



SEPTEMBER 2023 | ISSUE NO. 1

PARISH OF SANDERSTEAD CHURCH NEWSLETTER

All Saints & St Anthony's Parish of Sanderstead



'A time for everything....'

The Teacher in Ecclesiastes 3 verses 1 to 8 tells us,

'There is a time for everything,

and season for every activity under the heavens :

A time to be born and a time to die,

A time to plant and a time to uproot,

a time to kill and a time to heal,

a time to tear down and a time to build,

a time to weep and a time to laugh,

a time to mourn and a time to dance,

a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,

a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,

a time to search and a time to give up,

a time to keep and a time to throw away,

a time to tear and a time to mend,

a time to be silent and a time to speak,

a time to love and a time to hate,

a time for war and a time for peace.'





Reflections from the Rector (designate)...



Time is largely taken for granted and sometimes wasted. We often feel like we don't have enough of it and some regret not making better use of it.

As I write, I am reflecting on my late mother, Trinidad's life and savouring many special times. Times which I had the privilege of helping her to remember- through stories, photos and many repetitive conversations. Mum had dementia and I am realising now how much it meant to her at the time, to be given her familiar memories, which she could no longer remember for herself and to have us just be with her.



Trinidad worked hard to provide for her family. Despite suffering many setbacks in her early life; being born prematurely, living through the Japanese invasion of the Philippines during the Second World War, moving countries, losing loved ones, she always picked herself up and carried on. Her work ethic, history, humour, courage, pursuit of education, determination, devotion to her family, piety and honesty are the richest legacy anyone could leave behind.

These qualities have made me and my children the people we are today. She was a calming and inspirational presence in our lives. We will all miss her so very much.

The only thing that we can leave behind which will long endure is what we build into the lives of others. This is also true of the church. What does our presence mean to people in the parish? What will be the legacy we leave behind? Who would miss us if we were no longer here?

“

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen.

The Parish Away Day on September 23rd (see the Back Page for more info) is an opportunity for us to discern together a parish wide vision for All Saints and St Antony's churches and perhaps answer some of these questions.

I am very grateful to George Braimah for volunteering to edit a church newsletter, which will be a very useful way of communicating what is happening across our churches.

In this first edition, as well as information on some key events and activities, you will find invitations to be more involved in church life. Many of you already serve in a number of different of ways and I am very grateful for all that you do. However, there are a number of people who are not sure about how or whether or not to get more involved. It is to these people I say, "I would love for you to join in more fully with the church family in Sanderstead, to perhaps take a step out of your comfort zone and develop your gifts in areas you never thought possible or resurrect skills you've used in the past. Please, sign up!"

As you read these pages may you be encouraged to pray for the life, ministry and mission of our churches and to pray for me also - that God would give me wisdom, courage and patience to treasure the time he has given me as your Rector (designate).

And, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen.

Revd Carol



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The General Synod



George Braimah

The General Synod (GS) is the Church of England's tripartite elected governing body. Its members of laity, clergy and bishops meet two or three times a year to decide on doctrine and policy for the Church.

Revd Carol is an elected clergy member for Southwark diocese and went to the July Synod meeting held in York.

Whilst there, as well as listening and voting on various measures, Revd Carol contributed to the debate on bringing more young people's voices onto General Synod and was featured in The Church Times.

If anyone is interested, Revd Carol's Deanery report on GS is available in the church foyer at both All Saints and St Antony's, along with the Church Times article.

The next GS meeting will be held in Westminster in November and will be largely concerned with debating the Prayers for Same Sex blessings and corresponding Pastoral Guidance and rubrics for use.

Poetry Corner

Baby Jesus

“
*A virgin birth, a manger bed
 A lowly stable
 To lay His head.
 A humble beginning for anyone
 It does' not seem fitting
 For Gods only Son.
 But God had a plan to redeem me and
 you. Salvation through
 Jesus Offers life afresh and anew.*

calls to bring back younger voices

young representation



Samuel Wilson (Chester) moves his motion for a Youth Synod or Council

A NEW Church of England Youth Synod or Council should be established to bring the voices of young adults back on to the General Synod, members have urged.

Samuel Wilson (Chester) introduced a private member's motion to re-establish an elected body for young adults, to replace the recently dissolved Church of England Youth Council (CEYC) (News, 18 February 2022).

There were only 13 under-30s on the Synod, Mr Wilson (who is 25) noted. This sent the message "We don't need you" to young people, even if unintentionally. His motion would change this perception and give young people a space of their own, he said. Young people put off standing for regular election to the Synod because it was so stale and dominated by diocesan officers, he argued.

A national youth gathering or synod would allow people to meet without "someone three times your age interrupting you because of a standing order you've never heard of". His motion also called for the appointment of a new national champion for young people, and co-opting a young adult to the Archbishop's Council.

Sam Margrave (Coventry) spoke to his first amendment to the motion, which would add a clause requesting that the Business Committee return to the Synod with recommendations to increase further the voices of young people. He also proposed a second amendment to strike out the proposed co-option of young people to the Synod, with voting powers and replace them with three people solely to attend. He was in support of the motion, but bring an alternative voting members election, not co-optation, he said.

Lacey Bechler (Purton) said that young people were humbly asking for more access to decision-making bodies, urging the Synod not to get lost in "petty squabbling". She asked, please could they have "neatly-mouthed" comments about election decisions being taken up. "Don't tell me we can't find some money from somewhere there's plenty of it if we have the will to go looking."

Mr Margrave's first amendment was passed. Mr Wilson then indicated that he was in support of a second amendment to allow three young people to be non-voting Synod members, which was all that was possible under the Standing Orders without formal legislation.

Clive Sower (London) reminded the Synod that there used to be three members of the CEYC on the Synod, even if they had not had voting rights. He backed the amendment, which was said to be the best that could be achieved under Standing Orders and could be implemented as quickly as in a year.

The Revd Dr Bruce Bryant-Scott (Europe) said that he was underwhelmed by the low number of young people on the Synod. In his homeland of Canada, every single diocese had a voting youth member. "Thank Christ We need to

of our deliberations," he said. The Revd Gwlad Bates (Southwark) liked Mr Wilson's original motion and criticised the amendments as lowering expectations for having younger people on the Synod. Would the amendments lengthen the process of getting more young people in the room, she asked. Mr Margrave's second amendment was carried by 164:130, with 20 recorded abstentions.

Clare Williams (Norwich) spoke to her amendment, which, she said, would recognise the work being done with young people in developing the Vision and Strategy of the C of E and widening the motion to include children. Mr Wilson was asked to change a clause that asked for the appointment of a "part-time post" with responsibility for democratic engagement with young people to make it a more clearly defined full-time post.

In a debate on these two amendments, Canon Andrew Jeremiahs (Universities and TEU) said that the challenge was to "not be patronising" to young people, and to treat them. He supported Mr Or's amendment as it went further than the original proposal.

The Bishop of Durham, the Rt Revd Paul Butler, spoke in favour of the same amendment, which he had helped to devise. The term "Synod" could be self-limiting since the focus on developing a "gathering" for young people about one that would be charged with the kind of work envisaged by the original motion.

A point of order followed to clarify whether Mr Margrave's earlier amendment would still apply if Mr Or's amendment was adopted. It was confirmed that it would, and Amendment 54 was carried, and Sharon Anderson's suggestions fell.

In a debate on the motion as amended, Kenyon Li (USME) objected that many young people use the Church of England as not a safe space, owing to "after failure" in safeguarding processes, and as an "institution where homophobia and misogyny goes unchallenged". The motion was a "first step", but he "couldn't stress more the importance of allowing young people to lead this process."

The Bishop of Dover, the Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin (Canterbury), said that, in the Province of the West Indies, it was normal for young people to be more heavily involved.

In her first speech to the Synod, the Bishop of Shrewsbury, Dr Isaura Grenfell (London), who is the lead safeguarding bishop, said: "Children and young people are an integral part of our Church" and should therefore be "an integral part of our governance." She said that "the relationship between governance and healthy cultures is fundamental, and I acknowledge that there are situations where we are not getting that right at the moment". Safeguarding was an example.

The Archbishop of Canterbury said that having youth at the centre in the Church would make an impact on the world, as well. The Archbishop of London, the Ven. Luke Miller (London), joining in on Zoom, spoke of his involvement with the Sea Cadets, which youth changes were properly structured, they could have a huge influence.

Mr Wilson said that "the members would go back to their communities with a renewed appreciation for their young people. The motion as amended was carried on a show of hands.

That this Synod

- (i) re-affirm the importance of having young adults directly involved in decision-making and strategy;
- (ii) recognise the "valuable contributions made by members of the Church of England Youth Council (CEYC);
- (iii) request the Business Committee to bring a report to Synod with recommendations that increase the voice and representation of young people within Synodical bodies and through Synod elections and listening how the above has progressed enabling children and young people's opinions and concerns to be heard;
- (iv) recognise the role played by children and young people in the delivery of the Church of England Vision and Strategy;
- (v) value the work being undertaken through the Growing Faith Foundation to listen to the voices of children, young people and young adults and therefore call on each diocese to work alongside Children, Youth and Family advisers and practitioners to develop ways of ensuring that children, youth and young adult voices are heard within their decision-making processes, and actively involve them in decision-making;
- (vi) request the Business Committee to bring forward proposals, including legislation if necessary, that:
 - (a) seek to enable greater numbers of young adults to be elected to General Synod;
 - (b) enable the voices of children, youth and young adults to be heard within the debates of General Synod, Youth and Family advisers and practitioners to work with Children, Youth and Family advisers and practitioners to listen to the voice of children, youth and young adults in their preparation for each meeting of General Synod;
 - (c) request the Archbishop's Council to:
 - (i) ensure that all policies seek to ensure that they contribute to fulfilling the vision of being a prouder and more diverse church;
 - (ii) develop ways whereby the voices of children, youth and young adults are fed into their discussions and decision-making processes;
 - (iii) call on the Archbishop's Council to establish a regular Church of England National Young Adults Gathering (name to be determined) that enable young people, aged between the ages of 18 and 25 to:
 - (i) meet together for worship, prayer and fellowship;
 - (ii) engage with and discuss issues important to being important by young adults themselves; and
 - (iii) relate to decision-making structures including Dioceses, General Synod and Archbishop's Council;
 - (iv) request to the Archbishop's Council that funding be found from within the budget for a first-year



Keeping the faith with

I've lost track of time having been in and out of hospital with everything going wrong for me both regarding my health and everything else. None of it was my doing, but because of a lot of pressures from people around me, I lost my home.

The pandemic meant I couldn't sort anything out and I came to live in the parish about 2 years ago. I remembered that before everything went wrong for me, I used to go to church and was quite actively involved. My church used to have a Singing Group for people with brain injuries and dementia, and I used to help with this group. One man who came to it said to me quite offensively that he was going to, 'take away my part of heaven.'

For some reason this came into my mind as my health returned and perhaps it made me remember my church days and so I came to All Saints church which is very near to my house. Up until this point I had only been to All Saints for a one off service and to visit the graveyards as I was interested in local history.

Sue, the Steward was the first person I came across. She was very friendly and helpful. I found out later she volunteers for Croydon Vision who help the partially sighted. This was great because I am partially sighted. I've continued to come because I like the services. I like to hear the choir, I also like the modernisations although it can be a bit muddling sometimes but I'm getting used to it.

I am beginning to come out of the shell that I've felt like over the past few years. I can now feel the warmth of the sun and the breeze. I'm still not able to feel hungry or thirsty but I know I need to eat and drink.

This is the same for my spiritual needs - I know I need to re-stock and build on my previous knowledge of God and the church. This is why I am coming along to the Confirmation classes. Part of the homework is to read a psalm every day which I have been doing. I have written a psalm of my own and I hope you like it.



Sun in the sky so high
Just watch those Eagles fly.

Gentle breeze cools the day,
As spring lambs joyfully play,

Let the song birds sing their
song And all God's creatures
play along.

Honey from the bees in the
hive.

See the dolphins through the
waves dive, Natures way is
best for all.

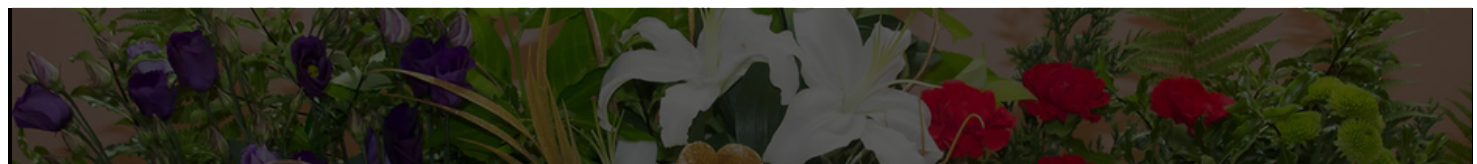
From tiny flowers to trees so tall, Let the song birds sing
their song And all God's creatures play along.

Mountains covered in Crystal Snow How the rainbow
colours glow, A cloud forms a heart up above What a
wonderful sign of God's love.

“

*Mountains covered in
Crystal Snow How the
rainbow colours glow, A
cloud forms a heart up
above What a wonderful
sign of God's love.*

By Karen Smith





Celebrate in Faith

65 YEARS STRONG

The 2nd August 2023 saw Gordon & Daphne MacCallum celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary with family. They were married at All Saints on 2nd August 1958 by Rev Richard Third as Rev Wolters was away on holiday.



The first hymn of the special occasion was "Lead us Heavenly Father lead us.... and they have certainly followed Him. During the service Rev Richard gave a short talk but neither Gordon & Daphne heard it and were distracted by a spider creeping up his stole, round behind

*Gordon & Daphne
MacCallum*

his neck and then down the other side! The fine web of love was spun. Let's together congratulate with prayers and best wishes to Gordon & Daphne.



Otherwise there is one arrangement by the pulpit. We have also occasionally arranged flower festivals. Sometimes our weekly arrangements are in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special birthday or wedding anniversary.

They are paid for by the member of our congregation requesting the arrangement and an insert in the church weekly notices accompanies the arrangement. If you would like to have such an arrangement the cost is £60 for the pedestal by the pulpit. We are also happy to arrange your church wedding flowers.



We arrange pedestals and pew ends but do not make up bridal bouquets and buttonholes. Prices on application. Finally, would you like to join the team? No previous experience required. I would welcome both men and women.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Contact details: Email: lynbriton@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone: 020 84071565
Lynne Davison

Lynne Davison

Flowers at All Saints

I lead a dedicated team of flower ladies who keep All Saints' church decorated with flowers throughout the year with the exception of Advent and Lent when the church, by tradition, is kept bare. Three times a year – Easter, Harvest and Christmas the church is decorated throughout with arrangements on the window sills and with pedestals in key locations.





Messy Church & Classes

MESSY CHURCH

Judith Robinson

*All Saints Messy Church
Co-ordinator*



Messy Church closed for the summer in July with a picnic and games on the Gruffy. 32 children came with parents and carers. Numbers are encouraging, and we have a good number of regular families, with Mums, Dads and Grandparents coming with their children. This year we have been hearing about the Parables that Jesus told. From September Messy Church will move to the 2nd Sunday of the month 3.30-5.00, and for a trial period will be held in the church halls. Younger children in the large hall and older children in the small hall. We hope this will enable us to have some games. We always welcome new helpers, especially for the older children who have games and a 15-minute Bible time. If you are interested in helping and would like to find out more about what we do, please talk to Judith Robinson or Sue Thomas (children@sanderstead-parish.org.uk)

Rev Carol would like to start a Sunday School for children during the morning service. Perhaps once a month initially from October. There have been a few children coming on Sunday mornings over June and July and their parents would welcome something for their children. If you would be willing to either lead or help with a Sunday School please talk to Sue Wragg (suewragg30@gmail.com) Or text /WhatsApp ' I want to be a Sunday School Leader/Helper' to : 07712 577682

CONFIRMATION CLASSES.

There are 3, possibly 4 people from All Saints who are interested in being Confirmed. Confirmation is a second opportunity for us to commit ourselves and our lives to God after baptism, and is normally celebrated within the Eucharist.

Unlike most Baptisms where, quite often the candidates are too young to understand the questions answered for them by parents and God-parents, those who come for Confirmation answer questions about their faith for themselves.

Confirmation is administered by a Bishop, who speaks for the larger church community to which candidates are being called to belong.



The structure of the Confirmation classes follow the Eucharist Service:

Week 1 : Gathering & Confession

Week 2 : The Word of God : The Bible and The Creed

Week 3 : Prayer

**Week 4: Holy Communion & Blessing for Dismissal
(sending out / Mission of God)**

The first of the Confirmation classes was held at the end of July. The following 3 sessions will be held in October and will be followed by the Confirmation service, at St Mary's Sanderstead on Sunday October 29th at 5pm.



Progress report on the vision questionnaire



Earlier this year the PCC set up a Project 800 group to plan how to celebrate All Saints 800th anniversary in 2030. At an early stage it was envisaged that part of the celebration activities would be projects to enhance the building for services and other activities. However, before considering detailed building plans it is necessary to develop a vision for the church as this is what the diocese will require before approving plans to change or adapt the building.

It was thought that a crucial first step in developing a new vision for All Saints would be to distribute a questionnaire to the congregation seeking their views on the priorities for All Saints for 2030 and beyond. Very shortly after commissioning the questionnaire the PCC realised that with St. Antony's being used as a church again, we would need to work together and listen to the wider community, re-visiting our parish vision and priorities as churches in the parish. The questionnaire could therefore be adapted to provide information to inform the parish wide vision and the vision for the buildings.

The questionnaire was distributed to all those on the Electoral Roll plus others attending All Saints and St. Antony's but not on the Electoral Roll. 75 questionnaires were returned, approximately 50% of those distributed. Following the return of the questionnaires a team of six reviewers comprising representatives of both churches was set up to analyse the responses according to a pre-determined analytical framework.

Each questionnaire will be read by two reviewers, so hopefully all comments will be captured. The key findings from the questionnaire will be included in a report distributed to the congregation and others ahead of the Awayday. The purpose of the report is to present information that can be used to inform the discussion at this event. Participants at the Awayday will be able to draw upon this information, along with information and that from other sources, to develop the vision for the parish and the related vision for the use of church buildings.

We hope that people will read the report of the findings from the questionnaire and also come to the Awayday on Saturday 23rd September from 9.30am – 3pm at the Good Shepherd Church, Carshalton Beeches.

Richard Wragg



A short history of Croydon Refugee Day Centre



In 2007 there was some civil unrest in Croydon town centre, at that time between Kosovan Refugees. Various Christians from various Croydon Churches felt a calling to do something in response to this as it was happening. So, after much prayer and discussion, through Churches Together it was decided to set up a Refugee Day Centre at West Croydon Baptist Church to engage with and help the people who were involved in the unrest.

Croydon also has the Home Office building Lunar House, one of the two places in the UK where New Arrivals can go to claim Asylum to support for Asylum Seekers.



The Day Centre started providing a safe and welcoming social space for people from these and other international communities to mingle, have a decent freshly cooked meal and receive support like signposting, help with bureaucracy and sometimes food and clothing essentials.

We were often the first people someone met who wasn't an official (Immigration officials, the Police). There were various activities offered over the years (depending on funding and partnerships) So people would be able to join in Music Therapy, English classes, an art table, even knitting.

Mental Health and housing services would come along to engage with their harder-to-reach clients, and it grew to regularly welcome about 100 Refugees, Migrants and Asylum Seekers each week, staffed by a team of volunteers from over 20 different churches.

To get to the Day Centre, New Arrivals needed suitable outdoor clothes and shoes (and perhaps a buggy and a bus ticket) so we looked at developing various outreach projects in the Asylum Hotels themselves. When the pandemic struck - as soon as people were allowed to gather outdoors

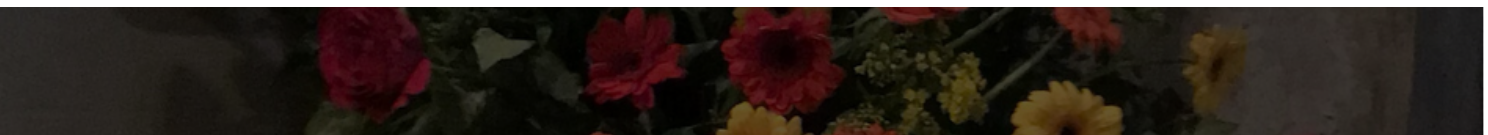
Wednesday School transferred to Haling Grove Park. This provided craft and sport and a place for the hotel families to meet each other, which they particularly valued as they were confined to their rooms and there was no social space. Rosie is now the charities' Trustee for Education and Welcome.

“
Poetry Section
They crossed mountains and deserts.
They filled the boats
They ran away from death and persecution.
They sailed into the sea of hope.
But the raging waters didn't let them go
But the world didn't take care of them

Meanwhile the Tuesday Day Centre re-opened after the Pandemic in a different form providing donated clothes and emergency food and toiletries to those in need by means of a 'personal shopper' for each client or family. Missing the social space, 'Wednesday Welcome' was born to provide the 'relaxing and mingling' element and we currently have folk from about 15 different countries coming to learn English, play table tennis, do some gardening or dancing and eat fruit and cake.

Centre Croydon Refugee Day
Centre CRO 2JH
Registered Charity No. 1064465

Kevin Wright





Men's Group trip to an outdoor theatre performance



The plot revolved around a dastardly plan to capture the delicious Tiggy Zesty-Peel, heiress to the Zesty-Peel marmalade empire which had major implications for National Security, given the importance of marmalade to British morale. This was clearly a job for Dick Barton (Secret Agent) and his sidekicks Jock Anderson & Snowy White although the dastardly baddies had somehow injected the latter with monkey juice which caused some confusion.

Following a very wet afternoon and some last minute phone calls 18 of us donned our waterproofs and turned up at the outdoor theatre at Coulsdon Manor armed with brollies, hoping that the performance of Dick Barton & the Carnival of Chaos would be able to go ahead. As luck would have it the rain stopped about 15 minutes before the (virtual) curtain went up and apart from drips from the trees overhead, it stayed dry for about an hour and a half before the rain returned.

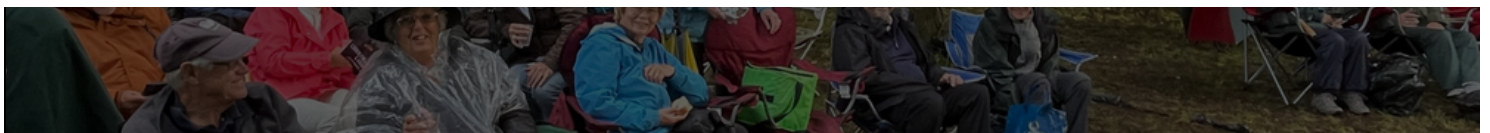


Other members of the Establishment included Sir Percival Bliithe-Natterjack, Colonel Fffoulkes and Lady Mildred Zesty-Peel, with several potential femmes fatale and the evil East end mobsters, the Crayfish twins all hosted by a BBC announcer from the early fifties, complete with dinner jacket and bow tie.



Barton's stiff upper lip remained firmly in place throughout, even when tempted by the charms of Bogdana Bendova (a Bulgarian ballet dancer) or the lovely Contessa Bianca di Scalzo (an Italian Yoga guru). Indeed, Bogdana was successfully banished to Croydon, via the Maldives whilst the Contessa was revealed to be but that would spoil it! Suffice to say that it was spiffingly good fun and greatly enjoyed by all in spite of the weather.

Dick Hibberd Secretary to the PCC





St Antony's Café Church



After a long gap due to the shrinkage of congregations, and of course, Covid, something new is occurring at St Antony's in Wentworth Way. A Sunday afternoon meeting has been running for about 8 weeks. What is it, you may wonder. What is a 'Café Church'? What happens there? And who turns up to take part?

Tom Griffiths

First, the café part. There are no skinny soy frappuccinos, or chai lattes. But people do sit at tables, and drink tea and coffee, and eat some very yummy cakes. There is chat around the tables, and new friendships and acquaintanceships springing up amid healthy debate and warm conversations.

Who turns up? A bit like the fabled wedding rhyme, some old, some new, some borrowed, and some blue. To be frank nobody blue so far! But equal parts former congregation members, new Hamsey Green people, and a handful of friends from nearby. Ages from 12 months to 94 years. There are about 20 of us, and every week between 10 and 12 of us are here, making friends and lifting our eyes and hearts beyond our everyday lives with a potential weekly Drop-in we are hoping to set up.



If anyone is interested and could volunteer their time to help with a Weekly Drop-in at St Antony's please contact Chris Bates : batesco1970@gmail.com

We share communion, we pray, and we raise our voices in worship. Each Sunday's key readings are introduced by being read aloud, and then we are encouraged to debate them and the issues they raise as we grapple with teasing questions.





The Children's Society



On Sunday 2nd July I was invited to speak at All Saints Church, Sanderstead to talk about the work of The Children's Society. The Parade Service was an ideal occasion as so many young people took part – several reading from St John and St Matthew's Gospels about taking action on behalf of those in need.

Philippa Bassett

Sophie Samways

Ways to support:

www.childrensociety.org.uk/how-you-can-help

Donate:

www.childrensociety.org.uk/how-you-can-help/donate

I told the large congregation that the main objective of The Children's Society is to fight for the hope and happiness of young people across the UK. The Society helps children who experience mental health problems, struggle with drug or alcohol misuse, or are refugee and migrant children seeking safety.

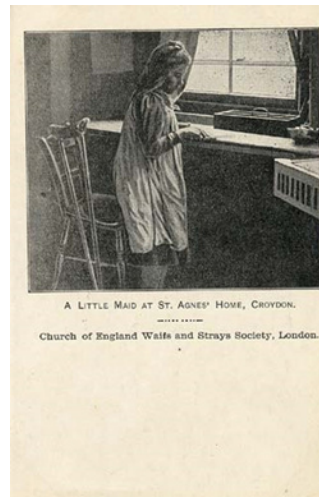
I gave a brief history of The Society, which was started in 1881 by a Christian teacher, Edward Rudolf, who was moved to action to help children in extreme poverty he had seen begging for food. Rudolf founded The Church of England Central Home for "Waifs and Strays". There were two locally, St Agnes Home for Girls and Gordon Home for Boys which didn't shut until 1965. The schools provided a basic education with some skills to help children in the adult world.

I mentioned a young Children's Society carer who has had to look after her family since she was 10 and whom The Society has supported. She now speaks out for other young carers and spreads the word about the activities of The Children's Society.

Another story was about a refugee who came to the UK looking for safety. With The Society's help she was able to build a life here in the UK and today this brave girl is a volunteer speaker and staff member for the Society. She passionately works to ensure other vulnerable young people have the support they need as she did.

I thanked All Saints for their valuable support so the Society can continue its work and the Parade Service closed with a prayer for The Society and those precious young people in its care (extract below).

"Inspire and guide The Children's Society to be brave, ambitious, supportive. And trusted in all its work, and to listen, support and act, That hope may be alive in every child."



Behind the scenes The Children's Society is working hard to influence many Parliamentary Bills dealing with child safeguarding and wellbeing. To name just a few: Victims Bill, Online Safety Bill, Illegal Migration Bill. You may have heard our CEO, Mark Russell, on the media recently campaigning for free school uniforms – the soaring cost of uniforms is a burden for many families.

Once again, thank you for inviting The Children's Society to All Saints. I thoroughly enjoyed the uplifting service and meeting many of you afterwards. Please continue to pray for the vital work of The Children's Society. If you would like to find out more about the work of The Children's Society or support through volunteering, donating or fundraising please explore the links above.



Home Group



July 19th PCC meeting



@ Stan's House.

Our church Homegroup has been running for just over two-months now on a bi-weekly basis. It is held on alternate Thursday's commencing at 7:00pm and runs for an hour or so at Rectory Park, Sanderstead (Stan's house). There are currently six members.

We are all enjoying the opportunity to get-together, study Biblical topics, and close with a time of prayer.

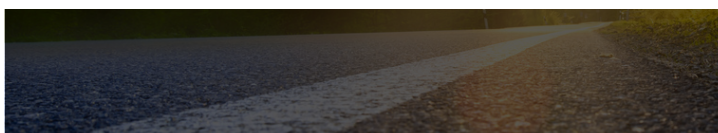
I have been picking individual Bible topics and verses for our brief studies. The longest has been the Book of Ruth and the shortest the verse from John 11:35 "Jesus wept". We usually have a subject relevant A3 painting set-up in view to support our thinking and focus on the topic in hand.

We would welcome a few more members joining us, which Stan's house can easily accommodate.

Beginning in September 2023 we are going to do the "The Prayer course" which is an eight-week study-journey through the Lord's Prayer over 8-sessions.

If you are interested in joining please contact Kevin Wright on kevin.deanerytreasurer@gmail.com

Kevin Wright

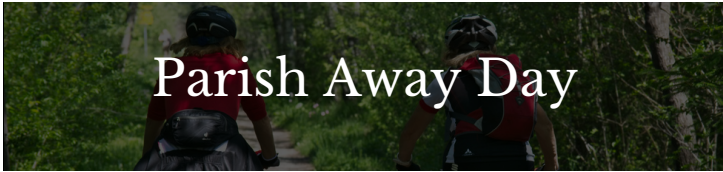


Key topics discussed included:

- The Committee's wish to minimise the elements of the minutes which are treated as confidential so as to be as transparent as possible.
- The appointment of additional Safeguarding Officers.
- The need to review the specification of the work required before the contract for Grounds Maintenance is retendered.
- A brief update on clearing St Antony's ahead of a deep clean, then subsequent (reduced) lettings to ensure that it is available for more "Church" activities. Also avoiding late night party bookings at both Churches.
- There was a brief discussion of the format for the forthcoming awayday and Richard gave us an update on the responses to the questionnaire.
- Judith and Sue gave an update on Children's activities including Toddlers, Messy Church and Holiday Club. They also hope to repeat the "Missing Body" course next Easter and hopefully run a similar session for local Schools at Christmas.
- It was agreed to pause ADVENTure this year in the absence of any volunteers to lead it
- Michael gave an update on the financial position with Energy costs significantly higher than last year and reduced lettings income in the second half year. The figures will be monitored closely and action taken as appropriate. Michael also sought help in drafting the Pledge 2024 appeal.
- The Wardens reported that all approvals had been received for the installation of Solar Panels on the All Saints Hall and that the Quinquennial surveys would take place at the end of July which may generate further spending needs!
- Margaret updated the PCC on Health & Safety issues and Rosemary reported on matters at Deanery Synod.

A copy of the minutes is on display in Church and the next PCC meeting is on Wednesday 13th September, followed by the Awayday on Saturday 23rd September.

Dick Hibberd Secretary to the PCC



WHAT DOES YOUR CHURCH LOOK LIKE TO YOU?

Save the date and Sign up for the Parish Away Day

When: Saturday 23rd September

Time: 9.30am - 3pm

Venue: The Good Shepherd Church, Carlshalton Beeches, Queen Mary's Ave, SM5 4NP

This is an exciting day to reflect and develop our vision and ministry of all Saints and St Antony's in the Parish of Sanderstead. We will do this by listening to one another and to God.

After refreshments on arrival, and beginning the day with a short time of worship, Jo Gavin, a diocesan Facilitator, will be helping us to examine our churches both locally and nationally to gain an understanding of our current context. We will also take a closer look at our parish. We will share some of the fruits, challenges and opportunities we have discovered from our discussions. The lunch break will be a time to get to know others better and perhaps continue our discussions. After lunch there will be time to reflect on our gifting and calling both individually and collectively and to pray for God's vision for All Saints and St Antony's.

We will then have the opportunity to share our thoughts and promptings with others in small groups. These will help to form the vision and identify some key priorities for our churches. Of course, we won't get all the work done in one day, but next steps will be identified and clarified before we go home.

Sign up sheets for the day will be found at the back of our churches and in the Parish Office. Please indicate if you can provide transport or if you will require transport for the day.

Transport will be arranged on an informal basis and not on behalf of the church. Please have the necessary conversations amongst yourselves in order to confirm transportation.

I hope that many of you will make time to come and that our time together will be fruitful.

Revd Carol

Notices

1, MONDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER AT 8 p.m. in ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, ST. CATHERINE'S AISLE
ALL are welcome to join the Mothers' Union when we shall be meeting up with our councillor, Lynne Hale, to learn more about our local community.
Refreshments served from 7.45 p.m.

On Saturday 9th September, I am looking for able-bodied volunteers to help tidy up All Saints' church yard and lower graveyard, primarily to pick up any rubbish and carry out small gardening jobs. Please bring gloves and wear suitable footwear, and also bring secateurs if you have any. Black sacks will be supplied as well as shears and some other garden equipment. It would be wonderful to have a willing team to join me. Thank you. Ann Turner.
Tel: 020 8657 5224 email annturner@go-plus.net.

Ann Turner.



Editors Notes



George Braimah
email:
sandersteadparishnews@outlook.com

Articles to George by 20th September.
The next edition will be issued on 1st October..

"Jeremiah 29:11 ~ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

George Braimah

The newsletter needs a new name.

New beginnings requires a new name for the newsletter. Please send all suggestions for the Newsletter Name to me with the subject "Newsletter name" by 20th September to George: sandersteadparishnews@outlook.com