

Saints of the Month: December.

- 6th St Nicholas - patron saint of Russia, children, pawnbrokers and several others!
- 26th St Stephen – deacon, first Christian martyr
- 27th St John the Apostle - one of the first disciples to be called, and traditionally author of the fourth gospel and the book of the Apocalypse.
- 28th Holy Innocents – the day commemorating the children of Bethlehem massacred by Herod.
- 29th St Thomas of Canterbury (Thomas Becket) – Archbishop of Canterbury murdered in the cathedral in 1170.

January:

- 13th St Kentigern (Mungo): evangelist of Cumbria and Strathclyde.
- 17th St Antony hermit: lived in the Egyptian desert, his temptations are often portrayed in art.
- 20th St Sebastian: Roman soldier martyred around 288; patron saint of archers.
- 25th Ss Timothy & Titus: disciples of Paul
- 28th St Thomas Aquinas: Dominican theologian, one of the great doctors of the church.

Other Feast Days:

6th January: Feast of the Epiphany

Christmas Season Services

Do come and join us – all are welcome



Sunday 2nd December (Advent Sunday):
Advent Carol Service **6.30 p.m.**

Sunday 23rd December (3rd Sunday in Advent):
Christmas Carol service (Nine lessons & Carols) **6.30pm** - followed by refreshments

Saturday 23rd December
6.00pm: Carols by Candlelight and Blessing of the Crib (particularly for children, but of course open to everyone).

Christmas Eve, Monday 24th December,
11.30pm: Midnight Mass (with Carols) – First Mass of Christmas. (Other normal Sunday services are as usual except no evening prayer at 6.30 pm.)

Christmas Day – Tuesday 25th December
10.00am: Sung Mass with Carols

New Year's Eve (Monday 31st December):
11.00pm: Sung Mass with Carols - followed by refreshments to see in the New Year.



THE NEWSLETTER



ALL SAINTS CHURCH Upper Norwood

December 2018 – January 2019

The Vicar's Monthly Letter

Dear Friends

Several years ago now, I went to the National Gallery and saw an exhibition called 'Beyond Caravaggio'. Caravaggio was a late-sixteenth-century painter renowned for his incredibly realistic and dramatic paintings, and, more particularly for the way that he made use of light and darkness in his work. His paintings appear to bring stories to life: flesh becomes real; bodies are full of drama and passion. He was revolutionary in the way he worked and highly influential for many other European artists who immediately followed him---as the exhibition explored.

The exhibition itself was beautifully lit. The rooms were quite dark, but the lighting had been constructed to show the paintings in all their glory, without casting extra shadows or reflecting off the oil.

So, in the gallery, I wandered about seeing dramatic stories told in paint by the clever employment of light. In some paintings, you couldn't see the light source: a candle or lamp was hidden behind a person, or a doorway, but its effect was transformative on the scene.

Whether we could see the source of the light or not, we could see its effects. This focus on light and dark, rather than colour, became known as chiaroscuro.

Of course, we don't have to look at paintings in a gallery to ponder light. And many of us do think about light at Christmas time, in the darkest part of the year. We long for the light in the short days.

This is also the time of year when Christians talk a lot about Christ as light. He is a searching light, bringing to light things hidden in darkness, making clear what is in people's hearts. He is illumination, enlightenment. He is the one who dispels gloom, darkness and fear. We speak of Christ as light in carols, we make use of candles in Christingle services, and, in the beginning of John's Gospel the incarnation is described as light coming into the darkness. Christ is the light of the world.

In Advent, we hear of John the Baptist. We are familiar with him as the one who baptised Jesus, as the one who calls people to repent, and points them to Jesus. But we also remember him also as the one who came to bear witness to the Light.

This is our task as well: to be witnesses to Christ, the light of the world. Like the painters in the exhibition who bore witness to the light, even if no one could see it, in order to tell the story in their paintings, we are called to bear witness to Christ, whose story we retell not only at Christmas, but all of the time, who is part of the story of our lives and who, we know, can bring colour, depth and illumination to the whole world.

Like John the Baptist, we point others towards the light that is Christ. To say, 'Look, the real source of light, of hope, colour, truth and illumination is here. The real source of light in the world is Christ, even if you cannot see him, he is here. You can see his effect, the effects of his love spread throughout the world. And we say to ourselves, and to each other, *Why not draw closer, and become part of God's drama, God's story?* Let us pray this Advent and Christmas we may draw closer to Christ - the Light of the world.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Leonard Marsh

All Saints' Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Important Notice

If a parent is considering asking about a Foundation place for their child at All Saints' school they need to let Fr Leonard know well in advance. Eligibility has to be agreed with Fr Leonard before completing an application form at the school, and is dependent on church attendance.

CLERGY

Vicar

Father Leonard Marsh
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SERVICES

All Sundays

8.00 am Said Eucharist
10.00 am Sung Eucharist

6.30 pm Night Prayer

Tuesdays

7.30 pm Said Eucharist

1st Saturday of month

10.00 am Said Eucharist

CONTACT DETAILS

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All Saints, Upper Norwood

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The next edition of the newsletter will appear at the beginning of February. Articles for inclusion are most welcome and can be given or sent to the editor (details above), in writing please. Items for the next issue should *preferably* be with us by the second weekend of January, but we can usually squeeze them in later if necessary!

Thanks to all who have contributed to the newsletter in 2018.



Thought for January

Christ is revealed to all peoples. Wise men from the east guided by a star came to worship Christ. In them we see the homage of all the nations to Christ who is forever the light of the world. We too can become an epiphany – a revealing – of God if we lead full Christian lives.

... and a prayer

O God, our Heavenly Father, as we enter upon this new year we commit ourselves to your faithful care and keeping. Give us the grace to love you with all our heart and soul and mind and strength that we may live without fear, and so to love our neighbours as ourselves that we may live without reproach. As our days so let our strength be; and grant that no chance or change may turn us aside from the doing of your holy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Music Workshop

All Saints Church has received funding for the Music Workshop Company to run a workshop on Saturday 9 March 2019 and Saturday 8 June 2019.

The workshops will begin at 10 am and finish at 4 pm. The workshops will be held here at All Saints Church.

All children from 8 to 11 years of age are invited to attend.

There is well-known evidence of intellectual, physical and spiritual benefits for children participating in music, building confidence, social skills and teamwork.

The Music Workshop Company will provide a full programme exploring rhythms and instruments from around the world. Children do not need previous musical experience. The day will feature a mixture of African and Latin American percussion.

Children will experiment with the sounds of instruments before creating their own piece of music, working together and enabling them to learn and develop performance skills. The workshop will be led by a musician and the day will end with a performance from the children, to which you are invited. If you have children, or perhaps grandchildren, within the age range, do give thought to allowing them to join one of the workshops.

Please speak with father Leonard for further details.

Event at the Conquering Hero

For the third consecutive year, the Conquering Hero, Beulah Hill (near Crown Point) will be holding a fund-raising event consisting of a meal and carol singing, hosted by the landlord and church member Ian. This will be held on **Monday, 10th December** at about 7.30 pm. Previous years have been great fun with really good food and atmosphere, so this promises to be a great evening out. If you would like to come, you will find a list at the back of church to add your name.