

PARISH OF ALL SAINTS WITH
ST SAVIOUR
Weston-super-Mare

2022

SPRING
NEWSLETTER



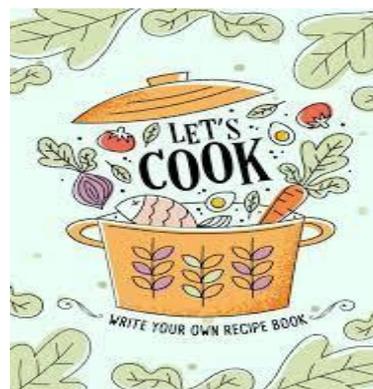
*'Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain.'*

Greetings to you all, dear friends in Christ, as the first crocuses and daffodils peep their brave heads above the earth and we start to see signs of Spring all around.

Christmas Day seems a long time ago now, but we celebrated the birth of our Saviour with great joy, and All Saints' church was decorated throughout the Christmas season with exquisite flowers, a resplendent Christmas tree and a beautiful crib scene, into which was placed the baby Jesus on Christmas Eve, and the three Kings on Epiphany Sunday. Our thanks go to Janice, Myra and Lynda for their hard work and dedication to enhancing the beauty of our church.

December was a busy month, with concerts, fund raising events and our 'live' annual carol service.

Our St Nicholas Fayre raised just over £500, and the recipe book, to which many of our congregation had contributed, has proved a resounding success, thanks to the hard work of Terry who also added illustrations for each delicious recipe.



The evening of the St Nicholas Fayre saw Peter Leech's Costanzi consort performing a superb concert of Russian orthodox choral music, hot on the heels of Weston Choral society's acclaimed performances of Bob Chilcott's Christmas Oratorio the week before, and, although Covid limitations were still in force for our 'Carols by Candlelight' Service on 15th December, there was a stillness and serenity about the evening that was utterly profound.



Candles were lit by servers on behalf of the congregation whilst private prayers were said for the departed, and the glorious singing of Harmonia Sacra under their director Peter Leech held extra meaning in the light of the sadness and grief which we have all experienced during the last year.

We were pleased to be able to donate over £800 to the Weston branch of the RNLi and we thank the Masons for their contribution from their own carol service.

The Sunday after Epiphany was the feast of the Baptism of our Lord, and on this day we bid a fond farewell to Keith Gibbs in his role as regular organist, which he has carried out with faithfulness and good grace, delighting us with extraordinary organ voluntaries at the end of each Mass. However, this is in no way a final goodbye as Keith will still be amongst us in the congregation. We are forever grateful to dear Keith, and we know he will always step in to play for us when the need arises. Thank you for everything you have done for All Saints, Keith.

We extend a warm welcome to Robert Yeomans as our new organist, and his friend Kathlyn who has joined our choir. Robert has been playing at several churches, including St James the Great at Winscombe, and he is pleased to be part of a liturgy that is so sacred and meaningful.

Mike Dyne is following his calling to the priesthood under the guidance of Father Andrew, and he sailed through his first selection interview with honours after a retreat at Walsingham, preached his first memorable sermon on the 19th December, and has now



completed a longer placement at Locking Castle Church (LCC). Mike has made an enormous impression at All Saints, and is very much part of our family. We're keeping him in our prayers as he makes this momentous journey.

Another journey, from death to eternal life was made by a former, much respected priest of this parish, Father Peter Clarke, who died on 23rd December. Priest at St Saviour and then All Saints for 12 years up to 2006, Father Peter was instrumental in amalgamating the parishes and ensuring that the two congregations blended seamlessly together at All Saints' church, a mission needing much thought and planning. He and Ann worked tirelessly, bringing in families with young children and overseeing the extensive renovations of the building. Father Peter's very moving funeral was held at the Church of St Aldhelm and the Sacred Heart in Sherborne.



And on the Feast of St Stephen the world mourned the death of the veteran peace campaigner Archbishop Desmond Tutu, 'Arch' - a dearly loved man of great humour and humility.

Our own Marjorie Fox departed this life on the 13th January. Marjorie had served St Saviour and All Saints for many years, working in the office helping to produce the weekly pew sheet, and supporting her husband Ron during his time as churchwarden. Marjorie had recently moved to Oxfordshire to be nearer her sons, and was blessed with good health until quite late in life, so we give thanks for her years of service to both churches.

The Servers' Guild, or GSS, is an association of altar servers in the C of E and the Church in Wales.

The Guild's objectives are to raise the spiritual tone of altar servers, to promote a conscientious performance of the duties of altar servers and to encourage more frequent attendance at the Holy Eucharist. The Guild is organised into local Chapters overseen by a secretary, who is a member of the guild, and a priest, or priest associate. Members wear a special 'Guild Medal' engraved with the text in Latin 'I will go unto the altar of God'. Our congratulations go to our sacristan, Janice, who has been appointed secretary of the local GSS, and who is carrying out her duties with unceasing care and commitment.



St Saviour's Hall was filled with songs of praise -the canine sort ! - on the afternoon of Sunday 30th January. Last year's Covid lockdown prevented our Pets' Blessing from taking place for a second year, so it was with joy that we could repeat this successful service in 2022,



and it was well attended by some very handsome dogs and cats, all of whom received - with their owners- Father Andrew's personal blessing, not to mention additional furry teddies and a cuddly rat!

Prayers were said throughout the world on Sunday 6th February for Queen Elizabeth 11, who on this day 70 years ago began her reign at the tender age of 25 following the death of her father, King George VI; a reign which has been shaped by her strong Christian faith, dignity, grace and unfailing service to her people.

It was fitting that on that significant Sunday Father Andrew gave a special blessing to a beautiful new Missal stand; a legacy from our former sacristan, Maurice Hales, which - engraved with a tribute to him- now enhances our nave altar.

The official Platinum jubilee celebration is, of course, in June, and we look forward with great anticipation to our thanksgiving service and street party together with residents of All Saints Road, which will take place on Sunday 5th June, a wonderful opportunity for mission and outreach.

Our Mission group has been meeting regularly since lockdown to extend our outreach to the people of the Locking Road area, and on Wednesday 9th February we held our first 'coffee church', a project designed



to welcome those who are perhaps not so familiar with church services, with hymns, a prayer, coffee and a chance to get to know each other in a safe space. Over 20 people enjoyed hot croissants, coffee, fellowship, and informal worship at St Saviour's hall, and the overwhelming atmosphere was relaxed and joyful. We're looking forward to many more of these opportunities to share the Gospel message in our Locking Road parish.



In the lead up to Lent we look forward to sharing more fellowship and a fish and chip lunch at Winstone's on the 24th February after an 11am Mass at All Saints' church.

Ash Wednesday falls on the 2nd March this year, and we shall be marking this solemn day with two services: coffee church at St Saviour hall, and then a 6pm Mass at All Saints with ashing, as a reminder of our own mortality and need for repentance.

Sacred music can often bring us closer to God in its power to transport and transform. 'I heard a voice from Heaven' is the title of Costanzi's Lenten evening of devotional music on Saturday 19th March at 7.30pm, which will include Palestrina's eloquent Stabat Mater and Pitoni's Requiem.

It is a strange thought that by the next newsletter's issue we shall have celebrated the joy of Easter and the risen Christ. We look forward to welcoming you to all our services which are printed at the back of this booklet.

Holy Week and the days leading up to Easter are a time of emotional intensity involving much planning and preparation, to ensure that our worship is inspiring, both musically and spiritually. Our ceaseless thanks go to Janice, Terry, Mike, Alan and Ray for their dedicated service to this church, for all that they do, week in, week out; to the PCC for their steadfast support and hard work, to Father Andrew for leading our services with dignity, and to the choir and Robert for their part in enhancing our worship through beautiful music.



Our concert season begins on Saturday 30th April at midday, almost a week after the annual APCM, and this year we're trialling a series of free entry concerts on Saturdays from 3-4pm, with a retiring collection divided between performers and the church, but 'bookended' with two catered lunchtime concerts, and the first of these features the superbly talented Richard Lennox on piano and organ. Tickets will cost £10 on the door and we hope to see you there with some spare cash to try your luck at a bounteous raffle! All forthcoming concerts will be listed on our website.

So, as we begin to see new life around us, blossom flowering and green shoots emerging from the earth, and 'green shoots' at All Saints with our new Coffee church, we give thanks to God for the gift of his spirit working among us. As the season of Lent approaches, we shall be setting aside time each day for quiet and solitude in preparation for Christ's Passion and Resurrection, acknowledging who we truly are and opening our hearts for God's grace and forgiveness to transform us.

May He bless us as we pray together, and may our shared Lent journey strengthen our faith and grant us His peace, the peace which passes all understanding.

Jude





Coffee Church

Every Wednesday at 11 am, St Saviour's Hall, Locking Road, Weston super Mare, BS23 3EN.

Tel 01934 415379

Everyone welcome.

A safe space in which to have a chat, tea and coffee, cake or biscuit, within a Christian context.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

All Saints Road, BS23 2NL

Everyone welcome

Palm Sunday 10th April

10.30am Parish Mass with Procession and Blessing of Palms

Monday in Holy Week

10am Mass

Tuesday in Holy Week

10am Mass

Wednesday in Holy Week

11am Coffee Church

at St Saviour's BS23 3EN

6pm Mass

Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Solemn Mass of the Last Supper, Washing of Feet and Procession to the Altar of Repose

Good Friday

11am Stations of the Cross

2pm The Liturgy

Holy Saturday

8pm Vigil and First Mass of Easter

Easter Sunday 17th April

9am Mass 10:30am Solemn Mass

WEEKLY SERVICE TIMES

Every Tuesday and Thursday morning 10am Mass
at All Saints Church.

Every Wednesday morning 11am Coffee Church at
St Saviour's Hall.

Every Saturday morning at 10am during Lent,
Stations of the Cross and Benediction
at All Saints Church

Every Sunday morning 10.30am Mass
at All Saints Church

9am Sunday mass on 6th March and Easter
Sunday 17th April at All Saints Church

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