



*The memorial itself
in the Garden of Remembrance*



THE NEWSLETTER



ALL SAINTS CHURCH Upper Norwood

February 2020

The Vicar's Monthly Letter

Dear Friends

Christmas is barely over as we move towards an important and special season in the Church year - Lent. As usual we will be having a Lent discussion group on Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. preceded by a said mass at 7.30 pm. It is an informal and enjoyable occasion for us to deepen our knowledge of the faith we profess. The book we will use for this group is as mentioned below and is available from Churchwarden Mike Hedges.

The Archbishop of Canterbury's official Lent Book several years ago has been reissued. It is called "I Thirst." These were some of the last words Jesus uttered while hanging on the cross. These sorrowful words are simple, yet very human. Jesus Christ, the thirsty one, shares deeply in the mess and muddle of human living. The cross is about the suffering and the longing of Jesus; it shows us his pain and his love. This book - now reissued, by Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York elect - helps penetrate the deep mystery of a God who goes on loving, no matter what. No matter how exorbitant the cost, no matter the obstacles in his way, Jesus was determined to be obedient until the end. As Stephen Cottrell peels back the layers of meaning in this simple cry of longing, he prays that readers will experience, as if for the first time, the magnificent and all-pervading love of God. + Stephen Cottrell hopes that as we come to the great festival of Easter, we will know afresh that the one who thirsts is also the one in whom our own thirsts are quenched. Only by exploring the remarkable love of this nailed-to-a-cross God can we begin to understand our own mortality and suffering.

Please consider joining this group for interesting discussion and learning.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Leonard



CLERGY

Vicar

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A HIDDEN LIFE, (a recently released film)

A Review by John J Powers

Directed by Terrence Malick

Writing Credits Terrence Malick

Cast (in credits order): August Diehl, Franz Jägerstätter, Valerie Pachner, Fani Jägerstätter

At nearly three hours long, A HIDDEN LIFE might be expected to be something of an endurance for the usual moviegoer, but writer-director Terrence Malick has come up with such a sumptuous visual feast, filmed on location in the Austrian Alps, with a wondrous score by James Newton Howard - that the movie never bores or tires. Also, Malick provides a serious and moving morality play in the true story of an Austrian farmer named Franz Jägerstätter, who refused to deliver an oath of allegiance to Adolf Hitler as he was called up for military duty during the war. Austria had been forced to become a part of Hitler's Reich in 1938. In scenes of remarkably idyllic beauty and real grace, Jägerstätter is seen with his three daughters and his young wife, (Fani, stunningly realised by Valeria Pachner), as they go about the business and routine of maintaining their farm during the first years of WWII. This is a loving and devoted family, initially respected and even admired by local villagers. At one point, Jägerstätter, beautifully portrayed by August Diehl, rejects the common 'Heil Hitler' salute from other villagers, and almost immediately finds himself ostracised and even condemned. The local mayor insists that Hitler and Nazism is a good thing for the community, and others seem to agree.

At last, Franz receives a notice of military service. He attends a kind of boot camp with other would-be soldiers, but when expected to deliver an oath of allegiance to the Führer, he refuses. He's incarcerated and finally informed that he will be executed for his disobedience.

The story is a tragic one, to be sure, but Malick's camera celebrates the amazing, breathtaking beauty of the Alpine locale. As the villagers turn against his wife and family, Franz refuses to compromise, and A HIDDEN LIFE ends as expected, with a strange kangaroo court of Nazi judges delivering a verdict and sentence of death.

But A HIDDEN LIFE really is about the power of faith and the willingness to endure even the most horrible of conditions to keep one's soul alive and uncorrupted. Taking its title from a George Eliot, it is worth quoting here:

"...for the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts; and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs."

Saints of the Month: February

- 1st St Brigid. The 'Mary of the Gaels', honoured in Ireland second only to St Patrick, died about 523.
- 2nd Candlemass: the Presentation of the Lord/Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 11th Caedmon; monk of Whitby abbey and poet, died. 680.
Also the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.
- 14th St Valentine. Little is known of this early martyr, whose association with love seems to be either because birds were supposed to pair on this day, or perhaps of the Roman pagan feast of Lupercalia.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 2nd February:** the Feast of Candlemass,
- 26th February:** Ash Wednesday – sung Mass with imposition of ashes at 8 pm.

Our regular 'Sunday School':

Small Saints: Every Sunday (depending on staffing) for children up to 10 yrs.

Rita Johnson

Following Rita's death last summer, the interment of Rita Johnson's ashes will take place after the 10.00 am Saturday morning service on **Saturday 7th March**. It will be a short ceremony and coffee and biscuits will be served in church afterwards. Everyone is welcome to attend.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Contributions are very welcome; please let the editor have articles in writing by the middle of the month. Email is preferred but we are also happy to receive hand-written articles, and can write up rough notes if you wish.

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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.

Music Workshops at All Saints

March 14th March, 13th June 2020

These Music workshops by the Music Workshop Company have taken place several times at All Saints - these new workshops differ from previous ones as below. The age range is 6 - 11 years of age. If you would like more information please see Fr. Leonard.

The workshops this year will cover song writing and composition. This will be an opportunity for the children to write their own words and music using stories and images to inspire them. The children will also create graphic scores - creating their own musical notation to visually represent their musical ideas. Both days will be fully interactive and will lead to a performance at the end of the day so that parents can hear the work the children have created.

Previous workshops have proved a great success enjoyed by all participants. Please speak to Fr Leonard if you would like to register your children.



The Pauper Burials in All Saints Churchyard.

Between October 1830 and January 1858, 889 pauper children between the ages of 16 down to a few months were buried with minimal formality in the churchyard. They came from the Central London District School (until 1849 called the Infant Poor House) in Westow Hill run by Frederick Aubin and his wife. Coming from the streets of inner London parishes like Southwark and Whitechapel, they were taken from their parents in workhouses for fear that they would become corrupted if left in them; parishes would pay a fee to house, clothe, feed and educate them. Although many establishments were of very poor quality, it seems that the Norwood school was held in high esteem at the time, gaining a positive 'review' from Charles Dickens after a visit.

A service, held in conjunction with the Norwood Society, was held on 4th January 2020, to dedicate the memorial to these pauper children. The service was attended by roughly 26 people and was preceded by a mass in the Lady Chapel.

For more information, please refer to the Norwood Society leaflet 'The Norwood Pauper Burials' or contact the Norwood Society.

Fr Leonard; Stephen Oxford (from the Norwood Society) and Cllr Pat Ryan

