

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
The Parish of All Saints with St Saviour
WESTON-SUPER-MARE

WINTER NEWSLETTER
2021



'Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!'

(Psalm 150:6)

Greetings to you, dear friends in Christ,

Much has happened since our last newsletter, some of it exciting, some sad, in the form of a farewell to another of our long serving parish family, and some of it unexpected.

At the end of Mass on the 29th August, Father Andrew made an announcement to the effect that our server, Mike Dyne, had taken the decision to follow the call to priesthood. The first step in this long journey took Mike to Fr Andrew's first parish in Friar Park for two weeks, to acquaint himself with the day-to-day life of a parish priest under the tutelage of Father Ron. Mike returned with a good few lively stories and experiences to relate, and on Sunday 3rd October he spoke very movingly to us about the warmth and love he'd received from everyone at St Francis of Assisi and of his respect for Father Ron.

Following that valuable 'hands on' time, Mike was confirmed on Friday 15th October by Bishop Glyn Webster of Beverley at St Luke's church, Kingstanding. We're keeping Mike in our prayers as he embarks on the next part of his vocation.



As August gave way to September we said our fond goodbye to Barbara Ellery, with a simple but very moving service, including her favourite hymn, 'Great is thy Faithfulness'. Barbara's love of musicals was represented by Lynda singing 'You'll never walk alone' and after a committal which Father Arthur conducted at the crematorium there was a wake in the church hall, where we were privileged to meet Barbara's extended family.

It's often at funerals that one discovers so much more about the person, and photos of Barbara's life at the wake were testament to the extraordinary range of her talents: dressmaking, advanced piano skills and artistry among them.

Few people could have anticipated the decision by Bishop Jonathan Goodall of Ebbsfleet to join the Roman Catholic Church, but on the 3rd September he made this announcement, 'after a long period of



prayer, which has been among the most testing periods of my life'.

Bishop Jonathan paid tribute to the C of E, saying that he will always treasure and be thankful for its nourishing of his discipleship. We wish Bishop Jonathan and Sarah the very best for their future.

Dear Lucy Vinnicombe, who went to her rest on the 10th September, was one of our longest serving members of St Saviour and All Saints, and faithful churchwarden of both of these parishes, helping to steer All Saints' church through the interregnum; a busy time involving meetings with Bishop Andrew and the Archdeacon of Bath, supporting the team within All Saints, and holding planning meetings, all of which Lucy took on with her customary wisdom and good sense. She was tireless in her contribution to both churches, and wherever there was work to be done Lucy would be rolling her sleeves up: cleaning, arranging coffee mornings, topping and tailing strawberries for the strawberry teas and even mopping up the occasional floods which can still plague All Saints' church! It was only after six years of being churchwarden here since 2001 that Lucy stood down, following a heart attack in January 2007.

We'll all have our own memories of Lucy, but one theme will connect them for sure, and that is her unfailing sense of humour and fun, and her affection for people. Long after she was physically unable to

attend Mass anymore she still had her finger on the pulse. In fact Father Andrew used to say 'If I want to know anything about All Saints' folk I ask Lucy'!

Lucy's faith was rock-solid, despite having undergone testing times, and we shall miss her. Her Requiem Mass took place on Wednesday 6th October, with many well-loved hymns. Rest in Peace, Lucy.

One of the best loved and most often sung Harvest hymns is 'We plough the fields and scatter', and All Saints was filled with the joy and thankfulness of this famous Jubilate hymn on Sunday 26th October. The



choir also sang Maurice Greene's anthem 'Thou visitest the earth', and a sense of celebration was very much present as we enjoyed refreshments for the first time since lockdown, and also managed to raise £148 for a special Christian Aid collection, in line with many other churches and cathedrals.



Another 'first' took place on Friday 1st October, when Catrin Finch performed an extraordinary concert of harp music, ranging from Debussy's Clair de Lune through to BUGS!

Mosquito Massacre! Catrin is a renowned international harpist who featured in one of this summer's promenade concerts, and she has promised to return to her very appreciative audience again before too long.

It seems hard to believe that our last concert here was in March 2020, and we now look forward to Weston Choral Society performing Chilcott's Christmas Oratorio on 4th December, Andrea Monk's piano pupils the following evening at 6 pm, the Costanzi Consort's 'Christmas in St Petersburg' on the 11th, and a wide range of new concerts next year.

Our church halls are very busy once more, with one or two new groups meeting as well as familiar ones returning. We're extremely grateful to Janice and Terry for their continual management of bookings and administration, in addition to all the other tasks they carry out with good grace, and thanks were expressed to them and to Alan for his care of our buildings at our PCC meeting in September. Through all their efforts our carbon footprint is kept exceptionally low, and standards of maintenance and cleanliness kept exceptionally high.

Our thanks also go to Keith Gibbs, who has so faithfully kept the Compton organ thriving after Gordon's departure to Norwich, and has supported the choir with unfailing good grace and humour. We are extremely grateful to him for his service to music at All Saints.

The work and commitment of our PCC members will stand us in good stead for a Mission meeting with Father Gary Ecclestone on St Andrew's Day. We look forward to the challenge of reaching out to the people of the Locking Road area and sharing Christ's message of love and hope.

Our Patronal Festival on 31st October was marked with a double procession as we sang 'For all the Saints', and the solemn consecration of the Host at the high altar. The church was resplendent with a superb flower arrangement by Myra, and - despite being unable to end the Mass with our customary Bring and Share lunch due to Covid restrictions- there was nevertheless a sense of great joy and celebration. Father David Parkinson preached

on his own sources of inspiration and our constant communion with the Saints.

Remembrance Sunday is always a very moving occasion, especially for those who have memories of the second world war, but also for the profound impact of ongoing conflict on families suffering displacement, grief and bereavement. The Last Post and the words of Laurence Binyon from his poem 'For the Fallen' never fail to touch the heart, and strengthen our prayers for peace.

We were fortunate to have a young trumpeter, Sam, who played the poignant Last Post and Reveille beautifully.

'At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.'



Following our Mass celebrating Christ the King, we look forward to Advent, a period of expectation, longing and spiritual preparation, when we reflect on our relationship with God, own our sin and frailty and return our gaze to Him in the knowledge of redemption.

Christmas still seems a while away, despite evidence to the contrary in our shops and supermarkets, but we shall celebrate God's wonderful gift of His son with great joy at All Saints, and we hope you will join our parish family in worship for the return of our much treasured annual carol service on the 15th December, and for Midnight Mass.

All our Advent and Christmas services are listed at the back of this newsletter.



May God bless our parish family here at All Saints, and our forthcoming Mission in the Locking Road area, and may we join with Christians throughout the world in giving thanks for the gift of Christ among us.

Services in Advent and at Christmas

1st Sunday in Advent 28th Nov

9.00am Mass
10.30am Parish Mass
4pm Advent Carol Service

2nd Sunday in Advent 5th Dec

10.30am Parish Mass

3rd Sunday in Advent 12th Dec

10.30am Parish Mass

Carols by Candlelight Wed 15th Dec at 7.00pm

A traditional Carol Service that retells the Christmas story

Harmonia Sacra: Director Peter Leech

With Matthew Nicholls, Organ and Bristol Brass Admission is free with a collection for Weston-super-Mare RNLI

4th Sunday in Advent 19th Dec

10.30am Parish Mass **Sunday Dec 19th**

3.00pm **Carols at St Saviour's**

*A Peaceful and Holy Christmas
Everyone welcome*



Friday Dec 24th Christmas Eve

11.00pm Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib

Saturday Dec 25th Christmas Day

9.00am Low Mass

10.30am Said Mass with Carols

Sunday Dec 26th Holy Family

10.30am Parish Mass

Tuesday Dec 28th & Thursday Dec 30th

10.00am Mass

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Visit our website www.allsaintswsm.org

Weekday services

Every Tuesday and Thursday at 10am Mass

Every Saturday 10am Private Prayer and Benediction

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