



All Saints

Shooters Hill

www.allsaintsshootershill.org

Newsletter

September 2016

There is one body, one spirit, one hope

I hope you had a good experience of being in the presence of God during the holiday, as you dig deep to draw the nourishment of life-giving strength that is helping you to continue to grow in your faith and strong in the truth of God's word and has prepared you to be fruitful during this new season; as your life overflows with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

There is a lot going on in this new season of autumn (September - November), a time when there is a refreshing change in the air, from the hot afternoons and sweltering nights; helpful return to routine as school starts; along comes Harvest Sunday, All Saints' Day, Remembrance Sunday and not forgetting end of summer time. All these remind us of God shedding his grace on us. Autumn is a season of reflection; a time to gain new perspective, opportunity for us to stroll along the back roads we have been through and think of **what, where** and **why**. In doing so, we are revisiting the museum of our memory and I know we will never fail to find something to assist us in evaluating the way we had been and establishing the way we desire to be.

Autumn is also a season of change; foliage changes, weather changes, time changes, and birds make their annual trip southward, salmon make their phenomenal swim back to their spawning ground northward, squirrels in the park make a final inventory of their stored nuts. It is incredible to see all creatures in the natural world acting out their individual pageants without any external instruction.

You see, quietly God graciously moves upon our lives, taking us from summer to autumn, a season when He writes his agenda on the notepad of our hearts; and patiently He waits for change to begin.

Has autumn arrived in your life? Before you answer this question, let Joel 2:12-13 help us ***"Yet even now, declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning, and rend your heart not your garment."*** Imagine you wake up tomorrow and there is no Big Ben in London, Great Wall of China, Statue of Liberty in New York, Sydney Opera House or St Peter's Basilica in Rome. These places would never be the same, would they? Can you imagine a TV without a screen, a plane or car without the engine? There are things in life that would not be the same if you take bits away from

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

them. That is what prophet Joel is saying, take your heart out from worship, prayer or church and what you are left with isn't worship, prayer or church. Because our heart is very important to God, he contently tells us to pay attention to it when we come to him. If our hearts is not right - trusting, tender and open to receive from him - our worship, prayer and coming to church is a meaningless ritual. God is calling us his people to examine our hearts every daily. To King Saul he said to obey is better than sacrifices, and to heed is better than the fat of ram [1 Samuel 15:22]. Don't think that your sacrifices would work just because they are sacrifices if you forget the most important aspect of your sacrifices - your heart.

God has been and is still challenging us in our empty ritual that has no heart; in Isaiah 29:13 he said we draw near him with our words and honour him with our lips yet our hearts are far from him; we like to listen to the message but has no intention to apply them [Ezekiel 33:31]; and that we have not set our hearts to honour him [Malachi 2:2].

God is looking for one thing above all the secondary (the worship, prayers, services etc.) our **HEARTS**. As you take time in answering the question above, let me direct you to two passages to help you reflect on our experiences; **Psalms 139:13** – allow God to look deep into your heart, and **Philippians 1:6** – let him continue what has begun in you.

What God has written in the notepad of your heart is his promise that the good work within you will not be left unfinished - just a reminder that it takes four seasons to make a year. The autumn of your life may be uncomfortable, - unemployed, loneliness, broken relations, grieving, or you feel anxious about tomorrow. Remember this - ***the roots grow deep when the winds are strong***. Autumn, a season of reflection and change, is here now. Expect that your roots will deepen, and be confidently assured that God specializes in roots and he promised to deepen and strengthen you, come storm, snow, rain!

Let these autumn thoughts encourage and strengthen us, as we begin the new season:

SEPTEMBER

- **Bible study:** twice a month first starts on Tuesday 6th Sept, and second on the 20th Sept. at the vicarage, time 8-9pm.
- **Monthly prayer Tuesday:** 13th at vicarage from 8pm. 2 Corinthians 9 v6-15 as focus of our prayer- Give generously.
- **Our harvest supper** – with International dishes: Saturday 24th from 7pm at the Church Hall. Invite your friends and neighbours

Please continue to pray for the following:-

- *Opportunity to also have day time Bible study group on Wednesdays.*
- *Opportunity to set up home/cell groups as part of helping us grow strong together*
- *Our monthly prayer ministry will continue to grow strong from strength to strength*
- *Opportunity for an evening informal service of the **Word and Holy Communion**.*
- *For effective use of our Church Hall to serve us and the community. Etc.*

May God bless you abundantly this autumn; a season of change and reflection. Amen
Rev. Herbert Aparanga

Memory verse *"For if you remain silent at this time... who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"* Esther 4:14.

Lay leadership survey

The diocese wants to know about the activity in our Parish. Please fill it in however little you are able to do. If you don't have access to the internet ask Herbert, Geoff or Linda and we will get you a paper copy. All the information is confidential.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/confidentialto-DiocesefSouthwark>

School admission

If you have a child who will be starting Primary or Secondary School in September 2017 and you would like to apply to one of our local Church of England Schools *please talk to Herbert or one of the Church Wardens as soon as possible.*

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Closing date: 15 January 2017 (please try to give us a month's notice)

You will need to fill in a Royal Borough of Greenwich Application Form online (there is a link and lots more information at <http://goo.gl/yv2JD6>)

But you will also need to fill a Supplementary Form

Each school has its own slightly different criteria and form. Almost all will ask how often you attend church and whether you are an active member of All Saints (i.e. do you help by giving out books, reading the lesson, helping with Sunday School or etc.). Please make sure you are on the Electoral Roll so we have a formal record of your membership. All Saints will be asked to comment on your form and we need to have evidence.

In addition most schools use distance from school to home to choose between equally eligible children. There is a great difference between schools in how near you have to be to get a place. For example for Christ Church School Shooters Hill SE18 the distance last year was 490m so a child living in the vicarage would have missed out whereas for Christ Church School Blackwall Lane SE10 the distance was 7668m, so children from Westminster to Bexleyheath could have got a place.

These are the Greenwich Church of England Schools: Bishop John Robinson CE School, Christ Church CoE School (SE10), Christ Church CoE School (SE18), Eltham CE School, St Alfege with St Peter's CE School, St Margaret Clitherow CE School, St Margaret's CE School and St Mary Magdalene CE School (two Primary school sites, one by the Ferry, the other on the Peninsular).

SECONDARY SCHOOL

Closing date: 31 October 2016(please try to give us a month's notice)

There is only one Church of England Secondary School in Greenwich: St Mary Magdalene, at present in Old Dover Road while a new school is built on the Peninsular.

You will need to fill in a Royal Borough of Greenwich Application Form online <http://goo.gl/ho0LOy>

But you will also need to fill a Supplementary Form

<http://goo.gl/4Mdybf>

All Saints Shooters Hill: September 2016

We warmly welcome you to our Sunday Services

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Galatians 5, 22-23

4 September 2016

10:30 AM

Trinity 15

Holy Communion

Led by: Rev Herbert Aparanga

Reader: P Sheath: James 4:1-17(p1149), Luke 12:14-21, 47(p986)

Prayers: R. Taylor Sidespeople: V Aigbirhio, J McQuillen

Sunday School

Refreshments: M. Akpewrene, J. Anyasi

11 September 2016

10:30 AM

Trinity 16

Service of the Word

Led by: Rev Herbert Aparanga

Reader: F Olarewaju, James 5: 7-11, Matthew 10:16-22

Prayers: L Bailey Sidespeople: N Umeokafor, M Umobi

Sunday School

Refreshments: M.Popoola, B Jatta

18 September 2016

10:30 AM

Trinity 17

Holy Communion

Led by: Rev Herbert Aparanga

Reader: J McQuillen, Malachi 3:6-12, Luke 21:1-4

Prayers: O Ogundemi Sidespeople: M Popoola, B Jatta

Sunday School

Refreshments: S Okolie, C.Naefulu

25 September 2016

10:30 AM

Harvest Festival

Family Service

Led by: Rev Herbert Aparanga

Reader: R Taylor, Matthew 9:35-38

Prayers: K Byfield Sidespeople: F Decaneva, Tunde

Children in church for Family service

Refreshments: F. Olarewaju, K.Byfield

Weekdays in September

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

Tue	6 Sep 2016	8:00 pm	Bible Study at the Vicarage
Tue	13 Sep 2016	8:00 pm	Prayer Group at the Vicarage
Wed	14 Sep 2016	8:00 pm	PCC. Vicarage
Tue	20 Sep 2016	8:00 pm	Bible Study at the Vicarage
Sat	24 Sep 2016	7:00 pm	Harvest Supper

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

