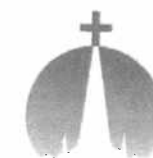


ALL SAINTS WITH SAINT MARGARET December 2011



THE NEWSLETTER



ALL SAINTS CHURCH Upper Norwood

Newsletter No. 95, December 2011-January 2012

Price: 10p

The Vicar's Monthly Letter – Reflections on the Christmas Season

Dear friends,

As we come to the end of 2011, it has to be acknowledged that this has been a hugely significant year.

Major movements of protest have led to a desire for greater responsibility and accountability for the peoples of the Middle East. We do not know as yet what these changes may mean for that region and for the world.

In our own country, continuing economic difficulties have led to anxiety for many people about the future, especially regarding employment prospects for young people. In Europe, concerns over the euro will continue into the new year.

The protests outside St. Paul's Cathedral have raised questions about our economic system and its capacity to ensure fairness and responsibility in our economic life. Locally, Bishop for Croydon + Nick Baines left to become Bishop of Bradford, and a new Bishop of Southwark + Christopher has been appointed.

In the life of All Saints, much of this year has been dominated by the major building project which has physically transformed our church, to equip us to face the future.

It was a great event in the life of our parish---when +Bishop Christopher came to re-dedicate the Church and consecrate its new altar. As we look forward to Christmas and the New Year and the challenges it certainly will bring, we do so with confidence in the true meaning of Christmas---Emmanuel, *God-with-us*.

May God bless you all in the season of joy and peace.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Leonard