



All Saints

Shooters Hill

www.allsaintsshootershill.org

Newsletter

December 2018

Looking back: looking forward

Here we are once again, ending the year 2018 which we entered not so long ago.

I hope you used the opportunity God gave you to bring to completion the unfinished plans or projects you brought along with you from 2017. May I for one last time take you back to January 2018, where I said **“Don’t give up - Finish the Course’**. There is a lot written about getting started - ways to begin new challenges in life - but very little about finishing well.

I believe as you read this article, there are probably still a lot of unfinished plans and projects in your life for this year. Once again, don’t lose heart when a plan or project seems to have lost its appeal because of new immediate challenges like Brexit and widespread fake news that seems to take us up in a great storm and flatten our sense of reality. Looking around today, there is little enthusiasm in most people for the acquisition of virtue, little inclination to abstain from sin, to respect and honour human relationships, or sign up for a long apprenticeship in God’s model of a new, principled lifestyle.

Christmas Concert

Sunday 9th at 5pm

Greenwich Concert Band
£10 (£5 child) in aid of the Hospices

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 16th at 5:30pm

Carols and readings

Children's

Christmas Service

Sunday 23rd at 10.30am

A Service by and for children

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.

“Making a Road by Walking” was the our project that started in 2017, the year All Saints Shooters Hill celebrated it’s 150 years in God path in this place. We, in this generation, took on the challenge to continue making the road by walking as we serve God, each another and the community the Lord has placed us in. We have walked a long way since July 2017, and yes we may see little evidence of the distance covered and that may also be true in our personal accomplishments. We entered 2018 knowing that it would be a mixed bag of difficulties, challenges, joy, and sadness. But we also asked God four specific things:

- 1. To bless as with a life of blessing** so we be a blessing to others
- 2. Extend our border** as we become fearless believers who look beyond our challenges
- 3. Be with us always** as we walk in fellowship with him, and become bolder Christians, and
- 4. Protection from trouble and pain** so we aren’t overcome with sorrow, regrets and pain but experience God’s best for our lives.

God fulfilled his part, he blessed us with many blessings, extended our border and allowed new people to come in, walked with us, and helped us to overcome so many challenges during the year, and above all protected us. I am thankful to all of you who continued to be participants, instead of spectators, in this long walk because we have a purpose to serve God, to share fellowship with other Christians, to be missionaries to our community and to live in God’s new lifestyle principles.

So, as we write the last chapter of 2018 in the next four weeks, we know we will carry with us into 2019 many unfinished plans or projects, and we shouldn’t give up but keep on walking, and moving forward, as we continue listening to God whispering into our inner ears saying:

‘... don’t get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time’ {Galatians 6:9}

‘... Stand your ground, and don’t hold back. Throw yourselves into the work of the master, confident that nothing you do for him is a waste of time or effort.’ {1 Corinthians 15:58 Mge}

‘Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the devil... take a firm stand against him, and be strong in your faith... in his kindness God called you to his eternal glory... after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.’ {1 Peter 5:8-10}.

So let's be cheer leaders for each other, encouraging each other to race to the finish of 2018 with confidence in the God who kept his promises and answered our prayers as he saw fit for his glory.

Many of people start their Christian life with hot, fast and dazzling enthusiasm, but how many of them that you know are finishing the course with the same sustained vigour? What has happen along the way that has made many quit? As we start a new season of life in 2018, let us encourage each other to finish what we started together **'Making the Road by Walking'** or whatever personal project you are doing. If you think of quitting too soon, I encourage you to stand ground and finish whatever you began.

May Christ give us the strength to keep walking, going, doing and rooted firmly in him until we finish what we began since we became his servants; and may he bless us with a double portion of his Spirit so that our work of 2018 is not in vain. Amen.

I wish you and your family and friends a Blessed Christmas and a productive New Year.

Rev. Herbert Aparanga

SALLY SILVER

It was with enormous sadness that we heard of Sally's death last Monday, 26 November. Sally was an internationally known and celebrated opera singer, the winner of many awards. All this is listed in her obituary in The Times



<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sally-silver-obituary-0jvgtbfz0> But many of us knew her as our neighbour and friend. She was so full of life and enthusiasm. She loved sharing her love of opera with us all and we, in turn, were privileged to be able to give WOW opera a home. She sang Dido's lament at our Remembrance Day service two years ago and then trained us to perform two carols in our Carol Service. It was a terrible shock to her and us when she discovered she had a brain tumour but her courage and drive to carry on was inspirational. We send our love and prayers to Jeremy, Charlotte and the family. GS

PCC Wednesday 28 November 2018

SERVICES

The Christmas Services have been announced. The choir are practicing for the Carol service. The children's service will include a Nativity Play.

Dedication of the Plaque 27th March 2020 would be the 100th Anniversary of the dedication of the Plaque. Maybe this would give time to arrange for a Bishop to come for a special service. Paul would welcome help to extend his work on the background of those who died from the Parish in the Great War.

FINANCES

We currently have just over £40,000 but have a number of expensive bills coming up

Charitable giving The church recommends that we give approximately 5% of our income to charity. We review our charitable giving every year at the last PCC of the year. As a result it was decided that we would donate the following sums to charities to bring our giving in 2017/8 up to 5%:

CMS £200, Leprosy £200, CPAS £200, Tear fund £300, GYFC-£200, Crosslinks £200, Bible Society -£200, Welcare -£500, Street pastors £200, Night shelter -£200, London City Mission £200. We would also twin our 4 toilets through the Toilet twinning charity.

We would try to report on the work of the charities we support through the year.

Hall lettings With some users paying via a number of small payments we were checking carefully to ensure that all users were up to date.

Stewardship (ESOG and cashless payments) The Envelope Scheme Of Giving has historically been used to enable people to give regularly and to Gift Aid their donations to All Saints. Only two sets of envelopes were taken last year, neither of which were Gift Aided. Geoff asked if we should relaunch ESOG, cease it, or print our own envelopes for those that wanted them as last year. With the growth of cashless payments some churches are providing facilities for giving through this. It was suggested that we ask the congregation if they would use an updated envelope scheme and /or cashless payments. Parish Buying has a cashless payments scheme. Geoff will find out more if there is a demand for it.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Sound system St Paul's Thamesmead have recently had a new system fitted. The vicar has agreed to send us the details of the firm they used. Paul still has to get back to DM Music about a site visit.

BUILDINGS

Church windows The bottom of the windows on the left side of the church are distorted, probably from being hit by footballs though we've not witnessed this happening. A stained window company from Sidcup says we need 11 new panels to be made to replace the bottom part of the windows with new lead and new glass. This will cost £8000. The new lead can be strengthened with steel rods to prevent them being damaged by footballs in the future.

Mereworth Drive heating The 14 year-old system in the house we own and rent out is faulty and now does not provide hot water independent of the heating system. It has been decided to provide a new boiler and modify the system to provide reliable heating and hot water at a cost of £3000 rather than just repair the existing system for £1000.

Church steps and door One of the sets of steps at the front of the church is moving. Geoff has asked Alex Hall for a quote to repair them. The bottom of one of the church doors is rotting. Geoff will ask Jamie Baxter to quote for replacing it.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Plans for 2019 As promised in our Mission Action Plan we will offer breakfast before Family Services on 27th January and 24th February and pancakes on 3rd March before the beginning of Lent.

MISSION ACTION PLAN

1. *Get to know people better* PCC pen portraits to start in the January newsletter with Geoff and Margaret in Feb.
2. *Support children's church.* There is still money available to support the children's work
3. *The physical church building* We need to replace our notice board but this was not discussed.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE

Update on Vicarage site Plans have been resubmitted. The architect has recommended some contractors to the Diocese but there has been no further update from them The work will take about 10 months and we

hope it will start in the New Year.

ADMIN

Rotas Kathy often gets very short notice that people can't do their duty. If possible arrange a swap yourself but also let Kathy know!

pat.kat17@ntlworld.com

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Several members commented on people taking of photographs and video during the recent in Baptism Service despite a request in the order of service not to. A number of suggestions were made including that we have an official photographer who can take photos or videos discretely. We need further discussion on this and with the families involved.

NEXT PCC MEETINGS

23rd January and 20th March (in preparation for the AGM in April)

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)

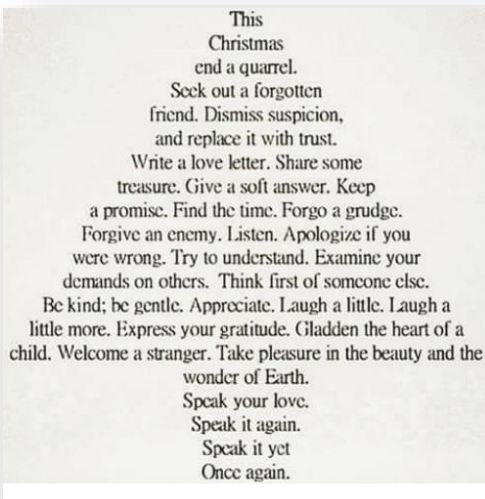
or phone **020 8854 2995** (but this will only be answered and messages listened to on Friday mornings). General enquiries should be sent to

office@allsaintsshootershill.org

For Hall Bookings see

allsaintsshootershill.org and

follow the links.



Events In December

An hour of Advent Music

including works by Bruckner, Tallis and Palestrina

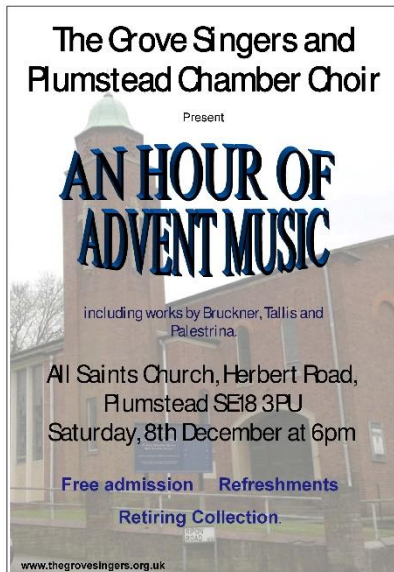
Saturday 8th December 6pm

The Grove Singers and Plumstead Chamber Choir

All Saints Church, Herbert Road, Plumstead
SE18 3PU

**Free admission, Refreshments, Retiring
Collection**

www.thegrovesingers.org.uk



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Plumstead Chamber Choir

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Palestrina.*

All Saints Church, Herbert Road,
Plumstead SE18 3PU
Saturday, 8th December at 6pm

**Free admission Refreshments
Retiring Collection.**

www.thegrovesingers.org.uk

Christmas Concert

Greenwich Concert Band

Sunday 9th December 5pm

in aid of the Greenwich and Bexley Hospice

£10 (£5 in full-time education), Refreshments

Tickets from tinyurl.com/AllSaintsChristmas or
on the door (subject to availability).



Christmas Concert

at
All Saints Shooters Hill
Herbert Road, Plumstead, SE18 3PU
* To support Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice *

Greenwich Concert Band

Musical Director - Chris Lloyd

Sunday 9 December 2018, 5pm

with vocal support from
Nigel Garrard & Company 3

*Festive refreshments!
Christmas favourites!
Traditional carols!
Special features!*

Tickets £10 (£5 children) from:
www.tinyurl.com/AllSaintsChristmas
or Paul at All Saints (0771 0 876886)
or on the door, subject to availability

BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday 4th December at 8pm at the Vicarage

All Saints Shooters Hill: December 2018

We warmly welcome you to our Sunday Services

Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

Then you will know what God wants you to do." (Romans 12:2)

2 December 2018 1st Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM Holy Communion - A New Blessing

Led by: Rev. Herbert Aparanga

Reader: S Morekosso: 1 Peter 3:8-22, John 13:6-19 | Prayers: K Byfield

Sidespeople: V Aigbirhio, J McQuillen | Refreshments: M Oyebanji, N Nelson

9 December 2018 2nd Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM Service of the Word - A New Attitude

Led by: Rev. Herbert Aparanga

Reader: T. Taylor, 1 Peter 4:1-11 | Prayers: P Sheath

Sidespeople: A Olaniyi, N Umeokafor | Refreshments: M Akpewrene, J Anyasi

16 December 2018 3rd Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM Holy Communion - A New Joy

Led by: Rev. Herbert Aparanga

Reader: J McQuillen, 1 Peter 4:12-19, Matthew 10:16-22 | Prayers: L Bailey

Sidespeople: M Popoola, B Jatta | Refreshments: B Jatta, C Benard

16 December 2018 3rd Sunday of Advent

5:30 PM Carol Service

Led by: Rev. Herbert Aparanga

23 December 2018 4th Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM Family Service - Born to give a 2nd Birth

Led by: Rev. Herbert Aparanga

Reader: M Olarewaju, John 3:1-3 | Prayers: N Nelson

Sidespeople: S Nwolu, M Nwolu | Refreshments: F Olarewaju, K Byfield

24 December 2018 Christmas Eve

11:30 PM Holy Communion - Why Jesus was Born!

Led by: Rev. Herbert Aparanga

Reader: L Bailey: Hebrews 2:9-18, | Prayers: R Taylor

Sidespeople: L Bailey, J Anyasi | Refreshments: P Sheath, N Nelson

25 December 2018 Christmas Day

10:30 AM Family Service - The Glorious Birth

Led by: Rev. Herbert Aparanga

Reader: P Sheath, Luke 2:8-11 | Prayers: J McQuillen

Sidespeople: H Nwolu, SM Nwolu | Refreshments: M Akpewrene, J Anyasi

30 December 2018 1st Sunday after Christmas

10:30 AM Morning Prayer- Turn the World Upside down!

Led by: Geoff Sheath, Preacher: Collin Wilkinson

Reader: P Winslow, Acts 17:1-9, Matthew 11:20-30 | Prayers: G Sheath

Sidespeople: V Aigbirhio, J McQuillen | Refreshments: B Jatta, C Benard

Please let Kathy Byfield know if you are unable to do any duties as soon as possible: pat.kat17@ntlworld.com
If you can arrange a swap that is really helpful but please let Kathy know.