



All Saints

Shooters Hill

www.allsaintsshootershill.org

Newsletter

January 2018

Don't give up – finish the course

In the high street book stores and online stores, there are now many self-help books, and motivational videos hoping you'll pick them up. They are full of advice on setting goals and establishing priorities and developing a start-up plan. Their purpose is to encourage you to get started. There are lots and lots of materials in the market giving advice on how to get started and spark initiative in us to begin a new challenge in life. But nothing (or very little) has been written about finishing well.

I believe it's important to stick with something until it's done. Today there are a lot of unfinished plans or projects because we seem to lose heart when the plan or project has lost its appeal. TV seems to have reduced our attention span and flattened our sense of reality. Eugene Peterson in his book *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction* said, 'It is not difficult in such a world to get a person interested in the message of the gospel; it is terrifically difficult to sustain the interest.' In our kind of culture anything, even news about God, can be sold if it is packaged freshly; but when it loses its novelty, it goes on the garbage heap. There is a great market for religious experience in our world but there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of virtue, little inclination to sign up for a long apprenticeship in what earlier generations of Christians called holiness.

Mentally the present generation seems to have come close to that thirty-second attention span. We see it in all ages and areas of life. Because dieting involves discipline, so we stay fat. Keeping relationship is painful, so we back off. It takes time and endless struggling to work through marriage conflicts, so we walk away... We have seen through the years

All Saints Church exists to help people live the best life possible through our commitment to serving God, the community and one another.

that as a project runs its course, people lose track and confusion sets in to replace accomplishment. Those who were participants become spectators because mentally they have quit.

In 2017, we began a project of “Making a Road by Walking” as a church; and I know the road will get longer and hope will possibly wear thin, as we see no evidence of the distance covered. Or maybe accomplishing your personal project seems too long to wait! Let’s not mentally quit, but keep on walking, keep on moving.

At such a time, it is good to listen to God whispering into our ears, saying:

‘... don’t get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time’ {Galatians 6:9}

‘..... Stand your ground, and don’t hold back. Throw yourselves into the work of the master, confident that nothing you do for him is a waste of time or effort.’ {1 Corinthians 15:58}

‘Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the devil... take a firm stand against him, and be strong in your faith... in his kindness God called you to his eternal glory... after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.’ {1 Peter 5:8-10}.

Many of people start their Christian life, with hot, fast and dazzling enthusiasm, but how many of them that you know are finishing the course with the same sustained vigour? What has happened along the way that has made many quit? As we start a new season of life in 2018, let’s encourage each other to finish what we started together ‘Making the Road by Walking’ or whatever personal project you are doing. If you think of quitting too soon, I encourage you to stand ground and finish whatever you began.

May Christ give us the strength to keep walking, going, doing until we finish what we began in 2017 and bless us with a double portion of his Spirit so that our work is not in vain. Amen.

May you have a peaceful start of 2018.

Rev. Herbert Aparanga

Collection for Herbert

Thank you so much for your enormous generosity to Herbert in collecting about £1,000 to support him in his efforts to be reunited with Stella. We were hopeful that Herbert would be able to go to Uganda in February but Stella is studying in college then so Herbert is intending to go in May when Stella has leave.

At the same time some members of the congregation with experience of immigration and some people from the Diocese are trying to identify what is holding up Stella's application. We know that many members of the congregation want to bring this to the attention of MPs etc but we think this would not help until we are totally clear what is causing the hold up.

Christmas and Epiphany

Thanks so much to everyone who contributed to our celebration of Christmas. After Christmas we were contacted by a Spanish/ English pre-school who wanted to celebrate a Spanish Epiphany custom with children having a procession to church where they were met by the Three Kings and hunted for presents and sang Spanish and English carols. It made a lovely ending to Christmas.



Church Office

For information about activities at All Saints (including weddings and baptisms) please contact the Priest in Charge, Revd Herbert Aparanga.

To get it touch with Revd Herbert Aparanga please email

vicar@allsaintsshootershill.org, write to him at 106 Herbert Road London SE18 3PU, call at the **Church** on any **Friday morning** between **10am – 11am** (if the church door is closed look for the bell) or phone

020 8854 2995 (but this will only be answered and messages listened to on Friday mornings). General enquiries should be sent to **office@allsaintsshootershill.org**

For Hall Bookings see allsaintsshootershill.org and follow the links.



All Saints Shooters Hill: January 2018

We warmly welcome you to our Sunday Services

Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

Then you will know what God wants you to do." (Romans 12:2)

7 January 2018

10:30 AM

Epiphany 2

Holy Communion

Led by: Rev. Herbert Aparanga

Reader: K Byfield: Jeremiah 17:5-8, Matthew 16:21-26 | Prayers: S Nwolo
Sunday School

Sidespeople: A Okoro, N Umeokafor | Refreshments: B Jatta, C Naefulu

14 January 2018

10:30 AM

Epiphany 3

Service of the Word - What's your Purpose?

Led by: Rev. Herbert Aparanga

Reader: S Nwolu, Isaiah 26:1-6, 1 John 2:15-17 | Prayers: O Ogundemi
Sunday School

Sidespeople: M Popoola, B Jatta | Refreshments: P Sheath, K Byfield

21 January 2018

10:30 AM

Epiphany 4

Holy Communion - This world isn't my home!

Led by: Rev. Herbert Aparanga

Reader: G Sheath, Psalm 39:1-5, Luke 16:1-12 | Prayers: M Olarewaju
Sunday School

Sidespeople: P Sheath, A Baxter | Refreshments: M Akpewrene, J Anyasi

28 January 2018

10:30 AM

2nd before Lent

Family Service - Created for God's Family!

Led by: Rev. Herbert Aparanga

Reader: R Taylor, Ephesians 3:14-21, Matthew 28:19-20 | Prayers: H Nwolu
Children in church for Family service

Sidespeople: L Bailey, J Anyasi | Refreshments: B Jatta, C Naefulu

If you are unable to do a duty can you let Kathy know as soon as possible.

The up-to-date rota is at <https://goo.gl/MyUDYR>

If a name has a * against it it has been changed from the original rota.

Weekdays in January

Church office and cleaning group Every Friday at 10am in Church

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| Tue | 9 Jan 2018 | 8:00 pm | Bible Study at the Vicarage |
| Sat | 13 Jan 2018 | 10:30 am | "Mental health matters". St Hugh's, Crosby Row, SE1 4PH. Finishes at 3pm. Lunch included. bit.ly/2A1EGF6 for FREE tickets |
| Tue | 16 Jan 2018 | 8:00 pm | Prayer group at the Vicarage |
| Sat | 20 Jan 2018 | 3:00 pm | Planning for Women's World Day of Prayer: Trinity Methodists, Burrage Road |
| Mon | 22 Jan 2018 | 7:30 pm | Week of prayer for Christian Unity. St Mark and St Margarets, Old Mill Road |
| Tue | 23 Jan 2018 | 8:00 pm | Bible Study at the Vicarage |
| Thurs | 25 Jan 2018 | 8:00 pm | "God, the Bible and same-sex attraction" St John's Blackheath, SE3 7TH |
| Wed | 31 Jan 2018 | 8:00 pm | PCC meeting |