



All Saints

Shooters Hill

www.allsaintsshootershill.org

Newsletter

July and August 2017

The next 150 years of building a railroad

Our forefathers' road making started in 1867, from a tent, that became a tin church. Then came the time of making this little road into a highway. The road master then turned to writing tens of thousands of letters for several years asking for just £1 from whosoever thought this road was needed and necessary; and 14 years later, the Lord moved them from a tin church into a brick church - a station from which all the programmes of road making was fashioned.

What the station master Revd. William McGuinness said *"Many and serious have been the obstacles thrown in my way, even by those upon whom I relied for sympathy and support; but God has graciously strengthened my hands and encouraged my heart under every trial and difficulty. 'Blessed are they who put their trust in Him'."* This tells me that this was not an easy road to build. Many valleys and shadows, forests and rivers to cross; mountains to climb brought them into a new spiritual formation where they needed to learn, think, mature, change and grow. They also had the freedom to stagnate, regress, and lose their way. They quickly learned, that the walk they began from a tent in 1867, would never be completed, but always be in the making. They had the freedom to stagnate and regress in 1944, when their station-building church was bombed, but they knew they had the capacity to keep on walking forward making their road into a highway to what we now know as All Saints Shooters Hill parish.

They didn't wait until somebody from somewhere figured things out and told them what to do, they knew that all of them had a role to play in choosing and creating their future as individuals and as a community of Christ. They became the torchbearers in their own story; that they can make the road for the next generation before them by walking; and here we are to proof it, and why? Because *'Blessed are they who put their trust in Him'."*

As new contractors, to continue taking this road building forward we too need to become the torchbearers in our own story; changing from making road by walking to laying rails so we can travel on trains. - (*making better use of our present technology*). We are in the early stage of this new moment of advent, vibrating with danger and promises. As with our

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

forefathers, challenges of all sorts await us at every station. Some will be negative and reactive like angry fists, and others will be positive and constructive like open arms.

I believe we all desire to participate in the positive and constructive opening, by exploring new possibilities to develop unfulfilled potentials, to discover new resources to bless, inspire and cheer up our spiritual development. By the help of God, we must not allow any negative and reactive angry fists to regress us from this moment. Christ is calling us to walk and move forward with faith, hope and love as we lay one rail at a time.

What does this mean? It means we all need to help each other as individuals and as a church seize this moment and lay the rails wisely, peacefully and joyfully into the future together. In this way, each one of us will find seeds of meaning we can let take root in our own spiritual soil, and in doing so, we begin to offer a positive, practical, open faithful and fresh expression of Christian faith suitable for the people in our apathetic time.

Faith is not a destination, or a warehouse, but a road, a path, a rail, a way into a new and creative discovery of God's grace, mercy, blessings and overflowing abundance in your prayers – knowing that your faith is a life currency, relationships – having intimacy with God the secret of a living faith, ministry – you're here to make a difference and change your world, life – where Christ is the cornerstone on which you triumph, family life – where God manifests his glory in it, health – making your blessings tangible, career and business, witnessing - making it a habit to share God's love, married life – to be purposeful, finances – allowing you to flourish, etc.

If our faith only digs its heels where it is now, then it is a dead end, not a way. For us (All Saints Shooters Hill) to be a living railway, we must forever be open, putting our trust in Christ, and forever remaining unfinished so we can be inspired and motivated to grow in numbers and in our spiritual maturity.

We all need a miracle, so let us find how to ask God for the impossible, for the psalmist said "You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples" Psalm 77:14. We need to see God's power transform us as His light illuminates our path, filling us with grace, and making us real in our faith and expectation.

Just as we had rejoiced in the fruitfulness of our forebears, may our prayers be abundantly answered, and our church (All Saints), continue and grow as a centre of Christian witness, prayer and worship. Amen.

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come." {2 Corinthians 5:17}

Rev. Herbert Aparanga

Because of the 150th Anniversary there was no printed Newsletter for July 2017.

If you are not on our email list and would like to be please send your email address to office@allsaintsshootershill.org

PCC meeting Wednesday 12 July

This meeting was called mainly to share suggestions about how we could improve our services but a few urgent items were also discussed

Urgent business

There was a need to do some urgent work in the Hall over the summer despite the fact that we were not yet certain of its future. New taps, a new hot water supply, a new hot water heater for the main toilet were needed as well as a new pressure relief valve for the boiler.

The hall door on the normally closed door needs to be repaired so it can be securely bolted.

The lighting in the hall needs to be repaired or renewed.

All these things were put in hand.

Improving our services

There were long discussions on many points but key outcomes were:

It was felt helpful that Herbert now gave a theme to each service which was amplified on the weekly sheet.

At the beginning Herbert will come through the side door to give a clearer cue that the service is about to start and the congregation will rise.

After the notices Herbert will recap of the theme of the service to bring people back to worship so that, hopefully, they finish with their minds on the theme.

Seating of latecomers

PCC members found that latecomers coming in during quiet parts of the service, for example the prayers, really disturbed their ability to concentrate.

We needed to share the problem with the congregation and ask latecomers to wait for an appropriate time and then come in quietly. It would be better still if people could arrive before the service started.

It was agreed that, as the service could be heard in the lobby, that we would put out chairs, service sheets and weekly sheets in the lobby and ask people to wait for a suitable point to come into church.

There was a long discussion of how best to manage moving the children out to and in from Sunday School.

It was important that the children felt part of the church and were valued but also that the rest of the congregation had their concentration on worship distracted as little as possible.

It was suggested that we try having the children come in quietly from the back of church to see if that was less disruptive.

- 1st Sunday Holy Communion: children don't come into church but to go straight to Sunday School in the Hall through the Hall door. They come into church for communion from the back just as the last few people are receiving communion and then sit in the front pews, which will be reserved for them.
- 2nd Sunday Service of The Word: children go through to the Hall at a fixed point in the service. Children come back near the end of the service

- 3rd Sunday Holy Communion: children go through to the Hall at a fixed point in the service but do not return during the service.
- 4th Sunday Family service: children remain in the church
- 5th Sunday Morning Prayer: children go through to the Hall at a fixed point in the service but do not return during the service.

If children arrive after other children have gone to the Hall parents are asked to take them to the Hall rather than letting them go via the church to minimise distraction.

Sound system The system has often played up recently but worked OK for the Anniversary service. Paul suggested we get DM music or similar to quote for renewing the system and this was agreed.

Readers and leaders of prayers It was quite often difficult to hear readers and prayers clearly. Most people believed they could be heard but it was easy to be mistaken. It was suggested that we had organised some short meetings after church where groups of readers and leaders of prayers could take it in turns to read and to listen and through this acquire a better understanding of how to be heard effectively.

Silent Prayer How to encourage silent prayer and to encourage variety was discussed. Paul suggested using music to signal the end of periods of silent prayer.

Rota reminders Different people liked different ways of being reminded of their duties. Some people found the printed rota worked well, others would prefer a WhatsApp reminder and others a text. We would see what could be automated and survey people to see what communications were most helpful to members

Weekly sheet These were helpful and people should be encouraged to take them away.

Date of next meetings: PCC 6 September 2017 8pm in the Hall

Sunday School

Sunday school is closed over the school holidays but children are welcome in church. Sunday School will restart on 10 September (to be confirmed).

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.



150th Anniversary Service







All Saints Shooters Hill: August 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

6 August 2017	8th Trinity
10:30 am	Transfiguration Holy Communion - Persistence v Impatience!
	Led by: Rev Herbert Aparanga
	Reader: P Winslow: 1 Thessalonians 1:16-21, Luke 18:1-8
	Prayers: L Bailey, No Sunday School
	Refreshments: M Popoola, B Jatta Sidespeople: K Endelay, A Okoro
13 August 2017	9th Trinity
10:30 am	Service of the Word - The WORD of God!
	Led by: Rev Herbert Aparanga
	Reader: G Sheath, Nehemiah 1:4-11, Ephesians 6:10-18
	Prayers: R Taylor, No Sunday School
	Refreshments: S Okolie, C. Naefulu Sidespeople: M Popoola, B Jatta
20 August 2017	10th Trinity
10:30 am	Holy Communion - The WILL of God!
	Led by: Rev Herbert Aparanga
	Reader: F Olarewaju, 1 John 5:13-15, John 6:33-40
	Prayers: J McQuillen, No Sunday School
	Refreshments: F Olarewaju, K Byfield Sidespeople: P Sheath, A Baxter
27 August 2017	11th Trinity
10:30 am	Family Service - God's BIG Family!
	Led by: Geoff Sheath
	Reader: P Sheath, Ephesians 2:19-22, Ephesians 3:14-15
	Prayers: G Sheath, Children in church for Family service
	Refreshments: P Sheath, C Elemike Sidespeople: L Bailey, J Anyasi

Weekdays in August and early September

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

Tue	1 Aug 2017	8:00 pm	Bible Study at the Vicarage
Tue	8 Aug 2017	8:00 pm	Prayer group at the Vicarage
Tue	15 Aug 2017		NO Bible Study
Tue	5 Sep 2017	8:00 pm	Bible Study at the Vicarage
Wed	6 Sep 2017	8:00 pm	PCC in the Hall
Tue	12 Sep 2017	8:00 pm	Prayer group at the Vicarage
Tue	19 Sep 2017	8:00 pm	Bible Study at the Vicarage