

July - August 2015 News sheet

The parish church of All Saints', Sanderstead team ministry

Extending God's Welcome to all.

Committed to grow in discipleship, service and numbers

The Sanderstead Parish Team also includes St Mary Sanderstead, St Antony Hamsey Green, and St. Edmund Riddlesdown. We co-operate together to work for God's kingdom in our local area.

Martin writes: An Outward-Looking Church

Jesus called the twelve together, then sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick (Luke 9:1-2)

When Jesus was asked, *Which is the most important commandment?*, he answered by giving two! The first, he said, was to love God – so our worship of God is primary. But he went on to say that the second was like the first: *Love your neighbour as yourself*. Now that work on the church porch is complete, it's important to ask ourselves whether the church should focus more on saving souls or more on doing good? Christians sometimes wonder which we should choose... The answer of course is both! Jesus is good news for the whole person – body, mind and spirit – for all of society and all of creation. And in order to do this, we as the churches need to *look outwards*:

'Our business is to go outside the church walls, become aware of what God is doing and co-operate with him'(Lesslie Newbigin)

We need to do this for the health of the church, because, rather strangely, it's often hardest to see what God is doing from within the walls of the Church. The Holy Spirit of God is not confined to the Christian congregation, but is active all around the world. Only by *looking and going outwards* shall we be able to see what God is doing and thus join in. This is why, in all we do as a church, we need to look outwards and build relationships with those who do not yet follow Jesus Christ.

Here are some questions that might help us to decide if we are outward- or inward-looking:

1. How much of our church council agenda focuses on people who are not part of the church?
2. How many of our church activities are intended to *Extend God's Welcome to All*?
3. Do I spend more time with church friends or with non-church friends?

All Saints Church News

Blessing the Renewed Church

On 24th May, we invited the Bishop of Southwark, the Right Rev'd Christopher Chessun, formally to bless the new door, the new porch and the renewal of All Saints. A team Eucharist was held for all four churches in the Sanderstead Team, including All Saints, St Mary's, St Antony's and St Edmund's.

The service began when the church bell was rung and everyone turned towards the door. Bishop Christopher entered the church with the words "Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord", and the congregation replied "This is the gate of the Lord, through which the righteous may enter." As the bishop entered the church the choir and handbells played a specially commissioned introit, composed by Angela Jones. "Be exalted, O God". The service continued with the Eucharist service, celebrating Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Bishop Christopher gave the address, speaking of renewal, and the chance to see where God is leading us, and looking for depth and meaning within ourselves and others.

At the end of the service the choir and handbells played another newly composed "Peace" by Angela Jones, "May the peace of God be with you". For the recessional hymn everyone sang "Shine, Jesus, Shine". After the service everyone enjoyed refreshments with wine and coffee and a fabulous cake created in the shape of the new porch, designed and made by Jackie Worthington.

Following the refreshments, Bishop Christopher talked to the congregation some more in a question and answer session about "Hearts on Fire", a call to mission that has come out of the "Faith, Hope, Love" scheme and centres on our willingness to be led by the Holy Spirit, to take more risks and to change things that we are inclined to cling to. Just as we have completed the church porch project we are now equipped to accept more challenges. The Bishop said that we should always be looking for the next step in our journey and not believe we've come to its culmination. Working as a team makes us stronger and allows us to grow "yet more" and produce more than is possible singly.

South Porch Appeal. Thank you to all who donated £7,507.50 to the South Porch Appeal. This figure includes £455.00 raised by John Jones and the choir at their concert and subsequent sales of CDs.

The appeal is still open if anyone would still like to make a contribution.

New Curate. I am delighted that we are soon to welcome **Jeremy and Sandra Groombridge**, when Jeremy is ordained Deacon in the Church of God by the bishop in the Cathedral on Saturday 27 June. He has a lot of experience as a senior civil servant, and I'm sure the church will benefit from his gifts as he begins as curate with us. Please do welcome them and invite them to your groups, meetings and homes.

New Churchwarden for All Saints.

Maria Linford writes:

I made my way to Sanderstead with my family in 1985 after relocating from Kensal Green. Me and my husband George have three (now grown up) children, with two living close by and our youngest currently living in Brisbane, Australia. We have worshipped in All Saints Church since soon after we moved here.

After having worked for Bupa care homes in several roles I thoroughly enjoyed, first as a staff nurse and then as their training and development manager in Dartford, I retired in 2008. Since then I have taken on several voluntary roles in the local community, including supporting Sanderstead Neighbourhood Care and providing transport to church for those who otherwise would be unable to attend.

I enjoy playing badminton and walking with the local rambling club as well as camping and travelling throughout Europe. More recently me and my husband returned from Colorado where we visited some amazing National Parks including Yellowstone Park in Wyoming. I am happy to have taken on this role as Church Warden and look forward to the next 3 years.

Pastoral care The Rector is always pleased to talk and pray with you. Some time ago he asked **Arnold Butler** to coordinate, on an informal basis, our response to day to day pastoral needs. Arnold is ably supported by members of the congregation. He can be contacted, in confidence, on 8657 4695 or by email: arnold@butler-family.co.uk

Christian Aid Week: All Saints. **Judith Johnson** writes: This year the door to door collectors attached to All Saints Church raised £1414.26 during Christian Aid Week in May. Of that, around £600 has been Gift Aided, which will add a further £150 to the total. Overall, the amount raised by the All Saints team has fallen in recent years but I really want to get something across here: this is only because the team of collectors has dwindled! For almost every individual road still covered, the amount raised has either held steady or increased. All the collectors have similar stories to tell of steeling themselves for the task, saying a little prayer, putting on a brave smile ready to knock on those doors. However, the occasional cold, slightly awkward encounter seems to be balanced by plenty of very pleasant doorstep chats and generous responses. If you are able to join the team next year, there are several lapsed roads well worth getting back on the list. Thank you to everyone who did collect this year and all those who contributed in other ways.

News from **John and Barbara Apostolides**. On 8th July it will be three months since we returned to Australia, after eleven wonderful years in England. What an amazing eleven years those were! We were so blessed, from November 2006, when we moved to Doble Court in Sanderstead from Addington Village, to have been associated with the fellowship of believers at Sanderstead All Saints. We often think of and miss you all, as well as our daughter Tanya and her children, who also live in Croydon.

We have been busy in our home and garden in Cleveland, Queensland, unpacking our goods that were in storage for many years, as well as those we shipped from the UK. It has been a huge task, but all is in place and looking good. We are so grateful that we had good tenants who cared for our property. Cleveland is a small town on the Pacific Ocean coast, although there are offshore islands, which keep the open sea at bay. It is some eighteen miles from the city of Brisbane. It is good to be close to our son Andrew, who lives sixty miles away, on the Queensland–New South Wales border, and to our son Tim and his wife, and their two little girls, who live a little closer. We have reconnected with St Paul's Anglican church as well as the local Wesleyan Church of the Nazarene, and are available to serve God in whatever way He calls us to.

Be blessed.

Barbara and John

The Old and the New. The Wednesday **10am Holy Communion** will end on 24 June. Very few people came, and mainly those who also attend on Sundays.

But we are also beginning something new: **Family Fun Hour** is to be monthly from 3 – 4pm in the Church Hall, aiming to provide worship, singing, prayer, activity and welcome for families with very young children.

Family Fun Hour is once a month (2nd Sunday at present) on a Sunday afternoon from 3.00-4.00 in the small hall. We invited all the families who have brought their children for Baptism in the last year, as well as extending the welcome to parents and children who come to the two toddler groups, and anyone with young children known to our congregation.

We have a theme each time with stories, songs and activities: we also provide refreshments. Our aim is to build relationships with these young families so that they will gradually come to know God better, have fun together and feel part of our church family. So far the response has been encouraging. New ventures like this take time to grow and we would ask that people pray for the leaders, helpers and the families who come.

The dates for the coming months are 12th July, (no session in August) 13th September, 11th October, 8th November.

If you know anyone who would be interested in coming, or you would like to pop in one Sunday to see what we are doing please contact **Charlotte Brooks** 8657 6261 or **Judith Robinson** 8657 4679 or see the Church Website.

'Worship4Today' A year ago in September 2014 Judith Robinson and I joined a group of ten others from local churches in Croydon to take part in a year's course called "Worship4Today". Prior to joining the group we all had to be interviewed and write a brief history of our "Faith Journey". After successful interviews, we joined ten others in 2014 at Christchurch, Purley. In total 12 of us. Our course tutors, Mark Pullinger, Paul Roberts, Barbara Skilton, Wilma Roest and Dan Blackburn, they too had had a busy year prior to the start of the course, studying all the material required.

Worship4Today started in Sheffield in 2007, and was compiled by Helen Brent and Liz Topple. It is to train and equip all those who lead music and worship in their local church, whatever their level of experience. Worship 4 Today offers a sound biblical, theological and liturgical background to worship, taking intercessions and leading.

It has been a very intensive course, we have been split into two groups, with a tutor almost on a one to one basis. We were told only 4 hours homework a month. No! Don't believe what you read on the web-site, sometimes up to 4 hours a week. We all have a project to complete; I'm exploring "When did we start singing hymns in Church".

I have called this "my continuing journey in faith"; we never stop learning. This course has shown how much more I want to study the bible, its customs and its people. Have I gained confidence? We will have to wait and see. **Jean Harris**

All Saints Green Team Would you like some surplus furniture taken away to help a charity? Do you have any unwanted jewellery, watches or foreign coins which could benefit a worthy cause? The All Saints Green Team's updated reuse and recycling guide provides details on how to get in touch with charities who would love to take those personal and household items which you no longer need. Copies of the guide are now at the back of the church near

the new south porch entrance together with the companion guide to Sustainable Living which contains suggestions about how you can use reduce your use of resources at home, in the garden and in the car, and save money at the same time. Also on Sundays by the south porch is a box for collecting egg boxes, milk bottle tops, corks and newer magazines, together with food donations for the Croydon Refugee Centre so you do not need to visit the church halls to leave these.

With the summer holidays approaching, we are encouraging those of you making journeys by air to consider offsetting the carbon cost of your travel. Most of the major airlines run offsetting schemes which calculate the amount of carbon dioxide emitted and invest your contribution in carbon reduction schemes such as renewable energy and reforestation schemes. Alternatively you can use Climate Stewards which is a programme set up by the Christian environmental charity A Rocha which invests in worthwhile carbon saving projects in developing countries. Chris Naylor of A Rocha will be preaching at All Saints on Sunday 20 September.

The Green Team is always on the lookout for new members. If you are interested in joining please get in touch with **Richard Bird** (0208 657 1176) who leads the team.

Croydon Refugee Day Centre

During the past year the weekly average number of clients attending the Centre is 60, and up to 92 exceptionally. People come from over 50 different countries worldwide and we cannot even feed them for one week. Many are in hostels and receive 3 basic "meals" a day but what we can give is appreciated and sometimes provides a buffer when they are being re-housed. The Centre is staffed by volunteers from 18 countries.

Our main source of food is from Harvest Festival giving from churches and schools across the Borough, but even though our cupboards are full at that time, we are now running out. All Saints' have given generously and on a regular basis in the past and any contribution of tinned or dried food is welcomed as well as clothing and small household items (not electrical). Donations can be left in the box in church.

For further information, please call Paul James on 020 8657 6884.

Mission Shaped Ministry This is a year-long course running monthly in All Saints Halls from May which **Penny Bird, Jeremy Groombridge, Anne Halliday** and **Kevin Wright** are following.

The introduction to the *MSM* course says: "Our culture is changing. There is a widening gap between much of the population and traditional church. Many Christians in Britain and round the world are sensing God's call to go where people are, begin by listening and serving and seek to see fresh expressions of church develop in a range of different ways. The Archbishop of Canterbury has called for a 'mixed economy' church: fresh expressions alongside traditional congregations in every part of the country."

We are beginning to explore what the opportunities are here in Sanderstead.

Do speak to Anne, Jeremy, Kevin or Penny if you have ideas of what God may be doing that we might join in with.

As the *MSM* course unfolds we shall learn about many fresh expressions of church taking root in all manner of contexts. The challenge is to discern what is right for ours.

Administration Assistant for Rector. I am presently advertising for someone to help me with my pastoral administration, preparation of services and communication within and outside the church (Eight hours per week: £4,368 per annum). If you are interested or would like to apply, see the Advert and Job Specification on the Sanderstead Parish website.

Living and Walking the Franciscan Way On Saturday morning 4 July there is an opportunity to hear Sister Sue CSF talk about *Living and Walking the Franciscan Way* and explore Franciscan Spirituality, as the summer season unfolds.

This was to have been held at All Saints but will now take place at St Mary's from 9.30am to 1.00 pm. Coffee and tea will be available.

This morning is offered by 'Ways in to Prayer', an ecumenical group of prayer leaders which has grown out of an initiative by Southwark Spiritual Formation Group.

For more information and to book your place please contact

Chris Chapman chris.chapman@southwark.anglican.org 012 7939 9474 or Jane

Hoskins j.hoskins233@btinternet.com or Penny Bird 02086571176.

Tea and Cakes at All Saints', Sunday 19th July, 3-5pm. Following the completion of the new porch, door and paths we are inviting the local neighbourhood to look round our beautifully renewed church and enjoy tea and homemade cakes with us. Everyone welcome. Please do invite your friends and neighbours to join us.

On Sunday 2 August Gill Martin will host lunch at her home with a talk to follow about her recent trip to Kenya. Please let Gill know if you would like to join her for lunch at 12:30 for 1:00 pm at 5 Onslow Gardens CR2 9AD and if you are able to bring a contribution for lunch. Call her on 020 8657 4165 or email on ge.martin@tiscali.co.uk

Also on Sunday, 2nd August. Find out more about one of the Missions supported by All Saints

Mrs Rinengi Ingleby will be at All Saints to bring us up to date with the work of **Sugandh** in New Delhi. Sugandh is one of the mission charities supported by All Saints and Rinengi is the assistant director of the project. Rinengi is married to David and together with their 2 young children, Sem and Joanna, they are in the UK on home leave; Dave and Rinengi are mission partners with CMS (Church Mission Society). We are delighted that they are able to come to All Saints to build the relationship with All Saints Church. Sugandh is a partner of *South Asian Concern* (based in Sutton) and SAC director Kevin Wren will be with us as well. You can find out a bit more about the work of Sugandh from their website <http://sugandh.org/>. Sunday 2 August 4:00pm for tea, cakes and a lively presentation in the small hall. More details from **Emma Greenfield**

Summer in Sanderstead. Our ever-successful holiday-at-home event will be held for a third year by popular request! Plans are now taking place to make this a bigger and better event than ever but we need your help. Most of all, WE NEED PEOPLE!!! We need people to tell others about what's taking place and to encourage them to come along, we need people to help make it happen (bakers, coffee/tea makers and games-makers, otherwise known as welcomers and helpers!) but most of all we need people to come and enjoy the three days of fun, food and fellowship. *You'll soon have a chance to put your name down.*

So, please pass the word around that, yes, it's happening again on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the 1st, 2nd and 3rd September from 10:30 am - 3:30 pm in All Saints' Halls and EVERYBODY'S WELCOME.

Booking forms will be available soon. Meanwhile put the dates in your diaries NOW and look forward to a wonderful time together!

Further details from **Gerie Knights** on 020 8567 3381

Another Alpha Course at All Saints. A new Alpha Course will begin here in September, on Wednesday afternoons. Those who came on the course in January enjoyed it very much and most have decided to continue exploring Christianity in housegroups or a follow-on group.

Alpha is designed to help you get to grips with the Christian faith. *What is the point of life? What happens when we die? What relevance does Jesus have for our lives today? How do we deal with guilt?* If you'd like to know the answer to any of these questions, then Alpha is for you.

Topics covered include:- Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? Why and How should I read the Bible? How do I pray? Who is the Holy Spirit? How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit? (These are just a sample)

What is Alpha? Alpha is for

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Christian faith. People of all ages are welcome. Learning and laughter. It is possible to learn about the Christian faith and have fun at the same time. People meeting together. An opportunity to get to know each other and to make new friends. Helping one another. The small groups give you a chance to discuss issues raised during the talks. Ask anything. Alpha is a place where no question is regarded as too simple or too hostile.

Who is Alpha for? Alpha is for everyone! It particularly caters for:

- * People interested in investigating Christianity
- * Newcomers to the Church
- * New Christians
- * Those who want to brush-up on the basics
- * Those who would like to be confirmed

If you're interested in signing up or in finding out more, please let **Martin** know on 8657 1366 or at rector@sanderstead-parish.org.uk

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News from St Antony's.

St Antony's Summer Club This exciting Summer Holiday Club for Primary school aged children will be held at St Antony's from 20th to 24th July inclusive 9.30am to 1.00pm. It is based on Scripture Union's

Champion's Challenge. Volunteer helpers welcome. All enquiries to the **Revd Susan Atkinson-Jones** Tel: 020 8657 5505

News from St Edmund's

Sunday 26th July 4pm St Edmund's 60th Anniversary Service.

All are welcome to join us with Bishop Jonathan for a service of thanksgiving for St Edmund's in the community of Riddlesdown.

(There will be other events but they are not yet confirmed)

News from St Mary's

St Mary's are holding a Summer Fair on the afternoon of Saturday 18th July 2015 from 2pm to 5pm. There will be cream teas, ice creams, lots of stalls, fun and games and a bouncy castle. There are a couple of tables remaining if anyone would like a stall or knows someone who might, please ask them to call **Sarah** on 020 8657 9232 or email stmarys.office@sanderstead-parish.org.uk. We do hope to see you all there, it should be a lovely fun afternoon.

Some All Saints' Calendar Dates

27 June	Ordination of Jeremy Groombridge
4 July	<i>Living and Walking the Franciscan Way</i>
5 July	8.30am Holy Communion (<i>and each Sunday</i>); 10am Parish Eucharist
12	10am Holy Communion (not Parish Praise) 3pm Family Fun Hour
19	10am Parish Eucharist 3-5pm Open Church with Tea & Cakes 6.30pm Fresh Encounters
20-24	St Antony's Summer Club for children
26	10am Sanderstead Light 4pm St Edmund's 60 th Anniversary Service
2 August	10am Parish Eucharist 12.30pm Gill Martin's trip to Kenya. Lunch and talk. 4pm Presentation on the work of <i>Sugandh</i> , Delhi, India.
9	10am Parish Praise and baptism
16	10am Parish Eucharist
23	10am Parish Eucharist
30	10am Sanderstead Light
1-3 September	Summer in Sanderstead
6	10am Parish Eucharist
13	10am Parish Praise 3pm Family Fun Hour
16 or 23	Daytime Alpha begins
20	10am Parish Eucharist
27	10am Harvest Sanderstead Light