



THE NEWSLETTER

ALL SAINTS CHURCH Upper Norwood



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The Vicar's Monthly Letter

Dear Friends

We are entering now the period of Lent, traditionally a time of self-examination and reflection in preparation for the celebration of the founding reality of the Christian faith - the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus - his life, death and resurrection are, Christians believe, the clue to the truth and love of God. During Lent we will be having our own Lent course. The evenings, in the parish rooms, (see details elsewhere in this newsletter), will begin with an optional meal and a visiting speaker will explore the meaning of the five titles given to Jesus in the worship song *Jesus Name Above All Names*. Please do come along to these evenings and take the opportunity to explore and deepen your faith in Christ.

Our building project is now well under way. Carrying on worshipping in the church on Sundays is definitely a challenge, but it gives us the opportunity to see the work progressing and finally take shape. Please be patient and helpful in any way you can during this time. This project is a very exciting opportunity. We intend to celebrate with a visit from the new Bishop of Southwark at the end of the project to celebrate all the work that has been done. We will also be having another occasion when we can invite local leaders and others to show off this great achievement, for which we give thanks. Thankfulness is at the heart of what it means to be a Christian. Thankfulness for the gift of life - thankfulness for all God has done, in Lent especially for the great gift of his son, and the renewal of the world in his new creation. May God bless you during this holy time.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Leonard Marsh



A NEW BISHOP

When does a new bishop actually, in law, take charge of his diocese i.e. assume its spiritual jurisdiction? If already in episcopal orders, at what point does he relinquish his old bishopric and take on the new? Not, for sure, at his enthronement, the ceremony which attracts most of the press coverage - by then he has been at his new post for several weeks. No, following his ELECTION - a formality - by the Dean and Chapter of his cathedral, the big moment comes with the CONFIRMATION of his election.

Monday, January 17th, 2011: a big City Church, a few minutes from St. Paul's, St. Mary-le-Bow. Dating from late mediaeval times, it has been the normal venue for confirming bishops in the Province of Canterbury for centuries. The Church was badly damaged by enemy action during the last War but has been splendidly restored. I had attended the confirmation of Bp. Tom Butler some 15 years ago, then held in Lambeth Palace crypt and chapel; I recall perhaps a dozen members of the public attending - this time a full church - maybe 100 to 150 to witness the proceedings (how they all found out the date, time and venue I don't know - I had the greatest difficulty. It is all arranged by a body called The Registry - based in Oxford!)

Basically the ceremony is both religious and legal, in a ratio of about 1:2. After a brief declaration of Christopher Chessun's election, a long procession enters from a side chapel, headed by the Verger and tailed by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Their lordships of York and London also take part, like Canterbury in rochets and red chimeres. The legal luminaries, in barristers' wigs and gowns, are the Proctor, Advocate, Provincial Registrar and Vicar General (all, presumably, devout churchmen), the last leading the legal proceedings in this Court of Arches. First, however, the Archbishop interrogates the Bishop-elect, leading to a short but eloquent address as to what should be his priorities.

The Church is brilliantly lit but chilly - Rector apologises - boiler's packed up. Finally, after a hymn, the dignitaries file out in the same order as before. We have a new Bishop. Finding him in a tête-à-tête with Croydon and Kingston I voiced the hope that one of them would be re-dedicating All Saints when the "re-ordering" is finished - they seemed to know about it;

Colin Dawe

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Articles etc for inclusion are most welcome and can be left at the back of church or sent to the editor (details above). Items for the next issue should, if possible, be with us by the second weekend of the month. If you are organising a fundraising event or have any other news, please let us know and we can advertise it. Please think about writing something for *your* newsletter - we look forward to receiving your contribution.

SERVICES

All Sundays

8.00 am Holy Communion
6.30 pm Evensong - sung on
1st Sunday of month

10.00 am Sung Eucharist

Tuesdays (usually)

11.00 am Holy Communion

CLERGY

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