



# NASC!

Winter 2019



## All Saints Church

*The Church by the Roundabout!*

{The educational bit}

The *Advent wreath*, or Advent crown, is a Christian tradition that symbolises the passage of the four weeks of Advent in the liturgical calendar of the Western church. It is traditionally a Lutheran practice, now taken up by many other Christian denominations.

It is usually a horizontal evergreen wreath with four candles, sometimes with a fifth, white candle in the centre. Beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, the lighting of a candle can be accompanied by devotional prayers and readings. An additional candle is lit during each subsequent week.

There are four different candles, for us to reflect on Hope, Peace, Love and Joy, and a fifth to celebrate the true light that is Jesus Christ in the world.



 **word word word word**

*4 words from the Editor*

Whoahey, 60 issues printed and all gone four weeks before the new one is out. If this isn't a good sign of popularity?

Well, I'm still lacking contributions: it's one thing to announce "I will sort something" and another to say "here you are!" Obviously I'd prefer the latter; and it doesn't matter whether it's grammatically correct or not, I'll sort that – latest my proof-reader will.

"Projects in the making" I announced in the last issue: the Free Breakfasts every Tuesday morning see a regular crowd attending (see p15). The Tea Dance is quite nice, but not really well attended. A Christmas Special advert in the Echo should draw more attention.

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 16 to doodle, rather than play on your mobile gadgets during service... - You can get (colouring) pencils from the wardens at the door!

## **Christmas at All Saints**

**Christmas Fair – 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Carols & Christingles – 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Nativity Play – 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Midnight Mass – 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Day Free Breakfast**

**& Christmas Day Free Lunch – 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Details to follow nearer the time on the weekly Newsletter.**

## Vicar's Update – Season's Greetings

**Happy New Year** to you all! The first Sunday of Advent is when the Church New Year begins four weeks before Christmas. Yet shops and even the High Street have had stock and decorations up for weeks or months. We as a community, even as individuals, have lost a sense of time, of "Seasonality", if you will. We are familiar with the four weather seasons, where different things happen "naturally" in the world around us. The Church has its seasons when it expresses different times and moods in its yearly life. The two we are concerned with now are Advent and Christmas. *Christmas* actually starts on the 25th of December. I am not being the Grinch for, if we keep to the season, we have six weeks after Christmas Day to celebrate up to *Candlemas*.

Here on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> November, with Bishop John presiding we marked *Christ the King*, the end of the Church year, to remind us of the majesty of Christ in heaven, so we may contrast that with the little child to be born to Mary for us: *Advent* (sometimes called Mary's Lent). The colour of Lent is shared with Advent; purple is to encourage a reflective mood to remind us that Jesus is given for us: not for Gods advantage, but for our salvation so that God's love pours out on us in the gift of the Christ Child. Advent is a period of preparation so we are ready to celebrate the joy of this birth.



I am sure all parents know that the birth of a new child changes them. May our remembrance of Christ's birth this Advent and Christmas change us all in positive ways. Merry Christmas when it comes!

Your Vicar,

**Rev'd. Neil Paxton** †

**Breakfast at All Saints**  
*The Thomas Smith Hall, 1 Sutton Road, SS2 5PA*

**Free**  
**Christmas Lunch**  
**Christmas Day**

*Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December*

*from 2pm*



**Turkey with**

**All the Trimmings!!**



*supported by*  
*"Off the Street"*

*(Donations appreciated)*

*Enquiries to Helen @ 07791 762806*



## **Sermon on a House divided**

*By Margaret Henning, Stambridge, 10th June 2018*

If a kingdom is divided against itself that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself; that house will not be able to stand.

I wonder how you feel when you read or listen to the news about this country. When you see the Conservative party arguing amongst itself about what they are trying to achieve, do you want to hold your hands up in despair? When you listen to the Labour party trying to decide their policy on Brexit, does that not seem much the same?

Whatever your position on Brexit, and I am not trying to choose sides here, I am sure that you can see some of the deep divisions there are over it.

Perhaps you read some of the comments in the newspapers, read the various posts on Facebook or Twitter do you feel that no-one is happy about the direction this country is going in? Hard Brexit, soft Brexit or no Brexit ... it all seems to me to be a complete shambles.

I must admit that I have some sense of sympathy when we hear comments that, if the negotiators had a clear idea of what they were trying to achieve, there might at least be some more progress in negotiations.

The government ministers keep speaking out against each other and it seems to me that scoring points over the infighting is taking precedence over leading this country.

This seems to be a good example of how a house divided against itself cannot stand. How can anyone achieve anything good, if there is not some consensus about what it is we are trying to do.

Then we look at all that is going on over the G7 summit, relationships on and off between the US and North Korea, the relationships with the Soviet Union. All those who used to work and try to pull together in the hope of doing some good seem to be tearing themselves apart.

Of course, we have seen divisions in the church over many years and the infighting that has resulted has not been good for the image of the Church or its mission.

At least these days it is a lot better than it was. We are no longer fighting a civil war over it or burning people at the stake because they are Protestant/Catholic. While there are many splits, churches work together far better than they did even in my youth. We may not agree

on finer points of doctrine, but we can at least rub along with each other with a shared purpose.

Is the trouble that we all like to believe that we are right and can be unwilling to accept compromises, or even that we may be wrong? Is this not all a part of human nature?

For the Jews of Jesus' time there were divisions and arguments there. The tensions between the Scribes and the Pharisees come across clearly at times, but they united in arguing with Jesus. Supposedly all were on the side of God, or thought they were, but somehow when Jesus, as God, came to tell them about God they ganged up against him. They were unable to hear what God was saying to them and so were dividing the Jews from God, though they could not see it. Jesus had attracted a large group of followers and was performing miracles and teaching about God in a way that they were not prepared to listen to. His message of love went against their adherence to rules.

In an attempt to put Jesus down they try to ascribe all that he is doing to the devil, so Jesus points out the illogicality of this. If they can pass it off as not being of God, then they have a reason not to listen to him.

I believe that this is why, when we have to make decisions about things, we should surround ourselves with prayer. It is by listening to God and to one another, not trying to impose our own preconceptions that we can come together in our decision making.

If, in our own families, we have to make a decision that affects all, is it not better that we listen to one another and come to a consensus. If not, we can tear the family apart: some people are hurt, offended, or accept the decision with resentment that can spill over later.

So when we have to make decisions, whether in our own lives or as a community, is it not necessary to try to agree a common purpose by listening with an open mind to others. And since we are all trying to follow in the way that God would have us go, we must always strive to listen to Him, through prayer, bible reading and listening to others. All these things can help us to make the right decisions. Thus we hold to our love of God and one another that Jesus called us to do.

We all know that, if we do something half-heartedly, perhaps because we are not sure that it is the right thing to do, then the end result is never as good. We are conflicted within ourselves which does not do us any good. If we hold resentment against others with whom we disagree or keep trying to prove ourselves right, where is the love in that?

So whether it is in groups or individually we need to ensure that we are not divided among ourselves, if we hope to achieve our purpose. We must show care for all – especially those with whom we disagree. God demands no less of us.

A House divided against itself cannot stand.

Amen.



## Southend Bach Choir

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Conductor: Colin Edwards

# A Carol Service

(Charity Concert in aid of HARP)

With the Bishop of Chelmsford

**Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December, at 7pm**

St Mary's Church, Prittlewell

Admission is free, but donations, which go exclusively to HARP, Southend's Homeless Charity, would be greatly appreciated.

**Free parking in Roots Hall Car Park (after 6pm)**

Further Information from 01268 772842

**[www.southendbachchoir.org.uk](http://www.southendbachchoir.org.uk)**



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

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.

## **The Tom Smith Hall –Use & Activities**

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9.30am – 1.30pm, **Humpty Dumpty Pre-School**, Enquiries on 07984 879986 for more information about places and times of the nursery.

Mondays, 5pm – 9.30pm, **Uniformed Organisation**, Girls of all ages are coming together in age-specific groups to engage in social and sportive activities; Enquiries to Marion Booth @ 07940 509258

Tuesdays, 8am – 11am, **Breakfast at All Saints**, Free Continental Breakfast (Donations appreciated); Cooked Breakfast £2, (incl. tea / coffee), Enquiries to Helen Rhodes @ 07791 762806

3rd Tuesday each month, 7.30pm -9.30pm, **Earth Keepers Drum Circle**, Enquiries to Gary Langford @ 07952 059802

Fridays, 2.30pm – 4.30pm, **Simply Tea Dancing\***, £5 (including Tea and Cake), Enquiries to Helen Rhodes on 07791 762806, or Stefan post4stefan2009@gmail.com, Facebook @SimplyTeaDancing

At "Simply Tea Dancing" you can join the Dancing or Simply the Tea together with friends and other folk."

\*) **Note:** Following an article in the Echo re a Basildon-based Dance company having been ordered to remove the reference "Strictly" from their name, we decided to change to "Simply Tea Dancing".

"... to avoid encouraging people watching a renowned programme on TV, which could lead them to refraining from doing the exercise themselves."

Fridays, 7.30pm – 9.30pm, **Narcotics Anonymous**, Enquiries to Clair Carter @ 07979 967108

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month, 12pm – 3pm, **Indian-Orthodox Church**, area service for members of this congregation, Enquiries to Fr. Mathew Abraham @ 07787 525273

Sundays, 11am – 1.30pm, **Holy Redeem Church**, Enquiries to Ashish @ 07507 637820

Sundays, 2pm – 4.30pm, **Rhema Church**, Enquiries to Pastor Joseph Nartey @ 07905 410671

## **Ave Maria**

*By Stefan Eichenseher*

I'm not a Mary-fan, as I think, if He says: "I am the way...", there's no point for a round-about. Especially at the point of facing justice the best (IMO only) option is to put up your hands and say, "Yes that was me." But I do understand that in earthly terms there is sometimes the need to ask someone else to step in for a petition.

So I found this (below) in a book that I received from my Dad, called "Youth before God" from 1955. The way that the content was written indicates some quaint approaches, but some of it is, like The Book, "eternal wisdom":

At the side of the street...

sits a beggar. If anyone passes by, he alerts them with a "Good day, Miss ..."

Because you have to flatter the person a little, he adds: "You are so good!"

If she's got a child with her: "What a nice child!"

But then comes immediately: "Please Miss, have mercy!"

He points to a limbed arm: "I'm a cripple..."

And he urges: "For the bread, today ..."

When the coin drops into the hat: "Thank you, Miss! God bless you!"

Before the Mother of God ...

There are other beggars - you, for example.

You too say: "Good day, Miss. - *Hail Mary, Mother of God.*"

And you also add a few conventions: "*You are full of grace ... You are blessed amongst women.*"

Because you know that she's got a child, you stir her heart: "*And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus!*"

You also have something on your mind: "*Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us...*"

And you point towards your vain soul, your weakness, your pride, your unquiet heart, your delusions: "... *wretched sinner ...*"

Your paltriness needs help now: "*now ...*"

And, as you don't know whether you can still pray up to the last moment of your life: "... *and at the hour of our death ...*"

Contemplating the "Hail Mary"-prayer with this introduction makes real life situations much more obvious and brings them into context. It also puts me in the same boat as those for whom the second conversation is near-enough meaningless, as their basic needs need to be met first.

At All Saints Church we have a feeding station three times a week: on Tuesday morning for the Tummy and on Wednesday & Sunday morning for the Soul. And on the other days we can petition the Mother of God to pray for us, and include our neighbour and the (sometimes not-so-obviously) undesirables as well (James 1,27). More of James in another edition. †

**Christianity is bread for daily use; not cake for special occasions.**

### **Notice given for**

Baptisms and Funerals of the past 3 months: September, October, November 2018 (listed as consent given).

#### Baptisms of

- Evie Rose
- Oscar
- Raphael
- Layla-Jae
- Travis
- Tyra

#### Funerals of

- Evelyn Rendell
- Rosemarie Parson



### **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*

lead by Cheryl

## **Major Church Project - Update**

As big impressions go our church has some good examples to give: our meeting rooms are ready for community use, and our Prayer Labyrinth in the church garden is now almost finished. It needs to settle and be sealed to be waterproof, then it will be blessed next year, so it is ready for use. We are so very fortunate to have this labyrinth, designed for us by a renowned expert.

Our church community, and all who seek a little peaceful reflection, will be welcome to come for prayer and meditation. We hope to be able to guide this in a positive way. For those who want to sit and reflect, in the peaceful surroundings of the garden, there will be benches. 

## **Fundraising – the constant consideration**

### **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;
- ... or a *Memorial Plaque* for a loved one (£20) to be attached to the back of a chair in the church.
- 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](mailto:treasurer@allsaints-southend.org.uk)

**New:** "All Saints Church" pens & torches, also available in gift boxes can be obtained at the end of each Sunday service from Elinor from £1.50 – £2.00 (items with/-out gift box) 

## **Recent Experiences**

A motley crowd attended the **Curry & Quiz Night** in September in aid of the Night-shelter for the Homeless in Southend. The event collected nearly £900, including donations.

The traditional **Parish Harvest Supper** saw a conglomerate of the congregations of the four churches gathering to enjoy companionship and food. The reputation of certain chefs preceded them, so you had to book your piece of pie; but not to worry all were fed well.

This last October we had our last **Jumble Sale** (for a while), as cheap clothes can just as well be obtained from charity shops. Also, we do not have the storage area now to keep the “left-overs”. There will be table sales, where people can offer their clothes, but unsold items need to be taken home.

The **Walsingham** pilgrims recalled a very emotional experience, which was only blighted that they could not stay to the very end. Driving home out of the sticks at night is no fun venture.

The **Remembrance Day Celebrations** were a sound success:

- Although the numbers attending the **film-show** were rather low, viewing this particularly poignant work (again, for some) reiterated the senselessness of war and its destructive impact on the people.
- The **100-year Commemoration Party** was certainly worthwhile attending with a range of poetry and song (Elinor accompanied by her dad, Les) relating the times of boisterous adventurism versus the agony of war.

The unexpected appearance of a German in the audience spoilt the mood slightly, as certain banter-like references had to be avoided to prevent upsetting a member of the congregation.

The traditional **Fireworks Party at Penny's** was well attended and a sound (pun intended) success, which received lots of “Aaahs” and “Ooohs” (particularly from one corner).

The **Parish Service for Christ the King** saw half the parish flocking to our church to see the new Bishop John of Bradwell preaching. The party afters was filled with sherry & nibbles to get the secrets flowing of how other folk manage their congregations. 

# All Saints

invites you to a



## Funny Valentine's Ball

Saturday 16 February 2019

at 7.30 pm



### Dinner & Dance

Three-Course Meal, incl. Wine\*

*Black Tie Event\*\**



# £30



Couples, Singles, Groups  
are welcome

Special  
Raffle

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

## Enquiries to Helen @ 07791 762806

\* Limited to two glasses – Bar open for more

\*\* Smart dress code: No Jeans, T-shirts or Trainers

## **Impressions from the Serving Team**

*By Cyndy Strange*

I have been a member of the All Saints Serving Team for quite a few years now, and regard it as a privilege and honour, as well as being a well enjoyable experience.

There are four "jobs" to do:

- acolyte: carrying the candle, receiving communion wine and bread (from the sides people)
- crucifer: carrying the cross and receiving the collection plates
- thurifer: swinging the incense (which goes up to God with our prayers)
- M.C. (Master of Ceremony), who keep the whole service running smoothly.

Although we all take it seriously, there are quite a few laughs behind the scenes, an odd joke now and then, and lots of fun.

We have had a number of accidents along the way. Years ago an enthusiastic thurifer swung the thurible right over his head (which incidentally is an art form he did very well), but unfortunately the thurible hit the crucifer on the head. One acolyte set her hair on fire, as the candle flame singed her.

Various burns were noticed in the vestry where the thurible had been dropped, or somehow the charcoal had escaped. Some of the vestments have little burn holes too!!

Sometimes we forget things, or do them in the wrong order (usually when Andrew isn't there to help us) but "the show must go on" and we just hope it won't be noticed by too many people!!!

All in all I feel that serving is a very important part of our Church life, and hope to do it for many years to come. 

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.

## **Free Breakfast on Tuesday mornings**

*By Helen Rhodes*

Ok, how did the Breakfasts come about? Good question - and one I'm still asking myself. There was a meeting with Father Neil and a couple of others and Father Neil asked me what I would like to do and it just came out: "Can we do a Free Breakfast at All Saints?" He said yes, and when he said the hall was free on Tuesday mornings, I asked: "When can we start?" "Whenever you like." And so *Free Breakfasts at All Saints* started a couple of weeks later. At the moment we are cooking about 40 breakfasts from 8-11am Tuesday mornings. I am overwhelmed by the support from All Saints and indeed from the parish. Some are donating money, so those who have nothing can enjoy a cooked breakfast of bacon and egg, sausage, mushrooms and beans, as well as toast tea and coffee. Some are donating food, of which obviously we are using more and more, and some their time to cook, wash up, clean and tidy, set up and clear away. Even some of the community, including the homeless folk are helping too, so it's not unusual to see them working side by side with us to help us provide this service to our diverse community. My thanks to everyone who is helping in any way. We are truly blessed.

I am sure you are aware that Christmas Day is on Tuesday this year. So what a blessed opportunity for us at All Saints to arrange a Special *Christmas Breakfast* and also *Christmas Lunch*. We are collecting names of people, who would like to come for lunch. So, if you know of anyone, who is alone on Christmas day, or anyone whose circumstances may prevent them from having a good Christmas lunch, please ask them to come to All Saints. Please let us know who is coming, so we know for how many we are catering. Again, it is a great joy to see so many offering their help: from our church family and also from outside the parish and homeless people.

If you would like to help please do come and see me or text me. If you are lucky enough to be spending Christmas with friends and family and would like to make a donation or give food for the breakfast or lunch, we would be very happy.

Crackers! We would love to have crackers for everyone on the table at our Christmas lunch; so if you are thinking: "Crackers!" - Yes please! Wishing you all the most joyous Christmas, as you enjoy your journey with Christ..



 **Do you know your church?**

1) Which Saint stands on a dragon? \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



3) How many light bulbs are there on all the lower rings of the chandeliers in the main nave?

\_\_\_\_\_

4) What was the name of or sister church in Southchurch Avenue?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



<p><u>Results from last issue:</u> 1) St Cecilia 2) In the left corner at the back behind the font 3) September 2015 4) St Lin, St Stefan, St Andrew, St Dee, St Kieran, St Elinor, St Tina, etc.</p>
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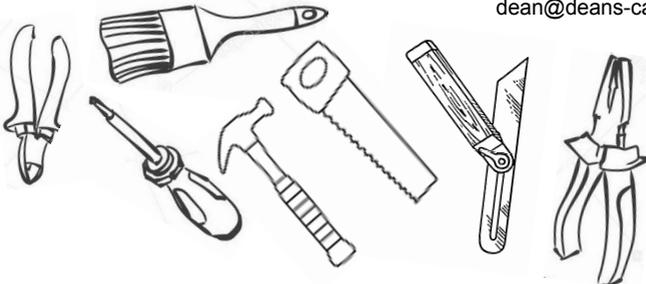


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**NASC!** – Newsletter of the **All Saints' Church**,

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) - Winter/2019se5-75

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**Check for updates on the weekly Notice sheets!**

Closing date for the **Spring 2019** edition (Mar – May) is on **11 February**.

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**

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



[www.facebook.com/AllSaintsChurchSouthend](https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsChurchSouthend)



**DECEMBER**

Sat 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.30 - 11.30	Prayer & Cake
	11am - 2pm	<b>Christmas Fair</b>
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	<b>Carols and Christingles</b>
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10am	<b>Nativity Play</b>
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	11pm	<b>Midnight Mass</b>
Tue 25 <sup>th</sup>	8am – 10am	Free Christmas Day Breakfast
	10am	Christmas Communion
	From 2pm	Free Christmas Day Lunch (booking advisable)

**JANUARY**

Sat 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 - 11.30	Prayer & Cake
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	10am	<b>Epiphany Service</b>
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup>	11 - 2pm	Table Sale
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	<b>Candlemas</b> (bring your candle for a blessing)

**FEBRUARY**

Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30 - 11.30	Prayer & Cake
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	11am - 2pm	Table Sale
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Funny Valentine’s Ball

**MARCH**

Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30 - 11.30	Prayer & Cake
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Stations of the Cross
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Stations of the Cross
Sat 23 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Stations of the Cross
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Stations of the Cross
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup>	11 - 2pm	Table Sale

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