



THE NEWSLETTER



ALL SAINTS CHURCH Upper Norwood

****May 2021****



The Vicar's Monthly Letter

Dear friends,

The Great Fifty Days of Easter ends with the Feast of Pentecost, which we celebrate this year on 23rd May. At his Ascension Jesus told his disciples to stay in Jerusalem to await the Father's promised gift of the Holy Spirit, and to celebrate that gift not only at that first Pentecost but also in our own lives today.

In Old Testament Times, Pentecost was a harvest festival. It may seem a bit early for harvest in England but not in Palestine where the fields yield two or even three crops a year. Pentecost was the Feast of First Fruits which were presented to God in thanksgiving. The Book of Deuteronomy contains a sort of creed to be recited when the gifts were offered - giving thanks for the Exodus from slavery in Egypt and the conquest of Canaan, a land flowing with milk and honey, into which the people of Israel believed God had brought his people and where he had richly blessed them.

At this time, at the end of Easter it seems appropriate for us to be thankful. Do you feel thankful? Given what we have all been through this last year maybe you are not feeling very thankful. The Christian faith however asks us to be people who are thankful. Whether we do or whether we don't, it is right for us as we say to give thanks to the Lord our God. 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.

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. At the beginning of all things Genesis describes the Spirit brooding like a dove over the primordial chaos. In the story of the people of God, the Spirit filled Moses, Aaron and the prophets, and at the climax of that story, a

daughter of Judah, the Blessed Virgin Mary, is filled with the Spirit to conceive the world's redeemer. This is an act of new creation which arrests the movement of the human world away from God and begins its return to him. At his baptism, the Holy Spirit fills Jesus. Jesus is the Christ, which means the anointed one, the one filled with the Spirit.

In one sense the Holy Spirit has only one feast the feast of Pentecost. But in a larger view every Sunday from Pentecost until Advent is a feast of the Spirit. For what God has done for us he also wills to do in us. To bring about that transformation into a new people, a people renewed and transformed into the people we have it in us to be. We are even now being called into this new creation, and to be the instruments of God in the transformation of this world; that God's will may be done not only in heaven, but as we say in the Lords prayer on earth as in heaven. This is because peace with God should make us restless in this world, not content with the way things are. We are rather 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.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Leonard



CLERGY

Vicar

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SERVICES

All Sundays

10.00 am Parish Mass

6.00 pm Holy Communion
(Book of Common Prayer)

Tuesdays

7.30 pm Said Eucharist

1st Saturday of month

10.00 am Said Eucharist

Prayer for the Month: Regina Coeli

O Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia!
For he whom thou didst merit to bear,
alleluia!
Has risen, as he said, alleluia!
Pray for us to God, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary,
alleluia!
For the Lord has risen indeed, alleluia!
O God, who gave joy to the world through
the resurrection of thy Son our Lord Jesus
Christ, grant that we may obtain, through his
Virgin Mother, Mary, the joys of everlasting
life.

CONTACT DETAILS

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The Church's Website –
www.allsaintsuppernorwood.co.uk

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

Saints of the Month: May.

- 1st St Phillip. The apostle from Galilee
- 3rd St James the Less. Apostle, "son of Alphaeus" but sometimes said to be the same as "the brother of the Lord".
- 14th St Matthias. The apostle chosen after the death of Judas.
- 19th St Dustan, 909-988. Reforming Archbishop of Canterbury; patron saint of goldsmiths and jewellers.
- 27th St Augustine of Canterbury, d. 605, Archbishop of Canterbury and apostle of the English
- 30th St Joan of Arc (1412-31). Patroness of France, burnt by the English at Rouen during the Hundred Years' War.



An Open Letter from Alison Austin

Dear Father Leonard, Friends and Parishioners

Rather belatedly Peter and I would like to thank you very much for the lovely gifts, plant and card you gave us when we left Upper Norwood - they are much appreciated. It certainly was very emotional when the presentation was done at church. I have now planted the ranunculus and when it flowers I'll ask John to put a photo in the newsletter!

It still feels strange knowing we won't be returning to Norwood after a few weeks in Broadstairs and we shall miss sharing in worship at All Saints' and seeing all our friends.

We shall certainly visit if we come up to the area.

We wish you all good health and blessings.

With our warmest greetings

Alison and Peter



PCC and Church Officers 2021 - 2022

Here is the list of those appointed to positions in the Church as updated by the recent Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Elected Churchwardens

Mr Mike Hedges ex officio

Mrs Arabella Coleridge ex officio

Elected members

Mr Roland Browne

Mr Chris Chikwendu

Mrs Brenda Coop

Mrs Maureen Crooks

Ms Bernadette Ganley

Mr Martyn Harris

Mrs Bron Panter

Mr Atwold Williams

Mr Jonas Wontumi

Elected PCC Treasurer

Mrs Brenda Coop

Elected PCC Secretary

Mrs Maureen Crooks

Elected Lay Vice Chair

Mrs Bronwen Panter

Elected Deanery Synod members 2020-2023

Mr Clive Carr ex officio

Mr Mac Hagen ex officio

Mr Atwold Williams ex officio

