

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**CTUN monthly prayer meeting:** first Wednesday of every month at Methodist Church at 10.30 am. All are welcome. Next meeting is on 6<sup>th</sup> July.

**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

### Thoughts about Re-ordering the Church from 'Re-Pitching the Tent' by Richard Giles

When it comes to the environment of worship, we should never underestimate the influence of our building upon the way we think about God, about each other, and about the relative importance of the activity we have come together to engage in. Our places of assembly need to speak clearly to us of what we are about as the people of God. Such clarity is required, not only in sign and symbol, but also in the very form and shape of the interior spaces, the texture of the walls and floors, the beauty and excellence of the artefacts we use, look at and handle. God forbid that we should impoverish our environment at the very point and in the very moment when we are in greatest need of every assistance at our disposal to attune ourselves to the presence of God.

Church buildings have ceased, by and large, to speak clearly of a present reality, and instead convey a mumbled message of a glorious, though faded past.

The process of re-ordering will help us primarily in discovering who we are as a community of faith, and where we came from. Re-ordering helps us refresh our collective memory, through which we shall discover our sense of identity and purpose.

## CONTACT DETAILS

### Church Wardens

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### Organist and Choirmaster

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### The Weekly Service Sheet

For alterations or additions to our weekly sheet and bulletin, please contact Christine Williams,  
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### The Church's Website –

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

### Saints of the Month: July.

- 3<sup>rd</sup> **St Thomas the Apostle**, patron of architects, and of the blind.
- 11<sup>th</sup> **St Benedict**. Abbot and author of the Benedictine rule. Patron of Europe and the European Community.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> **St Mary Magdalene**. Follower of Christ, patron of repentant sinners.
- 25<sup>th</sup> **St James the Great**, patron of Spain;  
**St Christopher**, patron of travellers.
- 26<sup>th</sup> **SS Joachim & Anne**, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- 31<sup>st</sup> **St Ignatius Loyola**, founder of the Jesuits.

## SACRAMENT HOUSE

Although All Saints has reserved the sacrament for many years now, it was not until 2002 that the sacrament was reserved publicly in a tabernacle, also called a *Sacrament House*, in the Lady Chapel.

As part of the re-ordering scheme for All Saints, the sacrament will be reserved in a Sacrament House at the east end of the church. For those unfamiliar with this practice, which is very common in the Church of England, some background information may be helpful.

Participation in the Eucharist was a significant mark of a Christian from the earliest times.

This was a vital reality for Christians, so much so that those who were ill, or could not get to a celebration of the Eucharist, could receive the sacrament on the outside - always in the form of the eucharistic bread, as it was reserved or kept in a Sacrament House in the church.

Deacons took the sacrament to those who were sick, or house-bound. Over many years, the tradition of reserving or keeping the sacrament in the church in a Sacrament House was established.

In eastern orthodox churches, the sacrament was reserved on the altar. In the western church, the tradition was to keep the sacrament in a tabernacle in the church building.

Later, in the middle ages, reservation of the sacrament took place in what was called an *aumbry* in the wall of the church.

'Reserving' the sacrament came to represent the covenanted presence of the Lord, and became a focus for devotion for the faithful. This tradition died out during the Reformation, but was revived in the Church of England during the 19th century, and is now widespread.

In this parish, the sacrament is taken to nursing homes and to people at home, and at short notice to those near the end of their lives.

The Sacrament House will be marked by a votive light, reminding us of the Lord's sacramental presence with his people. People entering the church will see the sacrament house and are expected to be drawn into prayer.

In the reserved sacrament, in the Sacrament House, we can have a sense of the presence of the Lord God with us now, or, as we say at Christmas---Emmanuel, God with us.

*Fr Leonard*

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