

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Weston-super-Mare

2021

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

... 'but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint'.

Isaiah: 40:31.

Joyful greetings to you all, dear friends in Christ, as summer produces an abundance of scented flowers, birdsong and insect life, reflecting God's extraordinary creation.

So much has happened since our last newsletter. The vaccine roll-out has gained momentum, and by now most of our congregation will have had their second inoculation. We are so fortunate to live in a relatively wealthy country which can afford to buy in huge supplies of the various vaccines. We hope and pray that other parts of the world now receive a share of these to assist their recovery.





All Saints' church opened its doors once more after the third lockdown on Saturday 6th March with an hour of private prayer followed by Benediction. This time of quiet and reflection each week has been of

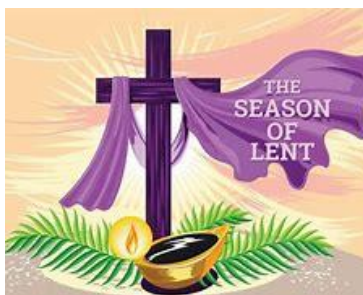
great spiritual benefit and thanks go to Father Andrew and Janice for ensuring it continues.

On St David's Day, Maurice Hales, who had been server and sacristan at All Saints for many years, departed this life peacefully at Earlfild Lodge. His funeral on the 17th

March was a fitting tribute to the colourful character that he was, and his chosen hymns reflected his love of Walsingham and loyalty to Queen and country. Maurice was never happier than when he was pottering about in the church on his own, often in the early hours. In fact more than once nearby residents expressed concern that the lights had been left on past midnight. But it was just Maurice, going about his work. His funeral tribute included wonderful stories of derring-do which were greeted with much affectionate laughter. Maurice was a kind, gentle man who served our church with loyalty; he was held in great respect by all of us.



Our first full service was on Mothering Sunday, and it felt very good to be able to attend Mass again. Passion Sunday followed and then we met for Palm Sunday, not in the hall as in previous years, but in



church, with the same reverence for the start of Holy Week. Despite all our Holy Week services needing to be adapted for Covid-safety reasons they were nevertheless

meaningful and very beautiful, perhaps because the changes brought with them a new way of responding.

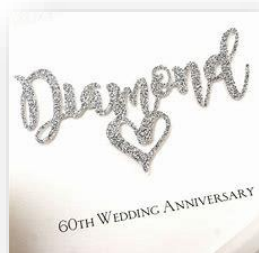
Palms were held high for blessing from our seats, there were no processions and the Cross was held aloft rather than venerated on Good Friday. However, there were moments of profound drama during the triduum: the breath-taking illumination of the High Altar for the watch on Maundy Thursday, the quietness of Good Friday and the ever-powerful journey from darkness into light on Holy Saturday.



Easter Day was filled with glorious sunshine outside and a tangible beauty within the church, thanks to a pure white floral arrangement by Myra, and



the lovely Easter Garden, which Janice had created with her usual care and attention at the entrance to the Lady Chapel.



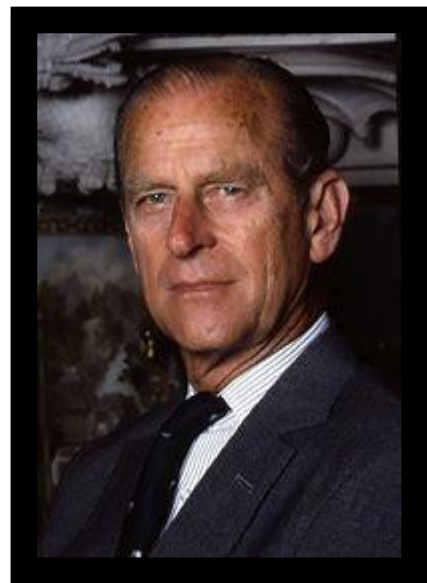
That Sunday was an extra special occasion, as not only did the All Saints' choir reconvene again in the Lady Chapel, but Sylvia and Bob Newman celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on 1st April, and as an affirmation of this joyful event Father Andrew officiated at the renewal of their wedding vows to each

other. Congratulations, Sylvia and Bob!

Throughout this time, we have been grateful to several people who have helped maintain the high standards of worship at All Saints: Keith Gibbs has filled the church with glorious organ music, Allison played the piano with great sensitivity for our initial services, and she, Owen and Lynda have sung hymns for each Sunday Mass. We welcome Mike Dyne, who has become our new and much valued server. And of course behind the scenes Terry has worked tirelessly producing the illustrated service booklets, accounts and APCM materials; both he and Alan Yeates have devoted much time to the building and fabric upkeep, and Janice has maintained the supreme cleanliness of church and halls, and the rota of servers. Thanks to you all.

We're also grateful to Gordon, who has kept a link with All Saints from his new home in Norwich through his you tube hymns, appropriate for each Sunday. We still miss him but his wonderful 'online' singing is still much appreciated.

On Friday 9th April the nation mourned the death of Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen's loyal and long-serving consort, and a truly renaissance man, passionately committed to the way science, technology and engineering could bring huge benefits to the world. Conservation and the welfare of young people were also strongly supported causes, and I believe all of us in the aftermath of his death learned something new about this modest man, so beloved of the Queen.



Prince Philip's funeral took place in St George's chapel, Windsor on Saturday 17th April, a service filled with his own choice of very moving music, a mix of traditional and new, sung by a reduced, Covid-safe choir.

There were some extraordinarily poignant images: his own Land Rover carrying the casket, his riding carriage, complete with cap, gloves and blanket, and a solitary piper at the end walking slowly from the North Quire aisle to the Dean's cloister.

We lost some other much-respected figures during April: the dedicated egalitarian and parliamentarian, Shirley Williams, who died at the age of 90, and the versatile stage and screen actor Helen McCrory, whose death from cancer was announced on the 16th April.

Activities in St Saviour and All Saints' halls are gradually resuming, although we may have to wait for the final stage in the government roadmap before all groups return. The loss of hall income throughout lockdown has inevitably impacted on the church's finances, and no doubt this, and the way forward in terms of mission and outreach will form a major part of our PCC's discussions as we begin to meet again following our APCM on Trinity Sunday.



After a difficult year for musicians and singers we have several confirmed concert bookings: a joint venture with Culture Weston and Loves Café has provided an opportunity for a folk music evening on the re-scheduled date of Saturday 11th September, which will form a part of our Heritage week.

We're still hoping that Catrin Finch's harp concert will go ahead on 1st October.





Choral concerts by Costanzi
Consort and.....

.....Weston Choral are due to take place in
December, but obviously all these events
will be subject to Covid safety priorities.



The more long-standing members of our Parish family
will be remembering a special anniversary at
Pentecost. On 23rd May, it
will be 20 years since the
merger of All Saints with
St Saviour, a coming
together of two church

congregations which was carefully prepared
and undertaken by Father Peter Clarke.
Although there are now fewer from
that time, the memories are no doubt still
vivid.





So, after the challenging year of 2020 we now have an opportunity to start afresh, to strengthen our parish family for what lies ahead, and to understand fully God's plan for our community, as did the Apostles and Mary in the

upper room at Pentecost. Let us pray for His guidance through all the challenges, and for the gift of His Holy Spirit to unite us in common purpose. May God bless each one of us. *Jude*



@ All Saints weekly

Tuesday 10am Mass.

Thursday 10am Mass

Saturday 10am Holy Hour with Benediction

Sunday 10.30am Parish Mass

Our website is regularly updated with the weekly services and the pew sheet.

Any special events or changes to services will be shown on our website, contact details will also be found here.

Website: Allsaintswsm.org

Email: allsaintsandstsaviour@btconnect.com



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