

# ALL SAINTS' HIGHFIELD PARISHIONERS' NEWSLETTER

## JULY 2021



### **A Time to Celebrate**

July 2021 will mark the beginning of a new chapter in the history of All Saints' as we celebrate the Licensing of Leon Catallo as Minister. Leon has become a familiar face and a very welcome presence in All Saints' and I know we all look forward to his incumbency. Many of us will also be thinking of Jim Cocke and his remarkably long service to the Parish. His son Hugh and daughters Hilary and Fiona are all keen readers of this newsletter and assure me that he is in good spirits and continues to take a Communion Service each Sunday in his Care Home in Dorset.

Further on in these pages you will find Leon has given us an outline of the faith that he will be affirming before the Bishop on 6<sup>th</sup> July. It is also a reminder to us all of what every parish church stands for. Sadly, the service will be restricted because of

Covid, but we must hope that 19<sup>th</sup> July will bring a further relaxation, if not full lifting of restrictions, so that singing by both choir and worshippers can again play its traditional part in our worship.

This month we send greetings to Sandra Morris for her birthday on 31<sup>st</sup> July; Sandra and her husband Les have, of course, worshipped at All Saints' for many years and she is a member of the PCC. It is good to know that both Bernard Dagnell and Simon Lee are out of hospital; please continue to pray for them. On a rather more personal note, could I request that you also pray for my husband Brian, who is far from well and, as a result of a recent fall, has severe mobility problems?

As ever I must express my thanks to everyone who has contributed articles and illustrations for the newsletter, and also to my son David and daughter-in-law Catherine for their help with preparing it for publication.

The deadline for the August newsletter will be Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July. Contributions should be emailed to me: [CEHodgkinson@aol.com](mailto:CEHodgkinson@aol.com).

Wishing you a peaceful and joyful July,

*Catherine*

*Thanks to Brigid for the photo of  
the yellow rose near the big lavender bushes by All Saints Road.*

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## A Message from Leon



During my licensing service on Tuesday 6th, the Bishop will address me with the following words:

*The Church of England is part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, worshipping the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

*It professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation.*

*Led by the Holy Spirit, it has borne witness to Christian truth in its historic formularies, the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, The Book of Common Prayer and the Ordering of Bishops, Priests and Deacons.*

These words give a wonderful summary of what we believe about the Church of England. They remind us we are a **worshipping church**. There is no higher purpose than to worship *the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit*. It is our duty and our joy.

These words also remind us that we are to be a **humble** church. We are *part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church*. It is certainly true that Lord has blessed and sustained the Church of England in remarkable ways over the centuries (there is not a long list of denominations which can claim to have been as enduringly faithful and steadfast for so long). Yet we remember that, for our heritage, we are only *part* of God's Church. As God had to remind Elijah (1 Kings 19:18) we should not imagine we are the only faithful ones left. God's cause does not depend on us. Nor should we presume that the Lord would never come in judgment and remove our lampstand (Revelation 2:5) if we are unfaithful to him. Appropriate humility is manifested in the desire to cooperate with and learn from other faithful Christians throughout the world and throughout history.

Thirdly, the Church of England is a **Biblical** church. Our faith is *uniquely revealed* in the Holy Scriptures. There can be no higher authority or court of appeal. All theology which merits the name Christian proceeds from this starting point. As Paul says to Timothy (2 Timothy 3:14-17) “*But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*”

Finally, the Church of England is a **confessional** church. This means that we acknowledge the importance of the *catholic creeds* (the Nicene Creed, the Apostles' Creed and the Athanasian Creed) and the *historic formularies* (the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, The Book of Common Prayer and the Ordinal). We do not believe that these creeds or formularies have higher authority than the Bible - but they do have higher authority than you or me! The Bible cannot err, but our interpretations of it can. The confessions of our church are like guard rails, put up by previous generations, around at the edge of a cliff. We are not to invent the faith afresh in every generation, only *to proclaim it afresh*. The creeds and formularies are a vital reference points in this work; history teaches us that without them we will quickly wander astray.

So, in response to the Bishop I will answer:

*I, Leon Peter Catallo, do so affirm, and accordingly declare my belief in the faith which is revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds and to which the historic formularies of the Church of England bear witness; and in public prayer and administration of the sacraments, I will use only the forms of service which are authorised or allowed by Canon.*

On this special occasion, please pray that the Holy Spirit will enable me to serve All Saints faithfully as I have promised.

With warmest love and prayers,

**Leon**

## Worship in July

This may be what the Church classifies as ‘Ordinary Time’, but our worship in July will be anything but ordinary. We look forward with great anticipation to the licensing of Leon on 6 July. That will indeed be a very special service. We ask people to please get there in good time, because everyone who has indicated that they are coming will be allocated a specific seat, which will need to be found. Our lovely organ will be played from about 7:10 to keep early arrivals entertained. This is all so that we can fit in everyone who has said they are coming in while keeping to distancing regulations.

It will also be a special day when Leon takes his first service as our priest-in-charge on 11 July. And another very special Sunday will hopefully be 25 July, when surely restrictions on singing will be lifted, at least partially. So subject to no sudden changes of plan, that should be a day when we can at last all “sing the Lord’s song”. Ironically, for someone who has really felt the lack of singing, that will be the first Sunday service in church that I have missed for over 18 months, as we’ll be away with family that day!

Date	Celebrant/Preacher	Readers	Sidespersons
4 July <b>10 am Holy Communion</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	Peter Boulton-Lea	William and John	Veronica & Hannah
11 July <b>10 am Holy Communion</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	Leon Catallo	Jerome and Martin	Valerie and Jerome
18 July <b>10 am Holy Communion</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	Leon Catallo	Patrick and Ginny	William and James
25 July <b>10 am Holy Communion</b> <b>8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b> (Singing probably allowed!)	Leon Catallo	Susan and Barbara	Jerome and Valerie

As well as these services in church, Christine will continue to offer a Compline service each Sunday evening at 8:30 p.m. via Zoom. The joining details are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82317742452>

**Dial in for people joining by telephone: -**

0203 481 5240 or 0203 901 7895

Meeting ID: 823 1774 2452

*James*

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This will be held in the church on **Sunday, 18th July**. It is actually two meetings; the first, at 3.30pm is the **Annual Meeting of Parishioners** when the two Churchwardens are elected which is immediately followed at 3.45pm by the **APCM**.

The main item on the Agenda of the second meeting is the appointment of members of the Parochial Church Council and, in last month's Newsletter, I listed the names of current members. It is very good news that all members have confirmed they are willing to stand again, which makes it possible to re-elect them *en bloc* to the PCC at the meeting on the 18th July. The printed full Agenda will be available at the meeting.

As this will be the first APCM Chaired by our new Interim Minister, the Rev. Leon Catallo, it would be good for as many members of the congregation as possible to welcome him and show him their support, so I do hope you will be able to come.

With very best wishes,

*Brigid*

## Other July Dates for your Diary

Carol has asked me to remind you that the serving of Coffee after the 10 o'clock service will resume on **4<sup>th</sup> July**. Everyone should collect their coffee and biscuits from the servery and, under the COVID restrictions, we must sit in groups of no more than six.

The monthly Britannia lunch will be on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July**; if you want to attend, please remember to put your name on the list when you are in church on Sunday.

The next meeting of the **Parochial Church Council** will be on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July** at 7.00 pm, via Zoom.

**Looking ahead.....4<sup>th</sup> September** Cardiff Opera will be performing a concert version of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* in the church in the evening. Look out for full details in next month's newsletter. Please tell your friends and encourage them to come.

*Catherine*

## Rowing for Great Britain

Catherine has kindly said that you may like to know about my 19 year old granddaughter's achievement. About ten days ago Katherine was selected for the World Under-23 Rowing Championships being held in the Czech Republic from the 7-11 July. She will be rowing in a quad boat of four and is the youngest member. Her father was also a well-known rower and one of her cousins is in the GB Olympic men's eight boat. In August she is going to Princeton University in the USA on a rowing scholarship.

As her grandmother I am of course very proud!

*Brigid*

## Church House Activity Blooms

Like a rhubarb plant in springtime growing in the best South Yorkshire soil, activities have risen from virtually nothing to a glorious fruitfulness in the month of May.

Virtually all the groups that used to run are back in business, with some new ones. There are now FOUR support groups for families with pre-school children. The long-established Little Sharks playgroup is fully operational again, with about the same number of families as before. In addition, a New Parent Support group for those with



very young children, more directed activities at Baby College, and the French language playgroup called Goûter Club. For older children there's aerial gymnastics, judo and Guides, and for adults, Pilates, yoga and aerial gymnastics are on offer. The Saturday and Sunday churches are also worshipping again, albeit with reduced numbers.

To this joy unbounded can be added the fact that the roof leak does appear to be truly sorted.

*James*

## Thursday Lunch Club



The Thursday Lunch Club (TLC) is run by volunteers associated with some Headington churches. Before COVID there were just over 50 people involved. The purpose is to combat isolation and to provide companionship and a very good 'home cooked' two course lunch, mainly for older people who live alone. This is followed by tea or coffee, and often some form of

entertainment. Birthdays are remembered. It usually happens on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month. A few weeks before lockdown closure we were inspected by Oxford City Council food standards, and received a **5-STAR** hygiene and food safety rating.

The last lunch was in March last year, and we intend to start again in September. The lunches happen in the parish hall of Corpus Christi RC church in Margaret Road. The helpers are mainly drawn from that church, and Holy Trinity, and a smaller number from All Saints. TLC is a very much appreciated. The guests have told us that TLC is the friendliest lunch in the area and that the food is excellent. They are all very keen that lunch should restart. The guests pay a contribution to the meal costs. However, we are well supported by charitable donations from the Waitrose community fund (remember those green voting tokens?) and have just been awarded £750 from the similar scheme operated by Tesco. We are even sometimes remembered in the wills of former guests. These funds pay for extras, such as free meals at Christmas and other times, taxis for people who have to use wheelchairs and so cannot accept lifts in normal cars, entertainers, catering equipment and so on.

As we look to starting again in September, and we need people to join this project. There are a large number of ways of participating, which means it is open to many of us. **Please think if you could take part.** Watch out, I may approach you to ask if there's anything you can do!

*James*



## Preaching Ministers 1: Pulpit Supply in the Early Modern Period



*C17th pulpit of All Saints, West Stourmouth, Kent*

The Protestant Reformation, with its emphasis on the primacy of the Word of God, ushered in a quest for parish clergy who would not just say the liturgy and administer the sacraments, but also understand the scriptures and communicate their message effectively to the laity. The general expansion of education and literacy, and concurrent developments in printing, lifted expectations. By the early seventeenth century, a majority of clergy had university degrees. However, that neither guaranteed a training in theology – in England that subject was studied only for the higher degree of MA and then in ways not necessarily helpful to parish ministry – nor individual suitability for the role.

Attempts by some clergy in the reign of Elizabeth I to organise what might now be called professional development, in the form of meetings for prayer and Bible study (often known as ‘prophesyings’), had been suppressed by a government anxious about their subversive potential. By about 1600, if not before, some clergy were taking young men into their households and training them up. Examples of ‘household seminaries’ have been found in various places. William Whateley, vicar of Banbury, and Thomas Gataker, vicar of Rotherhithe – who had his house extended for this purpose – accepted foreign as well as native students, their fame spreading across Protestant Europe.

But those who took their religion seriously wanted more radical initiatives. Charles I's controversial archbishop of Canterbury, William Laud, contemplated a plan to fill livings with clergy who would be conformable to the more ceremonialist and obedient church he envisioned. Pious people labelled by some contemporaries as 'puritans' had other priorities: finding ministers who combined godly living with 'painful' [i.e. painstaking] preaching. Sometimes individuals or town corporations paid 'lecturers' to amplify provision at the parish church with lengthy Sunday afternoon or weekday sermons. But by about 1625 a more ambitious programme had emerged. A London-based group known as the 'feoffees for impropriations' formed an association to buy up the patronage of livings (much of it in lay hands since the Reformation) and bestow them on suitable preachers and pastors.

They spent hundreds of pounds acquiring livings across south England and south Wales, and the model was copied in Norwich and perhaps elsewhere. The group was suppressed in 1633 following a successful prosecution by Archbishop Laud, but the model behind their activities resurfaced later in organisations like the Church Pastoral Aid Society, which still dispenses patronage today.

With the advent of the Long Parliament, its MPs set up the Committee for Scandalous Ministers and later commissions of 'triers and ejectors' to discipline inadequate clergy, although, this being the period of the civil wars and interregnum, sometimes the behaviour targeted was political rather than moral or spiritual. Politicians also explored active means of advancing the Gospel, especially in areas of the country considered to have been left behind by the Reformation. A major initiative was the 1650 Act for the Propagation of the Gospel in Wales, which established a network of itinerant preachers, featuring men like Morgan Llwyd who were to become almost legendary in the religious history of the principality.

After the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660, some clergy who had been ejected in the previous two decades were reinstated, while their replacements withdrew or were retired. Two years later, ministers who declined to subscribe to the oaths demanded under the Act of Uniformity and to accept the 1662 Prayer Book, lost their livings. Dean of Christ Church and bishop of Oxford John Fell was particularly energetic in rooting out nonconformists, 'schismatics' and 'sectaries', although, himself something of a 'puritan' in the moral sense, he was also hard on drunkenness and immorality. Yet bishops controlled only a fraction of the patronage of the parishes of England, with much in lay hands. That ensured the continuation of a variety of selection processes – bishops choosing the obedient; pious laypeople preferring the godly; a good many promoting their relatives – and multiple styles of worship. In practice those who adhered to the Church of England interpreted the Prayer Book and crafted their sermons (if they delivered them) in different ways.

*Vivienne*

## Lathyrus Odoratus (Sweet Peas)



Sweet Peas are native to Sicily - Southern Italy. They have delicious scent and lovely flowers of enchanting colours. They are attractive to Bees and Butterflies.

We must look after our bees as almost 90% of wild plants and global crops depend upon pollination, and our bees are in decline. We can all do our bit to help bees in our gardens, balconies and window boxes. Bees love traditional cottage garden flowers and native wildflowers, primroses, buddleia, marigolds and sweet peas.

The photograph is taken from self setting wild Sweet Peas in my Window Box on my veranda.

*Valerie*

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