



THE NEWSLETTER



ALL SAINTS CHURCH Upper Norwood

****June 2020 Online Version****

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This, our third exclusively online version of the newsletter, comes at a time when there are at least signs that times are beginning to improve; we hope and pray that this will continue and not be put into jeopardy by people becoming over-confident and not following the guidelines.

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. Keep well, keep positive and look forward to better times.



The Vicar's Monthly Letter

Dear friends,

As the church celebrates its beginning at Pentecost, I send my good wishes with the hope that you are keeping well.

At his Ascension Jesus told his disciples to stay in Jerusalem to await the Father's promised gift of the Holy Spirit, and at this time we celebrate that gift not only at that first Pentecost but also in our own lives today.

At this time, at the end of Easter it would seem quite normal to ask people to be thankful, for us all to be thankful. It might seem strange for me in our present situation as a country, as a world, and indeed as a church to ask that question. Do you feel thankful? This health crisis has brought a great deal of sadness and misery. One thing it might have made us to do is to re-evaluate what we think is important, what is most valuable. To count our blessings and give thanks for that God has done for us in Jesus Christ. In a way that parallels the Old Testament story, God has brought us into a new freedom, the freedom of a relationship with himself not based on fear or on custom, but rather with the coming of the Spirit, a relationship of friendship. In the community of the Spirit we are accepted as we are, with no-one higher or lower. We are accepted in our frailty and loved in our vulnerability. By the incarnation, death and resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, God has made us a people, the first fruits of a new humanity. We are already, men and women, a people united to God in Christ and filled by his Holy Spirit, and what

we are all people can finally become also. These are tremendous claims and they enable a wonderful hope.

The coming of the Spirit marked out the church from the beginning as a people transformed into apostles of new faith, bearing the good news of all God had done through Jesus Christ. This transformation was not based on illusion or wishful thinking but on real experience, experience of the Risen Christ and the inner experience of being filled by the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit has not been absent in the drama of God and humanity up to this point. Nor is the Holy Spirit absent in this world during this crisis. The Spirit is there in every act of mercy, kindness love that has been shown in our divided and broken world.

We are in our Spirit-filled faith to be co-workers with God in bringing about a new world, the first signs of which are given to us by the gift of the Holy Spirit. What that world can be after this health crisis I cannot guess, but with the Spirit we can make it anew.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Leonard



CLERGY

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Prayer for the Month: Sts Peter & Paul (29th June)

Praise to you, the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in your great mercy have given us new birth and hope through the power of Christ's resurrection. Through the prayers of the apostles Peter and Paul may we who received this faith through their preaching share their joy in following the Lord to the unfading inheritance reserved for us in heaven.

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Saints of the Month: June.

- 9th St Columba. Founder of Iona and evangelist of many areas of Scotland. An Irish monk, he was described by his biographer Adamnan as “loving to everyone, happy-faced, rejoicing in his inmost heart with the joy of the Holy Spirit”.
- 20th St Alban. First martyr of Britain and erstwhile contender for patron saint.
- 24th St John the Baptist. Contrary to the usual custom, this, his principal feast, commemorates his birth; his death by beheading is also observed, on 29th August.
- 29th Sts Peter and Paul. According to tradition, Peter was martyred in Rome under the persecutions of the emperor Nero. Paul was martyred earlier, also at Rome, but the date is unknown.



The Trinity: a Russian Icon from about 1800

A Prayer for Trinity Sunday (7th June):

Father all powerful, Christ Lord and Saviour, Spirit of love. You reveal yourself in the depths of our being, drawing us to share in your life and your love. One God, three Persons, be near to the people formed in your image, close to the world your love brings to life.

Since we have just commemorated the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe, this month's article is rather different in not being about a saint, hymn writer or luminary of the Church. Instead, it concerns a local woman whose work was pivotal in helping that victory, and whose birthday falls this month.

Joan Clarke - Cryptologist

Some of you may have seen the film *The Imitation Game*, about the mathematician Alan Turing and the work of the codebreakers at Bletchley Park during the Second World War. The other main character in the film, played by Keira Knightly, was Joan Clarke. What may not be known, however, is that Joan was a local girl, the daughter of the vicar of the *other* All Saints – the imposing brick church on Rosendale Road, West Dulwich.

Joan Elisabeth Lowther Clarke was born on 24 June 1917 in West Norwood, and was baptised at All Saints Rosendale Road on 29 July of that year. She was the youngest child of the Revd William Kemp Lowther Clarke, who, at that time, was Education Secretary of SPCK; in 1921 he became vicar of All Saints West Dulwich. The family lived at 193 Rosendale Road. She had three brothers and one sister.

Joan attended Dulwich High School for Girls in south London and won a scholarship in 1936 to attend Newnham College, Cambridge, where she gained a double first degree in mathematics. In spite of her outstanding abilities she was denied the award of a full degree, as Cambridge did not award these to women until 1948!

Joan's academic supervisor at Cambridge, Gordon Welchman, was one of the top four mathematicians to be recruited in 1939 to supervise decoding operations at Bletchley Park, and after noticing Joan's mathematical abilities at Cambridge he in turn recruited her to join him at Bletchley Park and be part of the 'Government Code and Cypher School' (GCCS). The GCCS started up in 1939 with only one purpose: to break the German Enigma code - a system based on the Enigma machine the Germans had invented to encrypt their messages and which they believed to be unbreakable. Joan first arrived at Bletchley Park in June 1940; as was typical for girls at Bletchley, (and they were universally referred to as girls, not women) Clarke was initially assigned clerical work, and paid just £2 a week - significantly less than her male counterparts.

Within a few days, however, her abilities shone through and she was moved to *Hut 8* and quickly became the only female practitioner of the cryptanalytic process – "*Banburismus*" - developed by Alan Turing which reduced the need for the electromechanical devices used to decipher German encrypted messages. In order to be paid for her promotion, Joan needed to be classed as a linguist, as Civil Service bureaucracy had no protocols in place for a senior female cryptanalyst. She would later take great pleasure in filling in forms with the line: "grade: linguist, languages: none". This promotion was a recognition of her workload and contributions to the team., and an extra table was installed for her in the small room within Hut 8 occupied by Turing and a couple of others.

In 1941, German trawlers were captured together with their cipher equipment and codes. Before this information was obtained, U-boat wolf packs had been sinking 282,000 tons of Allied shipping a month. By November, Joan and her team were able to reduce this number to 62,000 tons. Hugh

Alexander, head of Hut 8 from 1943 to 1944, described her as "one of the best 'Banburists' in the section". She became deputy head of Hut 8 in 1944, although she was prevented from progressing further because of her gender - and was still paid less than the men!

Joan and Alan Turing became very good friends at Bletchley Park. Turing arranged their shifts so they could work together, and they also spent much of their free time together. In early 1941, Turing proposed marriage to her, and subsequently introduced her to his family. Although privately admitting his homosexuality to her—she was reportedly "unfazed" by the revelation—Turing decided that he could not go through with the marriage and broke up with her in mid-1941. She later admitted that she had suspected Turing's homosexuality for some time, and it was not much of a surprise when he made the admission to her. They remained close friends until Turing's death in 1954; they shared many hobbies and had similar personalities.

After the war, Joan worked for Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) where she met Lieutenant-Colonel John Kenneth Ronald Murray, a retired army officer who had served in India. They married on 26 July 1952 in Chichester Cathedral. Having left GCHQ, they lived for a time in Crail in Fife, but Joan returned to work at GCHQ in 1962 where she remained until 1977 when she retired aged 60.

Following her husband's death in 1986, Joan moved to Headington, Oxfordshire. Little is known about Joan's personal interests or about her past; according to a researcher looking at the lives of women codebreakers during World War II, Joan Clarke was a very private person. One of her neighbours said that she never talked about her personal background, and was quite awkward in social situations. People had a hard time getting to know Joan Clarke, so because of this there is limited information on her personal life. What is known is that throughout her life, Joan had a number of hobbies that became passions, such as botanical work, chess, and knitting. Although she was awarded the MBE in 1947 for her work at Bletchley Park, Joan, who died on 4 Sept 1996 in Headington, never sought the spotlight, and rarely contributed to accounts of the Enigma project. But the esteem in which she was held by her colleagues, and the fact that "her equality with the men was never in question, even in those unenlightened days", as Michael Smith writes, are a tribute to her remarkable abilities.

If you are unfamiliar with All Saints West Dulwich it is worth a detour to Rosendale Road when restrictions allow. It was built on a vast scale in the late 19th century in the Gothic Revival style by George Fellowes Prynne and consecrated in 1897. The Grade I listed building was damaged by a V-1 flying bomb in 1944 and, even more seriously, gutted by fire in June 2000. Restoration work was completed in April 2006. When All Saints' reopened, the congregation found inside the old walls a church transformed. Its dark gothic interior had been opened up and flooded with light. The west end (never completed in the original build) has finally been finished, giving the church an airy Welcome Hall. The crypt has been completely refurbished to provide space and modern facilities for functions. The choir (All Saints' always had a big music tradition) are now, like its namesake our All Saints, housed in a gallery. At the east end, straight in front of the choir and congregation, is a direct reminder of All Saints' journey through fire: a cross made of charred beams from the old roof.