymore; and bad enough our children don't know how to laugh. We are bringing up a generation whose best pastime is full of frowning and crying. The best Christmas present we can give to ourselves, families, friends and our church families is to set ourselves to become the **winsome** children of God and begin to cultivate and communicate it in our homes, among our friends and church.

Make it your advent project in the next four weeks and see what the Spirit of love will unwrap for you on Christmas day!

**1. Start every day with pleasant words** – be pleasant in your remarks, cheerful with your greetings. Don't forget to thank God for his love as you get out of bed because his patience is a fresh reminder that this new day is

under his control. This is the encouraging truth. God loves you. Your family will be the first to notice what is happening.

**2. God has given you a gift to radiate encouragement, so don't fence it in, break that concrete mask- SMILE.** A frowning face repels but a smiling face reaches out and attracts (Remember your first date, did you frown or smile?)

**3. Make an effort to express one honest comment of appreciation/encouragement** to people in contact with you. Spot strengths and say so, but avoid dwelling on others' weakness. As a child of God, you desire to share Christ's love, lift up hearts that are heavy. It is not easy to be a winsome child of God in your own strength, so ask the Lord to make you genuinely interested in the people you meet, instead of being too self-centred. I am sure if you ask him faithfully to a winsome through you he will enable you to take a step of faith and reach out.

From 1 to 10, how would rate your sense of fun? If you don't know, ask your family, they will tell you!

Solomon in his straight talking said that when you have lost your capacity to enjoy life;-

- *you will have a broken spirit {Proverbs 15:13,15}*
- *a lack of inner healing, and dried up bones {Proverbs 17:22}.*

What a barren image of a believer? Let the Lord point you to the way of joyful winsomeness. Even in the midst of bleak and serious issues surrounding us today, I believe we need a joyful heart. God with us.

May Christ this Christmas bless us with a double portion of his Spirit so that we may become winsome children of God and begin to see the transformation God desires of us and in our communities. Amen.

[A Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year to you all](#)

Rev. Herbert Aparanga

## **PCC Minutes Wednesday 15 November 2017**

**SERVICES:** *A season of celebration.* Harvest, All Saints Day, Remembrance Sunday all went well. The Remembrance Day Concert was especially successful. Thanks were expressed to Paul and the concert band and everyone who helped. We particularly appreciated the band's very kind donation of £100 towards our plaque renovation fund. Paul said the band enjoyed the atmosphere and would like to use the Church again.

The services for Advent and Christmas were agreed.

**FINANCE:** Geoff said that the current financial position was quite healthy. Plumbing work would cost about £2,000 and replacing the Hall tiles also around £2,000. The Hall lighting is expected to cost £2,000. This means we have liabilities of about £6000 for urgent work. We have been offered stewardship advice by the Diocese and this will be incorporated into our MAP.

The Hall is being let for more than 60 hours per week. We have had a few bookings for one-off events, mainly children's parties.

*Charitable giving.* We traditionally (and are encouraged by the Diocese) to give 5% of our income to charity. Last year we sent donations to GYFC, Welcare, Bible Society, Crosslinks, London City Mission, Tearfund, Bishop's Lent appeal, Leprosy Mission, Mid-Africa mission, Street Pastors and Night Shelters. The PCC will decide how much to give and to which charity.

**MUSIC AND WORSHIP:** The Sound system continues to cause problems. Paul will contact some contractors to come and assess what sound system would work for us and provide estimates. We might be able to apply to the Diocese as part of our MAP.

**BUILDINGS:** *Church heating and Hall heating* are both now controlled through two Nests. These can be programmed in church or from a smart phone. A Nest uses outside temperature and its knowledge of how quickly the building heats up to start the heating just in time to get the temperature of the building right. It's still learning. A smart gas meter has

already been fitted and an electricity meter is due to be fitted on 28<sup>th</sup> November.

*Ecclesiastical insurance* arranged for their surveyor to visit. He was happy with what he found but said that the hall tile cladding need to be repaired and two smoke alarms need to be fitted in the hall. Linda has done risk assessments for Ripplings and for us.

*Hall repairs.* The Hall now has a new water heater and taps in kitchen, a new heated hand wash in the toilet. The electricians due to replace the lights in the hall pulled out at the last moment. This is not critical but we will get it done as soon as possible. The hall blinds will be installed as soon as possible. Two firms quoted to repair the hall cladding. As this was identified by Ecclesiastical and ourselves as a health and safety risk we accepted one quote. [The work is now complete]

*Plaque* We have been notified of a grant from the War memorials trust of £1,190 and raised the extra money needed through the concert. 82 adults and 20 children attended and we made about £750. We need to get a Faculty. The Faculty has been applied for. We have letters and forms to display for 28 days. The restorer will have the plaque as soon as we receive the Faculty. We would like to have the rededication next Remembrance Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 if it is possible to arrange. We would like to research and find out where some of these soldiers died through the war graves commission. We could also have a look at the old registers held in Church.

**SOCIAL EVENTS:** A Film night, Christmas party and WOW opera have been arranged before Christmas. A further WOW event is planned for April.

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE:** We have been told that work on the Vicarage will begin in Spring. A special meeting considered both of Roger Molyneux's schemes for a new hall. As these would involve the parish contributing around £200,000. The PCC agreed to approach Roger and/or Chris Evelyn-Rahr (our parish architect) to find the costs of refurbishing the existing Hall.

**MISSION ACTION PLAN:** Herbert introduced and expanded on the MAP document he had circulated to the PCC. Several people thought it would be helpful to focus on fewer objectives for each Mission Statement. There was discussion about how to do this.

**ADMINISTRATION:** *Safeguarding* Pauline reminded the PCC that parents should accompany children to the toilet in the lobby as during services the lobby is open to outsiders.

**AOB** The Prayer area needs to be replaced and the prayer board.

**DATE OF NEXT PCC MEETING:** 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018

The meeting closed with prayer at 22.05

## 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](http://allsaintsshootershill.org) and follow the links.

## Weekdays in December

Church office and cleaning group Every Friday at 10am in Church (check over Christmas/ New Year)

Sat	2 Dec 2017	TBC	Christmas Party in the Hall
Tue	5 Dec 2017	8:00 pm	Bible Study at the Vicarage
Sun	10 Dec 2017	4:00 pm	WOW opera
Tue	12 Dec 2017	8:00 pm	Prayer group at the Vicarage
Tue	19 Dec 2017	8:00 pm	Bible Study at the Vicarage

# All Saints Shooters Hill: December 2017

We warmly welcome you to our Sunday 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*

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**3 December 2017**      **Advent 1 Christ the King**  
**10:30 AM**      **Holy Communion - Loving Self!**  
Led by: Rev Herbert Aparanga  
Reader: G Sheath: Romans 8:1-11, John 14:15-21 | Prayers: H Nwolu  
Sunday School  
Sidespeople: M Popoola, B Jatta | Refreshments: F Olarewaju, K Byfield

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**10 December 2017**      **Advent 2**  
**10:30 AM**      **Service of the Word - Flesh and Blood!**  
Led by: Rev Herbert Aparanga  
Reader: P Sheath, Hebrews 2:1-18 | Prayers: N Nelson  
Sunday School  
Sidespeople: P Sheath, A Baxter | Refreshments: P Sheath, N Nelson

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**17 December 2017**      **Advent 3**  
**10:30 AM**      **Holy Communion - The Blessing of Unity!**  
Led by: Rev. Herbert Aparanga  
Reader: R Taylor, Psalm 133, Matthew 12:22-28 | Prayers: P Sheath  
Sunday School  
Sidespeople: L Bailey, J Anyasi | Refreshments: M Akpewrene, J Anyasi

**4 PM**      **Carols by Candlelight**

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**24 December 2017**      **Advent 4**  
**10:30 AM**      **Christmas Eve - Virgin Birth - A Mystery!**  
Led by: Rev Herbert Aparanga  
Isaiah 7:14, Luke 1:34-35  
Children in church for Family service  
Sidespeople, Reader and Refreshments to be arranged

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**11:30 PM**      **Midnight Communion**

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**25 December 2017**      **Christmas Day**  
**10:30 AM**      **Christmas -God with us (Immanuel)**  
Led by: Rev Herbert Aparanga  
Colossians 2:6-9, Matthew 1:23-25  
Children in church for Family service  
Sidespeople, Reader and Refreshments to be arranged

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**31 December 2017**      **Christmas 1**  
**10:30 AM**      Morning Prayer (BCP) - Blessing for Tomorrow!  
Led by: Rev Herbert Aparanga  
Psalm 3, 1 Chronicles 4:9-10  
No Sunday School  
Sidespeople, Reader and Refreshments to be arranged

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Please let Kathy Byfield know if you are unable to do any duties: pat.kat17@ntlworld.com