

NASC!

Autumn 2018



All Saints Church

The Church by the Roundabout!

{The educational bit}

Harvest Festival is a celebration that occurs around the time of the main harvest. In Britain, thanks have been given for successful harvests since pagan times. Harvest festival, also known as Harvest Home, Harvest

Thanksgiving or Harvest Festival of Thanksgiving, is traditionally celebrated on the Sunday nearest Harvest Moon, the full Moon that occurs closest to the autumn equinox (22 or 23 September). The celebrations on this day could include hymns celebrating the gift of harvest, prayers of thanks, and decorating churches with baskets of fruit and food. Today, it is often also associated with collecting food to give to charities

to the
occurs



 **word word word word**

4 words from the Editor

So, I had recently an enquiry on this newsletter: Its existence should be more publicly mentioned in the notices, and the request for others to write articles.

Well, I obviously have to tell Mother Phyllis to put it on the News sheet. Whether the other churches are keen has to be seen.

Please check out the "Recent Experiences" on page 11 and think how you would do a better job, if you did put your mind to it.

There are several "projects" in the making. If you would like to help and/or volunteer for any of these, please contact their organisers.

Please give me your feedback, so that I get an idea of your thoughts on this newsletter. The next one is due to come out in December.

Thank you. ✚

P.s.: Use any spare area on page 10 to doodle, rather than play on your mobile gadgets during service... - You can get (colouring) pencils from the wardens at the door!

**WW1 - 100 years since
Armistice Day**

4pm - 7pm

Saturday, 10th November 2018

"All quiet at the Western Front"

The screening of this authentic film is followed
by reminiscing & information
on All Saints Church and life at the time

Details to follow nearer the time on the weekly Newsletter.

Vicar's Update - Seasonal Thought

Every year at All Saints we celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of our Lord Jesus. Each year we seek to think of a different aspect of Mary, her life or depiction, either in terms of theology or symbolism. Of course, there is no clear separation between symbolism and theology, as each underpins the other.

This year with the help of a presentation from Paul Seckleman we considered the colour Blue, most commonly used in representing the Virgin Mary. There are clearly different shades of blue, which have been used. To some extent the shade used would be dictated by what was available, but also by the emphasis of the attribute to be given to her. One of Mary's most important titles is the "Queen Of Heaven". This is intended to reflect what took place at the Annunciation, when the Archangel Gabriel came to Mary to say she would give birth to God's Son. Blue is the colour of Heaven; thus blue became associated with Mary in the mind of the church and in depictions of her in pictures or icons. A darker blue was a colour associated with the "Mother of the Emperor" of Rome and following the conversion of Constantine The Great to Christianity this darker blue was also used for Mary. Another association with blue comes from the Old Testament and from a title of Jesus as "The Word of God". In the Old Testament the word of God given to Moses in the 10 Commandments was contained in the Ark of the Covenant. This was by tradition covered with a blue cloth. Thus Mary, sometimes also titled the "Ark of God", because she contained Jesus for a time within her body, was further associated with blue.

Blue was also a very expensive colour to produce. So the use of it in pictures, etc., was an indication that what and who it was used to represent was important.

So the symbolic value of the colour blue is significant. But for the sake of balance it is important to remember the earliest predominant colour of Mary was Red, which was a reference to her humanity, essential to the idea of Jesus as truly God from the Spirit and truly human from Mary; and this belief is at the absolute centre of our salvation, (That may be for another year). Amen.

Your Vicar,

Rev'd. Neil Paxton †

Curry & Quiz Night



*The Thomas Smith Hall
@ All Saints Church*

*1 Sutton Road, SS2 5PA
(The Church by the Roundabout)*

Saturday, 15 September 2018
at 7.30pm

Tickets £9 from Helen on 07791 762806

Please Bring Your Own Drinks

*All proceeds in aid of
All-Year-Round Night Shelter for the Homeless*

Sermon on the feast day of Mary Magdalene

By Fr Neil Paxton, All Saints Church, Southend, 22 July 2018

Some of us will recall the film starring Kirk Douglas (this is Kirk, not Michael), when he played the role of the rebellious Roman slave Spartacus.

Eventually the Roman state suppressed the rebellion and Spartacus (Kirk Douglas) and those of his supporters, who had survived the battle. The intent of the state was to execute the leaders of the rebellion in Spartacus by crucifixion. In the film it showed a scene where the rebels were induced give up Spartacus to save themselves. After a due period of time, when no one said anything K.D. stood up surveying the scene and declared "I am Spartacus", a second after another stood up and said: "I am Spartacus." and so it went on; they were all claiming to be Spartacus.

The Roman state being above all pragmatic solved the problem by crucifying all the Spartacuses.

By now some must be wondering, why is he going on about Spartacus? He said he was going to talk about Mary Magdalene.

Well, there is a connection. I - like the scriptures - often I do have used analogies telling one story. Identifying the "real Mary Magdalene" is a bit like identifying Spartacus:

Mary Magdalene is in all the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We need to remember they were written 30 - 60 years after the resurrection of Jesus from a combination of written sources and memories ... (Who remembers Little Red Riding Hood? Most of us will not have heard or read it for a long while, but we could make a good fit of telling it.)

So far, so good, however Mary was a popular name at the time [listing some Mary's] - Possibly the commonly identified Mary Magdalene in Bethany, when washing Jesus' feet with her hair; or possibly the woman caught in adultery. Gregory the Great (4th/5th Century) identified her as a repentant prostitute, an identity that she has been most strongly associated with for the bulk of the last 1,500 years.

Much wider speculation has emerged in the 20th and 21st century from the pen of Dan Brown and others that she may even have been Jesus' wife. The weight of modern academic thought is that. There has been confusion deliberate or otherwise over the person of Mary - perpetrated

by the church authorities for hundreds of years - because they wanted to sustain male authority in the church, and the priesthood. Mary Magdalene, we know, was central in the scriptures of the few who stayed at the foot of the cross, and the first to go to the tomb of Christ, and the first to whom the resurrected Christ was revealed. This speaks at least potentially of the Equality of regard or importance the resurrected Christ had for both women and men.

And that certainly did not fit with the dominant view of the 4th/5th Century or anytime until the late 20th Century, when gender equality became more real.

Modern academics have tended to argue that Mary Magdalene was a strong and independent woman, possibly of some means. (We can detect a group of salient women around the Jesus movement - perhaps particularly in Acts.) If Mary Magdalene was the woman who bathed Jesus' feet, it was as we are told with an expensive oil. So the theory goes she must have had money to afford it.

With all these views, past and current I have only scratched the surface of who Mary Magdalene is. Have these been helpful in identifying a distant person?

I believe the controversy reveals more about us as a society than it does of her. In the macho-male dominated culture of the past it was unhelpful to have such a predominant woman figure at the head of the Gospel (we have the Virgin Mary, Jesus' mother, of course - but it tended to be her obedience to God, which is stressed as her main role, purpose or model for other women).

So the writing down of Mary Magdalene as a follower (albeit repentant prostitute) liberal feminists would argue was helpful in reducing and limiting her role or perceived role in the early church and - by inference - the potential role of women in general in the church and to debar them from leadership.

Of course the revers is also true, that is, promoting the role of Mary Magdalene is giving a biblical blessing associated with Jesus and thus a fuller more equal role for women in the leadership of the church than was common in earlier centuries.

What surprises me somewhat is that for Mary progressive liberals still get hung up on the reputed prostitute issue. Can the two not be square? Can not Mary Magdalene be a great symbol for men and women, in that because of the presence of Jesus in her life she

changed her ways she reputed, and was accepted by Christ as a strong and determined woman/human being. If she had a prominent role in the early church, does it not tell us that the church around Christ was perceptibly more open, accepting and less judgmental about what we were in our pre-Christian life. Then must we not be in our lives filled with Christ?

Whatever she was before Jesus is less important for us than who she was in Christ, setting an example of the salvation open to us all, if we but accept it.

So let's give thanks for the example of Mary Magdalene and all the Marys in the scriptures, prostitutes or paragons, who lived for Christ; and for his message of salvation.

Amen.



Didn't we have a lovely time at the Summer Fair?

by Nicola Jeffery

A big thank you to all the visitors and three cheers to everyone involved in the planning and running of the All Saints Summer Fair, which proved to be a great success. The Fair raised a fantastic record sum of over £950.

There was a great atmosphere with everyone, young and old, enjoying themselves. I loved the 'smash the crockery' stall finding it very therapeutic. The toy tombola was popular and I saw one toddler's face beaming when she was presented with a giraffe teddy bear.

To me the event was a perfect example of why I love coming to All Saints. It has real community spirit.

Looking forward to the next one!



Major Church Project - Update

Finally, in mid-July the Meeting Room was finished. This meant that we could hang our servers' and the vicar's garments back into the wardrobes, which now have been relocated to the back of the meeting room. In turn this freed the access to the Lady Chapel. After weeks of Wednesday worship in front of the High Altar, the small mid-weekly congregation is back in its usual place.

Andrew got a special area for his flower arranging material with a shelved cupboard, and a heavy door to hide it all.

The next part of the project is our Prayer Labyrinth in the church garden, which has started in the third week of August and should be finished before the winter. 

Fundraising – the constant consideration

from our website

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Make a donation to *All Saints' Major Project Fund*
- Set up a regular standing order to All Saints' Church, Southend
- Request a box containing 52 envelopes for weekly donations
- Consider any of our other fundraising opportunities, such as *Bag-a-Brick* - £2 for a brick to mark a special event or anniversary.
- Come along to our fundraising events throughout the year - details on our notice boards and website.
- **Promote your business with an advert in NASC!**
- Consider including All Saints' Church, Southend, in your will.

Please make cheques payable to "**All Saints' Parish Church Daisy Brown Fund**", or donate via the PayPal Donate button on the website.

For standing orders, weekly donations and Bag-a-Brick or, if you would like more information, please contact our Treasurer Penny Alexander on 01702 464997 or treasurer@allsaints-southend.org.uk

Also, "All Saints Church" pens are available from Penny for £1. 

Note, highly sought-after pens, with low availability in certain colours, may fetch up to 100% more, when sold on the "*Black Market*" within the church.

The Tom Smith Hall -Availability

**Would you like to use our Church Hall
on a regular basis
for your choir practice, dance group,
meeting, activity session, club, etc.?**

We have the following times available:

Tuesdays	4.30pm – 11pm
Wednesdays	2.30pm – 11pm
Thursdays	4.30pm – 11pm
Fridays	5.00pm – 6.30pm
Saturdays	9.00am – 12.30pm

Please phone...

Dean Prasad, Hall Manager, 07721 022077

or

Penny Alexander, Treasurer, 01702 464997

or

Revd Neil Paxton, Team Vicar, 01702 307518

...to discuss facilities, costs and times.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Can't get to grips with your finances? Don't know to how much all your bills add up? Want to know the money left to spend without going into debt? Need help completing your Self-Assessment Return online?

There's help for your Bookkeeping: contact Stefan (your NASC! editor) on 07503 163469 for a confidential discussion.

Breakfast at All Saints

The Thomas Smith Hall, 1 Sutton Road, SS2 5PA

Free

Continental Breakfast

(Donations appreciated)

Tuesdays, 8am – 11am

Cooked Breakfast



£2

(incl tea & coffee)



**From 25th
September
2018**

Enquiries to Helen @ 07791 762806

Recent Experiences

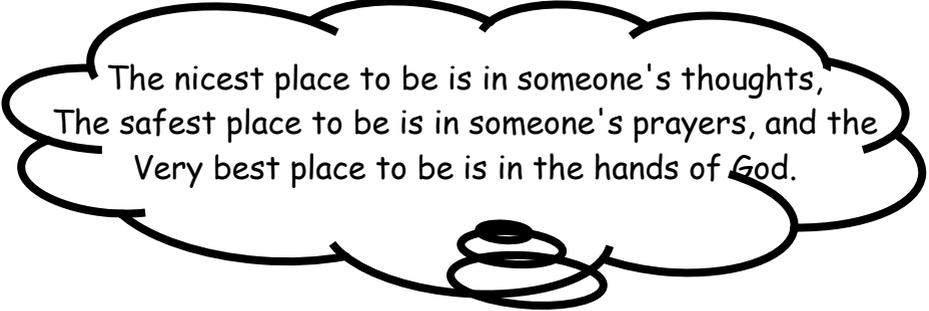
Nicola wrote a few words on the **Summer Fair**, which took place on 23rd June this year, see page 7.

Our **Meeting Room** is finished with a nice carpet. Also rearranging the old wooden wardrobes meant that we could return the Lady Chapel to its original purpose, after it had been used as a substitute vestry during the refurbishment.

Prayer Labyrinth vs Resident Homeless - Taking Matthew 25:35 too literally can create some sort of a dilemma: when keeping the Resident Homeless in place is obstructing the establishment of a church-dedicated element that should enhance the spiritual value of the building. Constructing the **Prayer Labyrinth** was for a time a source of discussion between the supporters of God's work in person, and those who wish to see God's house enhanced for community use.

With prayer and consultation our Pastoral Assistants managed to get our friend into a home provided by Family Mosaic. And, at time of print, the reshaping of the church garden is underway.

The **Celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary** saw a regular crowd of followers walking round the block. In All Saints Church traditionally four women carry the statue of St Mary in a procession around the church. The statue had, once again, been beautifully decorated by Andrew Hall, our Master Ikebana-florist.



The nicest place to be is in someone's thoughts,
The safest place to be is in someone's prayers, and the
Very best place to be is in the hands of God.

Odds 'n' sods for a laugh ...

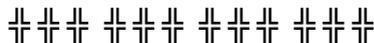
By the Ed.

A wartime young curate with army lieutenant status was recalled for a refresher course at the end of the Second World War.

He didn't want to go, so he sent a telegram to the War Office:

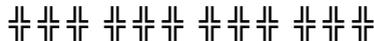
"Regret unable to comply. See Luke's Gospel chapter 14:20. I have married a wife and cannot come"

The reply came back: See Matthew's Gospel 8:9, "I am a man under authority having soldiers under me: I say to this one 'Go' and he goeth; and to another, 'Come' and he commeth." So come.



The vicar and the curate were enjoying their Friday night drink at their 'local'. The vicar bought the first pint (how unusual!), and after they had finished, the curate said: "Your glass is empty. Would you like another?"

"And what would I be wanting with two empty glasses?" complained the vicar.



The vicar was giving a 'Fire and Brimstone' sermon, and promised his listeners, "There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth!"

A terrified lady in the congregation protested: "But I have no teeth!"

The vicar replied, "Teeth will be provided."



A bricklayer, a carpenter and an electrician argued about who was on the Earth first.

"We built the Pyramids of Giza," said the bricklayer.

"We built Noah's Ark before that," claimed the carpenter.

"On the first day of Creation," said the electrician, "God said, 'Let there be light.' We had already laid the cables!"

It was the curate who set the argument straight. "Before the world evolved," he said, "there was chaos. So politicians were probably the first to grace the world."





*The Thomas Smith Hall
@ All Saints Church*

*1 Sutton Road, SS2 5PA
(The Church by the Roundabout)*

Fridays, 2.30pm – 4.30pm

From September 21, 2018

£5 (including Tea and Cake)

Keep Dancing !!

*Contact Helen on 07791 762806,
or Stefan via post4stefan2009@gmail.com*



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✍ Current Requests on the Prayerboard

For "Thanksgiving"

All those starting / returning to school/college, etc. // Leo & Isla,
anniversary of baptism (7th August) // Keith in his new home // Mike &
Fatima Wedding // all our young people who have passed their exams

For "Those in Need"

Helen, Jackie Paul's daughter from St Alban's // George Wiseman,
Chris & Nigel // Andy & Julie Kundomal // Charlie & Derek // Pauline
Offield // Dennis Ward & wife Kay & his family // Camille & Sonny // Vera
Holland // the people of Kerala // Finisha & Jeesha // Gerald // Heather
having treatment for cancer // Kalah // Ann // Cheryl Hall // Diane Bates
// Rachael & Trevor

For "R.I.P."

Lilian Wright (2008) // Jim Bates (6.8.2018) // Norman Offield (2018) //
Robert Jefferey (30.08.1992) // David Wright // Molly Dixon // Mum of
Malcolm on her 10th anniversary // Silvia Walmsley

You may use your own prayer or use the following

AVE MARIA
GRATIA PLENA DOMINUS TECUM

My soul glorifies the Lord, #
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her lowliness; #
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me. #
Holy is his name!
His mercy is from age to age, #
on those who fear him.

He puts forth his arm in strength #
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones #
and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things, #
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant, #
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers, #
to Abraham and his sons for ever.



Have you any prayer requests?

Please come and share them with us at All Saints Church.

Welcome to Prayer & Cake (both free)

*First Saturday of each month,
from 10.30 – 11.30am*

Beginning on Saturday, 6th October; lead by Cheryl

 **Do you know your church?**

- 1) Which Saint has a white cat at her feet?

- 2) Where do you find this person (hiding)?



- 3) What month and year were the chandeliers in the main nave installed?

- 4) Name at least 4 (still alive) Saints in our church with glasses.



<p><u>Results from last issue:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1) 18 June 18892) On the right at the entrance to the Lady Chapel3) Walker & Son4) St Francis, St Cecilia, St Michael, St Gabriel, St Maria Magdalene



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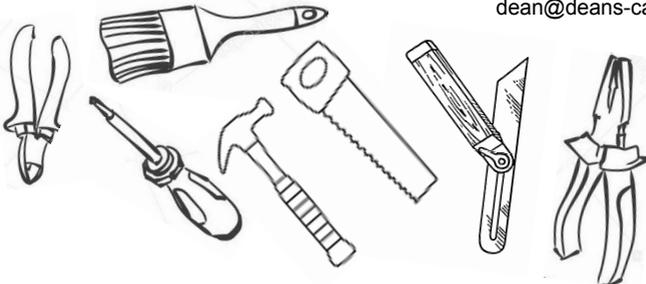
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NASC! – Newsletter of the **All Saints' Church**,

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) - Autumn/2018se4

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	Andrew Woods	 01702 308964
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Pastoral Assistant (Parish)	Penny Alexander	 01702 464997
Pastoral Assistant (All Saints)	Helen Rhodes	 07791 762806
Evangelist & Baptism Co-ordinator	Cheryl Hall	 01702 213793
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www.allsaints-southend.org.uk

Check for updates on the weekly Notice sheets!

Closing date for the **Winter 2018** edition (Dec – Feb) is on **11 November**.

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
Tuesday	5:30 pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday	9:30 am	Eucharist
	5:30 pm	Compline
Thursday	5:30 pm	Evening Prayer
Saturday	9 am	Indian Orthodox Church, every 2nd Saturday of the month

www.facebook.com/AllSaintsChurchSouthend



Forthcoming Events

SEPTEMBER		
Sat 1 st	11 - 3pm	Charity Afternoon
Sat 15 th	7.30pm	Curry & Quiz Night
Tue 25 th	8 – 11am	Start of weekly <i>Free Breakfast</i> in the Hall
OCTOBER		
Sat 6 th	17:30 for 6	Parish Harvest Supper
Sat 20 th	7 for 7.30pm	Quiz Night
Sat 27 th	11am - 1pm	Jumble Sale
Sun 28 th	10am	All Saints Day Celebrations
NOVEMBER		
Fri 9 th	6pm	Fireworks at Penny's
Sat 3 rd	7 for 7.30pm	WW1 - Sing-Along Commemoration
Sat 10 th	4.30 – 7.30pm	WW1 - 100 years since Armistice Day
		Screening of "All quiet at the Western Front"
Sun 11 th	10am	Remembrance Sunday
Sat 17 th	7 for 7.30pm	Cope and Mitre
Sun 25 th	after 10am service	Christmas Tree Decorating Teaparty with Children
DECEMBER		
Sat 1 st	11am - 2pm	Christmas Fair
Sun 23 rd	10am	Nativity Play
Sun 23 rd	6pm	Carols by Candlelight with Christingles
Mon 24 th	11pm	Midnight Mass
Tue 25 th	10am	Christmas Communion

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