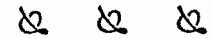


## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**CTUN monthly prayer meeting:** first Wednesday of every month at Methodist Church at 10.30 am. All are welcome. Next meetings are on 1<sup>st</sup> June and 6<sup>th</sup> July. Also Sponsored Walk – 2<sup>nd</sup> July (see below)



**All Saints Summer Fete: Saturday  
2nd July, 11.00 am – 3.00 pm**

This is one of the major fund-raising (and social!) events of the year.

People are needed to run stalls, and we are actively seeking donations to stalls – we need plants, raffle and Tombola prizes, books, toys, bric-a-brac and, finally, cakes and biscuits for refreshments. All such donations can be deposited at the church hall or handed over to Roland Browne or to Geoffrey Ogbuagu.

Any body wishing to run a stall please get in touch with either Roland Browne or Geoffrey Ogbuagu. A poster will be left in the church hall for volunteers to sign. Thanks for your assistance.



**4<sup>th</sup> September:** Rededication of All Saints – the Bishop of Southwark will officiate

**18<sup>th</sup> September:** Confirmation Service at All Saints; anyone interested in being confirmed should contact Fr Leonard

## Churches Together in Upper Norwood – Christian Aid

CTUN – Christian Aid are organising a sponsored walk around the 15 churches in CTUN for Christian Aid on **Saturday 2nd July** (the day of All Saints Summer Fete). It will be starting at Virgo Fidelis at 10.00 am, getting to All Saints around 11.00 (as we are half-way) and ending up at the Methodist Church next to 'Iceland' in Westow Hill. The walk is about 3 miles. Anyone interested in taking part should see Karen Compton for a sponsors' form and route map.

Karen



**Bishop Chad Gandiya holds a service on streets of Harare**

## CONTACT DETAILS

### Church Wardens

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or 020 3538 1761  
Christine Monk 020 8653 8400

### Organist and Choirmaster

Thomas Hewitt Jones:  
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### Flower Guild

Barbara Miller 020 8653 1972

### Family Offering Scheme Secretary –

Patricia Polton 020 8653 5798

### Newsletter Editor

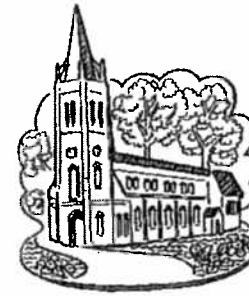
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### The Weekly Service Sheet

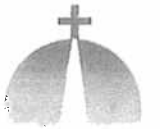
For alterations or additions to our weekly sheet and bulletin, please contact Christine Williams,  
email [christinewilliams991@btinternet.com](mailto:christinewilliams991@btinternet.com)  
tel: 020 8332 1431

### The Church's Website –

[www.allsaintsuppernorwood.co.uk](http://www.allsaintsuppernorwood.co.uk)



# THE NEWSLETTER



## ALL SAINTS CHURCH Upper Norwood

Issue No. 90 June 2011

Price 10p

### The Vicar's Monthly Letter

Dear Friends

In May a group from All Saints joined together with people from St. Peter's Streatham for a two day pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Pilgrimage to Walsingham dates back to the eleventh century. The present Shrine Church was built in 1931 and is now a famous centre of Christian pilgrimage. At the heart of the Shrine is the replica of the Holy House of Nazareth. Thousands of pilgrims and visitors each year from a variety of traditions and denominations are welcomed at the Shrine. In 2003 the Shrine was chosen as the nation's favourite spiritual place in a BBC 4 poll of listeners. The Shrine is situated in the village of Little Walsingham, near the north Norfolk coast.

Recently the Shrine was given an extraordinary stone sculpture of the Annunciation which is thought to have originated in a French Cathedral. This sculpture confirms the meaning of pilgrimage to Walsingham - an affirmation of love and mercy, a continuing echoing of God's yes to our best, if fitful desire for forgiveness and restoration. The Incarnation, a belief at the centre of Christianity tells us that God is love. We hear this often, but do we take this truth into ourselves and allow ourselves to be transformed by it? Love is at the heart of the Christian mystery. Through love God created the world. Through love God calls the people of Israel into being, through love by the prophets God calls his children back to the way of justice and truth. It is through love that he comes among us as the Christ child. It is through the same love that he opened his arms on the cross. This is not a feeble, sentimental love. This is a dangerous and dynamic love: "A love that moves the stars and the planets", as the poet Dante wrote.

This proclamation of God as love is often diminished by our limited imagination of what we mean and understand by love. We are saying God is love. What can this mean? The answer is rooted in that other great truth of the Christian faith we will celebrate soon: that God is a Trinity. The Trinity transcends our human understanding but we can catch a reflection of it in the concept of God as love. God exists as Father and Son and Holy Spirit. The Father loves the Son and the Son loves the Father and that love brings forth the Holy Spirit who is their love. Christian life is relational because God is relational. What this means is that God is not three people loving each other. He is the love. The lover and the beloved and the love itself. This love is fierce and creative. It brings about worlds and renews them. It transforms lives and pours out grace. Love is the ultimate human experience because it is the ultimate divine one. In love, we become more than ourselves. We become part of something greater. In doing so we reflect God who is not alone but exists as a communion. Through our membership of the Church, which is Christ's Body, we are invited to participate in that communion. We are invited to dwell inside love - to make love our home - to become like God by becoming love. Love is self-giving. It is the offering of oneself to those who need. In Christ, the fullness of God's life was revealed to the world. He gives us himself. When we look at images of the Christ child, or see the Child enthroned on Mary's lap as in the Holy House at Walsingham, let us never forget that it is this child that ends up on the Cross. This shows us supremely the truth of God as love. As St John that great apostle of love puts it "God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him." (1 John 4:16).