



All Saints Shooters Hill

www.allsaintsshootershill.org

Newsletter

March 2018

What matters the most?

We are now into the third Sunday of Lent, and if you are reading the gospel of John you will have come across the sayings and deeds of Jesus; - *Stand up, take your mat and walk*" John 5:8; *taking what we consider as crumbs and sharing it with others*- John 6:1-14; *calming the fears of the disciples in times of confusion*- John 6:15-21; *directing humanity not to work for food that perishes but that which has no end dates*- John 6:22-34; *"I am the bread of life whoever comes to me will never be hungry..."* John 6:35-40; *challenging the attitude for miracles than facing the reality before them* John 6:66-69; and *calling those who are thirsty to come and drink*- John 7:37-39. Beside your desert experience during this Lent or riding on the high horse of power, property, prosperity, prestige, and pompousness, there is always something that brings us down to earth to face the reality of life (like Mothering Sunday, or Palm Sunday) so that we may self-examine our attitude and remind ourselves of **"what matters the most in life?"**

Paul challenged our present day thinking and attitude saying, even if you have all the five Ps above, miracle working, offering our bodies as a burnt offering, without knowing what matters the most, all these would be of no value whatsoever. {1 Cor 13:3}. What really matters most to God our Father? Jesus said *God so loved the world ...*, {John 3:16} that is what matters most to God, and so he sent his son to make his love visible, the love that always is giving, reaching out and seeking to bring life to all it touches. This godly love was modelled clearly in Jesus' life, in his death and his resurrection.

Because God is love, he wants all his family on earth to learn how to love, and it is in loving that his children are most like him. So love is the foundation on which *the whole law is made complete in this one command; "Love your neighbour as you love yourself."* {Galatians 5:14}.

As we all know learning to love is not an easy task for any of us because it runs counter to our self-centred nature. But God in his wisdom has given us a lifetime to learn it. God wants us to love everyone, but he is particularly concerned that we learn to love others in his family, as both Paul and Peter said *"Show special love for God's people."* {Galatians 6:10 & 1 Peter 2:17}. Why does God insist that we give special love and attention to our Christian brothers and

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

sisters? Because God wants his family to be known for its love more than for its doctrinal beliefs. Our love for each other is our greatest witness to the world, and a proof that we are the disciples of Jesus {John 13:35}. In training us, God has given us a family responsibility; - **to practice loving each other**. This therefore demands that we be in regular close fellowship with other Christians so to develop the skill of loving especially around those who are irritating, and frustrating. Through fellowship we learn that life is all about love; so Love cannot be learned in isolation.

Why should you make learning to love you goal? Because:

Life is Love: so love should be your primary objective and greatest ambition – *“let love be your highest goal...”* {1 Cor.14:1}. Relationships must have a priority in your life above everything else because life without love is worthless. Busyness is one great enemy of relationship - you become preoccupied with making a living, paying bills, and achieving goals as if they are the only point of life..., but the greatest point of life is learning to love God and people; the maths is very simple **Life minus Love = Zero**.

Love lasts forever: Make Love your top priority because it's eternal; *“These three continue forever; faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is Love”* {1 Cor.13: 13}. It's how you treat others not your accomplishments that has the most enduring impact you can leave on earth as your lasting heritage; because love leaves a legacy.

Love will measure the quality of your relationship: Not your career, hobbies or bank account that God will use to review how you treated people especial those in need, but how you loved Jesus by loving his family and cared for their practical needs;- *“... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me”* {Matthew 25:40}

Love is time: you can make more money, but you can't make more time, and by giving someone your time, you are giving them a portion of your life which you can't get it back. It's not enough to say you love someone if you don't invest time in them;- *“... we should love people not only with words and talk, but by our actions and true caring.”*{1 John 3:18}

You can give without loving but you can't love without giving – *“God so loved the world that he gave....”* {John 3:16}. Love means giving up your time for the benefit of someone else.

Love is now: you don't know how long you will have the opportunity because situations changes, and you have no guarantee of tomorrow, so you better express your love now.

Consider these questions during Lent and ask God to help you to work out the best way forward;

1. *Who do you need to start spending more time with?*
2. *What do you need to cut out of your programmes to make it possible?*
3. *What sacrifices do you need to make?*

Life is about love, expressed in the time we invest in others now. That is **WHAT MATTERS TO MOST!**

May God bless you, encourages you, as you thin your life during this Lent and take hold of his gift of life and live it to the full. Amen.

Rev. Herbert Aparanga

Bishop Christopher's Lent Call

Week One - The Holy Land: Bringing good news to the poor

Week Two - The Holy Land: Sight to the Blind

Amid the sacred, peaceful and beautiful places of the Holy Land is a story of sadness and need. The projects and places which the Lent Call will support in the Holy Land this year are part of the response to that need and help us to learn something of the impact of everyday events on the lives of the people of the region. The first two weeks of the Lent call support the work of Jeel Al Amal, a school and home for boys from the Palestinian territories who are orphaned or unable to live with their families full time, the Al Shurooq School for the Blind and the Al Ahli Arab Anglican Hospital in Gaza. These three institutions each do so much to help the Palestinian people of the region.

Week Three - The Diocese of Southwark: He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor

Bede is a local community charity which believes that strong, confident communities enable people to flourish. Since 1938 it has worked from its base in Southwark to support local people in creating better lives for themselves, their families and communities.

Week Four - Zimbabwe: Education: bringing good news

Week Five - Zimbabwe: Proclaiming the year of the Lord's favour

During Lent 2018 Zimbabwe will be preparing for elections and this will be a difficult time in the country no matter what the situation is then or the outcome of the elections. Change often brings uncertainty and in a country where there has been sustained uncertainty over a long period, even if the outcome is one which ensures justice and peace for all, it will still be a time of transition and one which makes life more complex again. It is often the young who find that their opportunities are much eroded. That is why, this Lent, we are focusing on schools and feeding programmes.

All of the Zimbabwean Dioceses have church schools, both Primary and Secondary. They all face challenges as they seek to provide sufficient plant and resources for the children in their care.

This is the prayer that The Bishops in our Link Dioceses ask us to use:

God bless Zimbabwe

Guide her leaders

Guard her people

And give her peace. Amen!

Church Office

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

To get in 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.



All Saints Shooters Hill: March 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)

4 March 2018 **Lent 3**
10:30 AM **Holy Communion - What makes God Smile?**
Led by: Rev. Herbert Aparanga
Reader: L Bailey; Hebrews 11:7-10, Matthew 22:34-40 | Prayers: J McQuillen
Sunday School
Sidespeople: P Sheath, A Baxter | Refreshments: M Akpewrene, J Anyasi

11 March 2018 **Lent 4: Mothering Sunday**
10:30 AM **Service of the Word - Made for Mission!**
Led by: Rev. Herbert Aparanga
Reader: P Sheath, John 9:1-25 | Prayers: G Sheath
Sunday School
Sidespeople: L Bailey, J Anyasi | Refreshments: B Jatta, C Naefulu

18 March 2018 **Lent 5**
10:30 AM **Holy Communion - Shared Fellowship!**
Led by: Rev. Herbert Aparanga
Reader: P Winlow, Colossians 3:5-15, Matthew 18:15-20 | Prayers: S Nwolu
Sunday School
Sidespeople: N Nwolu, S Nwolu | Refreshments: F Olarewaju, K Byfield

25 March 2018 **Palm Sunday**
10:30 AM **Family Service - Think like a Servant!**
Led by: Rev. Herbert Aparanga
Reader: F Olarewaju, Philippians 2:5-11 | Prayers: O Ogundemi
Children in church for Family service
Sidespeople: V Aigbirhio, J McQuillen | Refreshments: P Sheath, N Nelson

29 March 2018 **7pm Maundy Thursday Service**

30 March 2018 **2pm Good Friday Service**
Following the Walk of Witness, 10.30am from Trinity Church

Every Friday at 11am: A short service of Morning Prayer

If you are unable to do a duty can you let Kathy know as soon as possible.

The up-to-date rota is at <https://goo.gl/MyUDYR>

If a name has a * against it it has been changed from the original rota.

Weekdays in March

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

Tue	6 Mar 2018	8:00 pm	Bible Study at the Vicarage
Wed	7 Mar 2018	8:00 pm	PCC Special MAP meeting (rearranged from 28 Feb)
Tue	13 Mar 2018	8:00 pm	Prayer group at the Vicarage
Thu	15 Mar 2018	7:30pm	Greenwich Prays, Woolwich Central Baptist Church, SE18 6UX
Tue	20 Mar 2018	8:00 pm	Bible Study at the Vicarage
Wed	28 Mar 2018	8:00 pm	PCC meeting
Thu	29 Mar 2018	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri	30 Mar 2018	2:00 pm	Good Friday Service Following the Walk of Witness, 10.30am from Trinity Church