



THE NEWSLETTER



ALL SAINTS CHURCH Upper Norwood

****April 2020 Online Version****

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This is the first, but not I suspect the last, exclusively online version of the newsletter. We hope there is something of interest for you here; at least we have been able to make more use of colour than normally. All information about services, both regular and for Easter, has been omitted; details of any video services which may be made available will, I am sure, be highlighted elsewhere on the website.

If you know anyone without internet access who would like to see a copy of this newsletter, please feel free to copy and print it out yourself. If you want to do this but find you cannot print it straight from the website, I shall be happy to email you a personal copy if you contact me.

Marilyn and I are keeping well and as positive as possible under the circumstances. We are trying to establish a new daily routine to give structure to our days, including a morning walk around our local neighbourhood in all but the worst weather, and a 10-minute afternoon exercise class thanks to YouTube. We of course miss face-to-face contact and the opportunity to go out much, and especially miss seeing our grandchildren Eva and Stefan. Their mum, our youngest daughter Eleanor, is being very supportive, and our neighbours are looking out for us too as they are both now working from home. Our local community in West Norwood is stepping up with social media support groups offering social contacts, phone calls and shopping and delivery for those in need; one of the local butchers and several other food shops are delivering, and last Friday we took advantage of the takeaway and delivery service of Ian and his family at the Conquering Hero. In times like this we can all play a part in supporting each other – a phone call to someone feeling the strain of isolation can be a real lifeline, and something we can all do regardless of age. Keep well, keep positive and celebrate the coming Easter season in any way you are able.



The Vicar's Monthly Letter

Dear friends,

“Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!”

A joy-filled proclamation. A mystery we don't “get”, can't “get”, weren't designed to “get”, and yet it rings true whatever our situation, and the situation in our troubled and distracted world in the midst of a bewildering tragedy unfolding today.

“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia...” We can't say it enough. It is the balm in Gilead, the water for the thirsty, the stream in the desert, the light at the end of the tunnel. “Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.” Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed.

Mary Magdalene encountered the Risen Lord, supposing him to be the gardener.

Mary was caught up in some serious grief---and, frankly, trauma. Her mind is stuck in a frantic loop: Where is he? Where is he? Where is he? The first time she says this is after she runs to the disciples' safehouse to report this newest insult: "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Her grief is like a centripetal force, turning her in on herself. She is trapped in grief, in thinking nothing would ever be OK again.

She assumes this man is the gardener, maybe even the thief: "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." The first words spoken to the resurrected Christ certainly are a long way from how we greet him at Easter: "Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed."

Mary was caught up in crucifixion vision.

Crucifixion vision afflicts most of us much of the time. It is a way of seeing and perceiving the world that makes us think that Sin and Death are in charge.

Crucifixion vision assumes that nothing can change. Crucifixion vision says the world is filled with winners and losers, firsts and lasts, and we'd better do everything we can to be winners. Crucifixion vision assumes death is really the end, so we'd better stuff our lives with as much stuff, as much pleasure, as much happiness as we can, and try to postpone death as long as possible, with whatever means available.

Mary was caught up in crucifixion vision, and we can understand that; Jesus had died. She was paralysed and stuck. Mary couldn't even recognise the resurrected Christ in her midst.

Until she heard her name. "Do not hold on to me... but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" And then her crucifixion vision fell away, like the scales on St. Paul's eyes, and she saw for the first time with *resurrection* vision.

Resurrection vision is bigger than crucifixion vision. It overtakes it. It redeems it. Resurrection vision is looking away from ourselves and all of our problems to take in the beauty. Resurrection vision enables us to trust that all things work together for good for those who are called to God's purposes. Resurrection vision knows that joy will come, even though weeping is our present experience.

Resurrection vision is always open to being surprised by God, because our resurrection God is a God of surprises. Surprise! God often uses the least qualified, least educated, least righteous, least "good" people to be his ministers in the world; just ask Paul, who had been a violent persecutor of Jesus' Way.

Crucifixion vision sees nothing but a single, dead grain of wheat, thinking, "Surely, that won't be enough." Resurrection vision waits for the surprise: now the green blade rises from the buried grain, with bread for the world.

The only kind of vision God has is resurrection vision. God sent his only Son into the world, not to condemn the world---that's crucifixion vision---but that the world might be redeemed through him. You see, if you only have crucifixion vision, you can't see the surprise. You can't even wait for the surprise. You can't trust that the surprise is happening, here, now, by definition, beyond all you can ask or imagine.

But if you have resurrection vision, you know that with God, all things are possible. You know you aren't the centre of the universe. You know that love wins. You know that there are no more those who are 'in,' and those who are 'out.' *We are all one in Christ.*

But here is the really good news. If you can't seem to fix your vision, God will seek you out, just as he did the lost sheep, the slaves in Egypt, the woman at the well. God will seek you out and remind you that you don't have to "hold on," because God is holding on to you.

It might take a while for you to see as God sees, to love as God loves. God is at work, in our midst, meeting you just where you are, holding you, healing you, and indeed the whole of creation.

Fr. Leonard



CLERGY

Vicar

Father Leonard Marsh
49 Chevening Road
London SE19 3TD 020 8653 2820
email: leonard.marsh@yahoo.co.uk

CONTACT DETAILS

Church Wardens

Mike Hedges: 07958 782558
Arabella Coleridge 020 8768 2961

Organist and Choir Director

Lee Walton: 07855 400160
Email mlwmusic@ntlworld.com

Parish Safeguarding Officers

Ella Crisp 07782 165041
ellacrisp@yahoo.co.uk
Digby Hunt 07971 692893
digbyshunt@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor

John Davis 020 8670 1564
Email jdavis9584@aol.com
Address 46 Roxburgh Road
London SE27 0LD

The Church's Website –

www.allsaintsuppernorwood.co.uk

The Church's Facebook page:
All Saints, Upper Norwood

Saints of the Month: April.

- 16th St Bernadette of Lourdes 1844-79. As a girl of 14 she saw a series of visions of the Virgin Mary, as a result of which Lourdes became an international centre of pilgrimage and healing.
- 21st St Anselm. Archbishop of Canterbury 1093-1109, and Doctor of the Church.
- 23rd St George. Patron of England, Greece and Catalonia, also of soldiers and boy scouts.
- 25th St Mark. Evangelist and helper of St Paul. Died around the year 75. His remains were taken to Venice in the ninth century, since when he has been patron of that city.
- 29th St Catherine of Siena. Mystic and Dominican sister; Patron of nurses; 1347-80

Prayers for the Month:

Let us pray for the holy Church of God throughout the world, that God the almighty Father may guide it and gather it together so that we may worship him in peace and tranquillity. Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all the nations in Christ your son. Guide the work of your church; help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring salvation to people everywhere. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Let us pray for all our brothers and sisters who share our faith in Jesus Christ, that God may gather and keep together in his church all those who seek his truth with sincerity. Almighty, eternal God, you keep together those you have united. Look kindly on all who follow Jesus your son. Make us one in the fullness of faith and keep us one in the fellowship of love.

From the intercessions of the Good Friday service.

Music workshop, Saturday 14th March



Music workshops for children between the ages of 6 and 11 by the Music Workshop Company have successfully taken place several times at All Saints; this one was about song writing and composition. The children – about 15 in number - were engaged to write their own words and music using stories and images to inspire them, specifically “Noah and his Ark”.



The children were encouraged to create their own musical notation to visually represent their musical ideas, under the expert and inspiring guidance of Matthew and Maria. They used a variety of percussion instruments, accompanied by cello and recorder. At various places during the piece small groups of the children performed actions to the music played by the rest of the group. They were all able to experience the use of a variety of different percussion instruments in the context of cooperation with others, experimenting with varying volumes and rhythms, and the interaction of musical sounds.

As before in last year’s events, this was a lovely and inspiring course much enjoyed by all the participants (and the adult watchers), and we thank the Company for their efforts.



