



THE NEWSLETTER



ALL SAINTS CHURCH Upper Norwood

**** October 2020 ****

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As last month, this newsletter will be online on the Church website, with a relatively small number available in church. If any of you know of someone who would like a printed copy but has been unable to get one from Church as they have run out, please let me know so that I can print a few more copies. Keep well and keep positive.



The Vicar's Monthly Letter

Dear friends,

During these difficult times we might reasonably feel a bit sorry for ourselves. However, I would ask you to bear in mind those less fortunate than ourselves. We will be keeping our Harvest festival on 11th October and as usual will be giving non-perishable goods to the Manna Society who work with the homeless in London in various ways. I have copied from the Manna Society website some information about the homeless today which doesn't fit with the assumptions many people make about homeless people. I hope we can send a good amount of Harvest gifts again this year.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Leonard



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Who Are the Homeless?

When you see a homeless person what do you assume?



- **Most people assume that they deserve to be in their current position.**
- **That they're either a drunk or drug addict.**

Increasing housing costs, the cycle of poverty, isolation, inability to access education, illiteracy, mental health challenges, physical disability, family dysfunction, social barriers: these are some challenges that people at the lowest levels of socio-economic status must face on a daily basis. People who have lost their homes can come from all walks of life; nobody aspires to be homeless. At Manna, we believe that each person is created in the image of God and has a unique purpose in life. We recognize the God given dignity of people, even when they feel at their lowest.

Myth	Fact
"They like being homeless"	94% would love to have a home
"It's their fault"	Many are running from violent or abusive situations; many have lost jobs – all have lost their home.
"They're lazy"	Many have part time jobs or work trying to retrieve items we throw away.
"They're crazy"	Only 25% have a mental disorder; 1% need hospitalisation – the rest could live a productive life if given assistance.
"They are substance abusers"	Only 1 in 4 are, and many became like that living on the street.
"They are dangerous"	Actually, most are a very peaceful part of society. Rarely do you hear of a homeless person hurting someone. It's usually the other way around, the homeless tragically are beaten for entertainment or sport.

SERVICES

All services are now back to near – normal as follows:

All Sundays

8.00 am Holy Communion
BCP

10.00 am Sung Eucharist

6.30 pm Night Prayer

Tuesdays

7.30 pm Said Eucharist

For this service, please enter via the North Door to be found on the left side of the church along the pathway

1st Saturday of month

10.00 am Said Eucharist

CONTACT DETAILS

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The Church's Website –

www.allsaintsuppernorwood.co.uk

The Church's Facebook page:

All Saints, Upper Norwood

Forthcoming events:

11th October: As Fr Leonard mentioned above, we shall be having our usual Harvest Festival on this day; would you please bring non-perishable goods for the Manna Society.

1st November: Celebration of the Feast of All Saints, our patronal festival, at the 10.00 am Mass.

7th November (Saturday): Commemorating the Feast of All Souls at the 10.00 am Mass (the actual day falls on Monday 2nd November).

Prayer for the Month: St Teresa's Bookmark

Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things pass;
God never changes.
Patience obtains everything.
Whoever has God wants nothing.
God alone suffices.

Saints of the Month: October.

- 4th St Francis of Assisi; founder of the order of the Friars Minor, patron saint of Italy (1181-1226)
- 13th St Edward the Confessor, King of England and founder of Westminster Abbey (1003-66)
- 15th St Teresa of Avila, founder of the reformed Carmelites. (1515-82)
- 18th St Luke; evangelist and fellow worker of St Paul, patron of doctors, artists and surgeons.
- 28th Ss Simon & Jude, apostles and martyrs.



Saint of the Month: St Francis of Assisi

Francis, whose birth name was Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone, was born in 1181 or early 1182, one of several children of a prosperous silk merchant of Assisi. In his youth he was renowned for drinking and partying; he was handsome, witty, gallant, delighted in fine clothes and spent money lavishly. Around 1202, he joined a military expedition against Perugia; after fighting in a battle, Francis was captured and imprisoned for ransom. He spent nearly a year in prison — awaiting his father's payment — and, according to legend, began receiving visions from God. After his release from prison, Francis said that he had a mystical vision of Jesus in the forsaken country chapel of San Damiano, just outside Assisi, in which an Icon of Christ Crucified said to him, "Francis, Francis, go and repair My house which, as you can see, is falling into ruins." He took this to mean the ruined church in which he was presently praying, and so he sold some cloth from his father's store to assist the priest there for this purpose. Later he reinterpreted this command of Christ to mean the whole Christian Church, and consequently abandoned his life of luxury and became a devotee of the faith, his reputation spreading all over the Christian world. He founded the Order of Friars Minor, and also, along with St Clare of Assisi, its sister Order of Saint Clare, known as the 'Poor Clares'.

Later in life, Francis reportedly received a vision that left him with the stigmata of Christ — marks resembling the wounds Jesus Christ suffered when he was crucified — making Francis the first person to receive such holy wounds. He died on 3 October 1226 and was canonized on July 16, 1228. During his life he developed a deep love of nature and animals and is known as the patron saint of the environment and animals; his life and words have had a lasting resonance with millions of followers across the globe and he is one of the most venerated religious figures in Christianity. Each October, many animals the world over are blessed on his feast day.

The oldest surviving depiction of Saint Francis is a fresco near the entrance of the Benedictine abbey of Subiaco, painted between March 1228 and March 1229. He is depicted without the stigmata, but the image must be considered a religious image and not a portrait.

