

A Concert of Sacred Music
at
**All Saints Upper Norwood {corner of Beulah Hill and
Church Road SE19}**



Monteverdi 1567–1643 "Beatus Vir"



Thomas Tallis 1505-1585 "Lamentations of Jeremiah"
Part 1.

With other sacred music by the Triptych Singers.

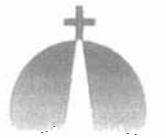
On Saturday 18th February 2012 at 7pm

£5.00

All are welcome and can pay on the night at the door.
**Proceeds to be split between All Saints church Maintenance
Fund and a local charity - The St Giles Trust.**



THE NEWSLETTER



ALL SAINTS CHURCH Upper Norwood

Issue No. 96 February 2012

Price 10p

The Vicar's Monthly Letter

Dear Friends

The liturgical season of Christmas is longer than most people are aware of. The season is completed 40 days after Christmas on the feast of The Presentation of Christ in the Temple; it is also known as Candlemas. The Gospel tells us that Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the temple to fulfil the requirements of the Law. The Eastern Church has another name for this feast; it is called The Meeting - meaning by that the meeting of the Messiah with the Chosen People. It is interesting that this comes later in the year than the meeting with the Gentiles that we celebrate at Epiphany on January 6th. But these two festivals of the Lord have one thing in common - they both point to the Lord's death. Epiphany does this by the third gift of the wise men, which is Myrrh. The word means bitter, and is in the story a symbol that pointed to Jesus' death. The feast of the Presentation of Christ points to the Lord's death by the shedding of two turtle doves or two young pigeons. And while Simeon speaks of Jesus as a "light to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel", to Mary he says, "a sword shall pierce through your own soul also." In the Lady Chapel of All Saints if you look up at the highest window above the altar you will see a stained glass depiction of this story.

But how can we meet the Lord? We meet him as we hear and explore the scriptures, and of course in the Eucharist. We meet him in prayer, and also we meet him in the poor and recognise him in our brothers and sisters. To meet Jesus is challenging and mysterious. It means at the same time enlightenment and glory, but also grief and suffering. St. Paul for example was led to a revelation of who Jesus was, but also to great trials and martyrdom.

But what does it mean for us to meet the Lord? Hopefully it will involve enlightenment, but only if we allow ourselves to be challenged out of our normal ways of thinking and relating. This Lent we are offering a course on the theme of "What Christians Believe" - the subjects include God, Jesus, Suffering, Prayer, and Resurrection, with different speakers and the opportunity to share in discussion. Here is an opportunity to open our minds and hearts to the challenge of the Gospel, for without this attention to the meaning of our faith, Church can become just a routine, a habit, a meeting up with familiar ways and people, but lack that openness to God and to change that is at the heart of faith. In our diocese, Bishop Christopher, has initiated a call to Mission that is to be called Faith, Hope, Love. This is about our faith as individuals, about our parish and the wider Church. More details of this will follow.

One of the early fathers of the Church called the Church the soul of the world. What is meant by that is that we as the Church must be agents of healing love and reconciliation in the world. Every one of us will confront in our lives situations where the healing love of Christ is needed, where reconciliation and hope is needed, and times when self-sacrifice is called for, also times when, "a sword shall pierce our own soul also."

The Christian life goes by the way of the cross, but it also takes us through and beyond suffering to the joy of resurrection. Where he is, we shall be also. By faith and by Baptism and by Eucharist we are united to Christ; we live in him and he lives in us. This is something we can deepen by prayer, and by following Christ in our life in the world, and it is something which will find its fulfilment in eternal life. That is the promise that is given to us, if we will let it happen.

Fr. Leonard Marsh