



✝ NASC! ✝

Winter 2018



All Saints Church

The Church by the Roundabout!

{The educational bit}

Candlemas, also known as the **Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus** and the **Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, is a Christian Holy Day commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. It falls on February 2, which is traditionally the 40th day of the Christmas–Epiphany season.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Candlemas>



Vicar's Update

Following discussion amongst the clergy and church wardens on how we could better promote the services provided in the Parish, I am delighted that Stefan has volunteered to create a newsletter for All Saints' Church. We have a lot of events taking place here and activities offered also through other groups using the Hall and the Library.

With this newsletter we can encourage our congregation and immediate neighbours to attend, or use, our existing services, and perhaps suggest new ones.

I do hope that you make use of Stefan's suggestion to contribute ideas, pictures, poems or prayers to the newsletter.

Your Vicar,

Rev'd. Neil Paxton

Nasci!

A word from the Editor

So, why is this newsletter called NASC, and why is it here NASCI? The extra 'I' does come from somewhere, it's not just a typo!

"Nasci" is Spanish and means "I was born". I have tried to make something out of the initials of our church and a gospel-related term, but if anyone has a better suggestion of what we can call this newsletter, then please let me know.

NASCI could relate to the inauguration of our newsletter, specific to All Saints. But it could also point out the ever-presence of HIM, for instance, in the summer as a reminder that He is still around, even when it's not Christmas or Easter.

So, why a Newsletter at all? The idea started when I was visiting churches in Southend: I've seen a variety of church newsletters promoting their activities and events in hard copy, rather than "only" by word of mouth or ad hoc posters. With the approval of the DCC, the Publicity committee decided to give a quarterly newsletter a go. The idea is to list some of our events, a few words from the vicar, and perhaps a comment or two from members of the congregation. You may not want to stand up in front of everyone, but we can hear you this way instead.

The issues over the year will run from January to March for the *Winter* edition, from April to June for the *Spring* edition, from July to September

for the *Summer* edition and from October to December for the *Autumn* edition.

In "Forthcoming Events" please note that the contact for Fundraising events is Kalah Woods (contact on 07772 728277). Please let her know if you have any suggestions how to raise funds for All Saints, or comments regarding current activities. Kalah will be happy to help.

I have highlighted selected events that might be of special interest for individuals, as well as for families.

Please give me your feedback so that I get an idea of your thoughts on this project.

Thank you. ✝

P.s.: Use any spare area here to doodle, rather than play on your mobile gadgets during service... - You can get (colouring) pencils from the wardens at the door!

Impressions on the Pilgrimage to Walsingham

From our website



"England's Nazareth"

Since the story of this place begins in the 11th century, long before Henry VIII decided to split, the Shrine of *Our Lady of Walsingham* gives fascination to all Christians in England, be it of catholic or Anglican background.

As the congregation of All Saints' Church, Southend, is also drawn to this landmark in Christian Faith, we have our own corner in the Lady Chapel dedicated to Our Lady. This has last year (August 2016) been enhanced by an updated version of a copy of the statue that is displayed at the Shrine in Walsingham.

Some quotes from our regular church-goers:

"A place where you can worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness and it is easy to enjoy a deeper reverence praise. The *Norton Café Bar* is good, too !!" (Cheryl Hall)

"A thin line on the horizon, where Heaven and Earth are very close together." (Penny Alexander)



Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13, 1-23)

Margaret Henning, 16th July 2017

- I wonder how many of you are good gardeners?
- Who manages to grow flowers well in their gardens?
- Who manages to grow vegetables well?
- What is your secret?

I like to grow vegetables in some beds in my garden. Sometimes I am more successful than others. But if I want a good crop I know that I have to prepare the soil well, feed it with compost from the garden and I also dig in some manure. I have noticed over the years that the soil has improved.

How do I know? For one thing, there are far more worms in the soil and they look big and healthy. The texture of the soil feels better too. But I also have to look after the plants well. - This year I planted some spinach. You remember how dry it was in the spring. All my water butts were empty and I had to use the tap water. However I did not give the spinach enough water and it all bolted and was useless. Maybe if the soil had held the water better I would not have had this problem, but I have been trying to improve the drainage on what was heavy clay. - This came to mind when I was thinking about the gospel for today. The sower went out to sow.....

Jesus reminds us that the quality of the plant that grew depended on the type of soil that they landed in. For the crop to grow the soil needed to be good, and the plants had not to be choked by weeds. So I wondered whether this is a lesson to us.

Perhaps we might be tempted to say, if people come to our church for a while and seem to be growing but then drop off, or seem to have some problem in growing in their faith, do we just put it down to the seed having been sown in unsuitable soil? Is that fair? Are we blaming them for dropping off?

It can always be a good excuse for us. And if we have problems with our faith where do we look for help? Jesus gave us the example of the sower sowing and the differing soils that could be taken as different types of people.

Then again, I am sure you know the effort that has to be put into the soil if we are to grow a good crop. And this applies to us in our own personal relationship with God, but also the soil that is the church here that should

be enabling us to be fed (feed the soil) to allow us to grow roots deep in our relationship with God.

Do we expect this just to happen or does it take some effort on our part?

If we just turn up to church Sunday by Sunday, or even on a Sunday when nothing else gets in the way is this sufficient? Certainly the church should provide an environment that will help us to grow but we too have to play our part. How aware are you of what is going on during the service? Are you praying your way through the service or just being a spectator? In a church like this we can allow ourselves just to watch what is going on, or we can allow ourselves to be drawn into the prayer and worship that is going on so that we find a greater awareness of God and what Jesus does for us in our lives. We can be drawn into the worship of the whole company of heaven and our prayers lift us up. Of course there are times when we are more aware of God than others for we are all human, but we come here to be fed, strengthened and healed in our relationship with God. And, of course, we can gain so much more if we come properly prepared, if we have worked on the soil and tried to do some weeding. Do you look at the Bible readings for the day before you come to church? Somehow God can seem to speak to us more clearly: we are more able to hear what he has to say to us, if we have prepared to come in this way. The Eucharistic prayer reminds us ever more deeply of what Jesus did for us, how he gives himself to us, and then we come up to receive him in the bread and wine, the food for our journey to God.

But we know, do we not, that this is not all of it. When we pray, and I am sure that you do pray at other times than when we come into church, we are drawn closer to God. When we read our Bibles, seek to learn more about our faith, perhaps read about the lives of some of the saints or some other books that can inspire our faith, all these things prepare the soil for our roots to grow deeper.

The church as a whole has a responsibility in this too. How are people to learn, if there are not people here prepared to teach them and guide them on their journey? So it is our individual lives working together in the church that help people to grow in their faith. We all have something to give, whether it is by our faithful worship, by our help to others and by our prayers, all these feed the soil in which we all grow.

And soil needs to rest too. So we must ensure that we take time to rest, time to relax with God and not just be busy doing.

Recent Experiences

Our **Craft and Collectables Fair** in August was quite a sight – especially preparing the church just after the Sunday morning service to be ready for the setup of tables on Monday. Despite the event taking place in the middle of the holidays, we had a good turnout and managed to re-arrange our storage space in the cupboard.

At the traditional **Fireworks Party at Penny's** we had a good mix of the congregation attending, and a pretty and well managed display by our expert pyro-technicians Mike and Lyn Bunclark.

Two weeks later we had a **Cope and Mitre** at Kalah and Andrew's house where our tummies were trained in preparation for the advent season (more food to come, at more parties).

The **Christmas Fair** at the beginning of December saw a really good turnout – I ran out of “Posh-dogs” ... and late comers had to contend with simple Hotdogs. The sum raised was close to £900, which in these times of tight wallets is quite an achievement.

A group of the congregation made a **Spectacular Trip to Thursford** the following week and my (the editor's) understanding is that they had a very enjoyable time.

By the time we had our own **Carols by Candlelight** with **Christingles** the vicar had performed seven (!) Christingle services during the previous ten days, courtesy of a request from Porters Grange Primary School. At our own someone might have heard an angel singing that evening, just that she had no wings and was standing firmly next to the piano.

And then there was **Christmas**... unfortunately it collided with the day of the 4th Advent, which meant that this year I could not play my traditional role as a King (from as far as across the Channel). Nevertheless, we had a good number of people attending the **Midnight Mass** and a happy welcoming of the Blessed New-born Jesus. †

 **Do you know your church?**

1) What model plane is in the window near the WWI & II memorial?

2) Where do you find this figure (hiding)?



3) How many instruments are depicted in the main window in the Lady Chapel?

4) How many instruments are depicted in all the windows in the Lady Chapel?

5) Name three functions / jobs of the servers who are supporting the vicar during the Sunday service:



Organisations providing services using the Hall ...

(list not exhaustive)

- Uniformed Organisation
- Young Families Group
- Humpty Dumpty Pre-School
- Miller School of Dancing
- Indian Orthodox Church
- Art Group for people with MH issues

For more information please contact Fr. Neil or Dean Prasad.



Services to the Community

Sunday Service and Young Church, followed by Coffee and chat

Mid-week Eucharist, followed by Coffee and chat

Monday – Thursday evening, Compline

Highlights of the Year (2018)

Services will take place on the nearest Sunday

- | | | | |
|---|--------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| ➤ | Jan-06 | Saturday | Epiphany |
| ➤ | Feb-02 | Friday | Candlemas |
| ➤ | Feb-14 | Wednesday | Ash Wednesday |
| ➤ | Mar-25 | Sunday | Palm Sunday |
| ➤ | Mar-29 | Thursday | Maundy Thursday |
| ➤ | Apr-01 | Sunday | Easter Sunday (No joke!) |
| ➤ | May-10 | Thursday | Ascension Day |
| ➤ | May-20 | Sunday | Pentecost |
| ➤ | May-27 | Sunday | Trinity Sunday |
| ➤ | May-31 | Thursday | Corpus Christi |
| ➤ | Aug-15 | Wednesday | Assumption of Mary |
| ➤ | Nov-01 | Thursday | All Saints' Day |
| ➤ | Dec-08 | Saturday | Feast of the Immaculate Conception |



Who doesn't like chocolate?

Tina Seckleman, our *The Children's Society* representative at All Saints Church, hosts her famous Chocolate Parties in support of *The Children's Society*.

There was a party in November 2017 and there will soon be another, where you can get goodies large and small in quality chocolate and support a good cause.



Find more information about the good work of this organisation online at <http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk>, or ask Tina.



Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham 3rd & 4th March 2018

To secure your place,
please give your **£20** deposit
to Penny Alexander.

Contact Penny on **01702 464997** or email her at
pennyalex@blueyonder.co.uk



January

Mon 1st	12md onwards	New Year's Day Starters and Puddings lunch and walk (for those interested)
Tue 9th	7.30pm	DCC Meeting
Sun 21st	11am - 2pm	Table sale
Sun 29th	10am	Candlemas

March

Sat 3rd	10.30am	Stations of the Cross
Sat 3rd	Weekend	Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham
Sun 4th	Weekend	Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham
Tue 13th	7.30pm	DCC Meeting
Sat 17th	10.30am	Stations of the Cross
Sat 24th	10.30am	Stations of the Cross
Sun 25th	after 10am service	Annual District Church meeting
Mon 26th	6pm	Holy Week Eucharist
Tue 27th	6pm	Holy Week Eucharist
Wed 28th	6pm	Holy Week Eucharist
Thu 29th	5.30pm	Parish Passover Supper
Thu 29th	8pm	Maundy Thurs Eucharist with washing of feet followed by the Vigil until midnight
Fri 30th	11.30am	Stations of the Cross followed by Good Friday lunch and workshops
Fri 30th	2pm	Liturgy of Good Friday
Sat 31st	8pm	Service of Light

Please contact Kalah, our Fundraising manager, (on 07772 728277) to let her know of any suggestions, comments and feedback.



NASC! – Newsletter of the **All Saints' Church**,

1 Sutton Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 5PA, a Member Church of
The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Southend (-on-Sea)

Vicar: Rev'd. Neil Paxton

(CofE: 608373 8/373) - Winter/2018se1

Officers of All Saints Church - we are serving you ...

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>(preferred) Contact</u>
Vicar:	Fr. Neil Paxton	 01702 307518
Wardens:	Lin Silverman	 07944 329882
	Andrew Woods	 01702 308964
Use of Thomas Smith Hall	Dean Prasad	 07721 022077
Pastoral Assistant	Penny Alexander	 01702 464997
Evangelist	Cheryl Hall	 01702 213793
Young Church Leader	Kalah Woods	 07772 728277
Fundraising Committee Contact:	Kalah Woods	 07772 728277
	Cyndy Strange	 01702 586954
Editor:	Stefan Eichenseher	webmaster@allsaints-southend.org.uk

www.allsaints-southend.org.uk

Check for updates on the weekly Notice sheets!

Closing date for the **Spring 2018** edition (April – June) is on **1 March 2018**.

Please give any contribution(s) to Stefan (or send by email).

The Editor reserves the right to edit contributions for reasons of space, clarity or libel.

Service Times

Sunday	10 am	Eucharist and Young Church
Monday	5:30 pm	Evening Prayer (Compline)
Tuesday	5:30 pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday	9:30 am	Eucharist
	5:30 pm	Evening Prayer
Thursday	5:30 pm	Evening Prayer
Saturday	9 am	Indian Orthodox Church, every 2nd Saturday of the month

www.facebook.com/AllSaintsChurchSouthend