

WELCOME to
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, EASTBOURNE
GRAPEVINE EXTRA

April—May 2017

giving you all the up-to-date news of what is happening
in All Saints' Church

Welcome to the All Saints' Church family. If you are new please do not hesitate to make yourself known to me or one of the staff team. If you have any questions the welcome team will be happy to help. Please help yourself to one of the welcome leaflets at the entrance to the Church and Centre. *Yours in Christ, Robert*

THE ASTONISHING AND GENEROUS LOVE OF GOD - Robert Lovatt

Many of you will know that I am receiving medical treatment currently for prostate cancer (quite common in men). One of the most unnerving experiences is waiting in the 'waiting room' not knowing whether you are going to hear in 10 minutes time that your problem is minor or whether your condition is serious and life threatening. Inevitably it raises questions about one's mortality. Mine diagnosis turned out to be quite serious but curable.

Being uncomfortably reminded of one's mortality inevitably leads you to think of life's fundamental questions. Is my relationship with God alright? Am I facing medical treatment with some area of disobedience in my life that needs dealing with? What is the quality of my prayer life like? Am I asking people to pray for me when God is not pleased with me etc.? Even in weaker moments, 'Is God punishing me?' (*It's theologically inappropriate because on the cross Jesus took upon himself the full punishment for sin meaning our sins need no longer be punished. Yes we may be corrected and disciplined with a view to God's redirecting us but God himself has taken our punishment meaning we do not need to be punished further. We stand in God's grace*)

Recently in a Bible Study on the parable of the prodigal son I was reminded again of the amazing love of God. When the errant son returns to his Father ([Luke 15 v 20](#))

- The Father sees him when he is still a long way off. The Father must

have always been looking. His heart must have ached for his younger son

- He runs to him. He could instead have crossed his arms and said to himself haughtily, 'I'm not going to give him a second chance.'
- The Father is filled with compassion. The Father could have kept his distance, but he doesn't and instead enters the world of his younger son with bonding love.
- He kisses his son even before his son acknowledges his guilt.
- The son wishes only to be taken on as a hired servant but the Father prepares a feast, puts a ring on his finger, a sign of full acceptance, and sandals on his feet. In the Father's love there is no second rank.
- The Father resists the outrage of the older son and even risks his relationship with the older son for the sake of the younger son. In fact the older son also needs to be converted.

Amazing love! As we approach Easter 2017, the parallels in the Easter story are amazing. God in his own person sets out on a rescue mission that costs everything; even death on a cross. But the Easter story doesn't finish there because Jesus rises from death promising us new hope.

Let us use every opportunity to witness our faith. God has given us the fullness of his love. He has given us imperishable hope, answers to life's questions and, if we seek it, a fire in our hearts to make Jesus known.

FAITH & HEALING - Pennie D'Oyly-John

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them (or this circumstance) for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you" Deuteronomy 31V 6

As many people know, I am recovering from macular-hole surgery. Before undergoing this operation, and being quite terrified as I did not want to go to hospital. "Leave it to the surgeons", everyone said. I wanted a different form of healing!

I reflected on Jesus healing of the blind in the gospels. There are 7 incidents and all are so very different. In **Mtt 9:29** two blind men came to Jesus "Have Mercy on us Son of David" Jesus answered "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord" they replied.

So **faith** is required for eyes to be healed.

In **Mtt 20:29** again two blind men were sitting by the road shout-

ing out "Lord, Son of David have mercy on us" Jesus asked them "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord we want our sight" Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes and they received their sight.

So state what it is you want loudly.

In **Mark 8:22** there was a man in Bethsaida who had been brought by friends and begged Jesus to touch him. Jesus led the man out of the village and Jesus spat on the man's eyes and asked him if he saw anything he replied "I see people; they look like trees walking around" (a little like having a macular-hole) Once again Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes they were opened and his sight was restored.

So go to a quiet place with Jesus and let him do whatever he wants to do.

In **Luke 18:35** Jesus was approaching Jericho and there was a blind beggar sitting by the roadside and he called out "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" The crowd rebuked him but he shouted even more. Jesus stopped and asked the man "What do you want me to do for you?" 'Lord I want to see' Jesus said to him 'Receive your sight, your faith has healed you' and he was immediately healed.

So having **great faith** is another way to healing.

In **John 9:1** there is a man who had been blind from birth. Jesus disciples asked "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind?" Jesus replied "Neither this man nor his parents sinned but this happened that a work of God might be displayed in his life" Jesus spat on the ground and made some mud with his saliva and put it on the man's eyes. "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" so the man went and washed and came home seeing. His neighbours were both disbelieving but the now-seeing man told them about what Jesus had done. They now wanted to find Jesus for themselves.

So signs and wonders for the Kingdom

The Pharisees were disbelieving and set about to investigate the healing but Jesus used this healing to speak to them about their spiritual blindness "For judgement, I have come into this world so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind" The Pharisees questioned him "What ? Are we blind too?"

So to show people their own spiritual blindness.

Several different healings but for very different reasons. No, the Lord did not miraculously heal me and I had to be bold and go for surgery and face my fears. But God provided another person who had undergone this surgery to help me through it, a friend to stay after I came back from hospital to help with my drops, numerous visitors, masses of flowers and

cards, prayers, newspapers, many lifts from lovely friends and lots of love.

So, in conclusion, my operation was to prove to me that I had to be **strong and courageous**. I was not to **be afraid or terrified** as the **Lord would never leave me nor forsake me**. I now have my healing both of my eye and my fears. Praise God for Eye Surgeons! How precious both our physical and spiritual sight is!

***COME AND RING THE BELLS OF ALL SAINTS!** - Philip Pawley*

Since 1883, All Saints' has a ring of 8 bells, varying in size and weight from 5 cwt, 30" diameter (300kg, 0.9m), for the Treble to just over 18 cwt, 4' diameter for the Tenor bell (950kg and 1.2m in metric dimensions!).



A new band of ringers were trained about ten years ago and the bells have since been rung regularly on Sunday mornings and at other times for weddings and other special occasions under the leadership of the Tower Captain, David Leworthy. The current band of ringers include six members of All Saints' but sadly half the band have left over the last few years due to ill-health or moving away. At present, we are only able to keep all eight bells going with the help of ringing friends from Pevensey and Seaford - we need to recruit people from All Saints'. It could be just the interest for you!

We are always interested in meeting and teaching anyone who would like to learn to ring our church bells. It doesn't matter what age you are (provided you can climb the stairs to the ringing chamber!), adults and young people are all welcome. This ancient art will only continue if we pass it on to others and to another generation.

Please come and watch us ringing, there is no obligation to learn. As we are in a room in the tower it's not like a public performance where an audience can see us. It's difficult for us to recruit when people can't see what we do.

Ringling does not require a large amount of effort, only an ability to count, a sense of timing, a willingness to ring for Sunday services and attend practice nights as often as possible. No musical knowledge is needed

and no music is used. Ringing is well within the capabilities of most people.

We practice on Monday evening, from 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm. Please contact David Leworthy (07711 161024) if you are interested in becoming a bell ringer, or speak to one of the ringers - Pip and Jenny Pawley, Julian Dale, Margaret Maloney or Andrew Down.



LISTENING - Rob Griffiths

“Why don't you listen to what I have just told you?”

“You never listen to me...I've told you already.....”

Perhaps these words sound familiar! Perhaps we have sung fervently: 'Open our ears Lord and teach us to listen' – a line of a favourite chorus? We might recall - 'Speak Lord your servant is listening' – the response Samuel is taught by Eli when he hears his name being called in the night by the Lord.

So .. how good are we, you and me, at listening?

The Shorter Oxford English dictionary defines listening as – 'to hear attentively, to give ear to, to make an effort to hear and understand'. Listening is no passive affair but a conscious willed action requiring vigilance and alertness by which our whole attention is focussed and controlled. Doesn't that sound like hard work?

I wonder whether you can pause as you read this and recall someone you know who is a good listener. How do they make you feel when you have really been able to express what is in your heart and mind without interruption? What qualities do they possess that enables them to be a good listener?

George Elliott wrote this – 'Oh the comfort, the inexpressible comfort, of feeling safe with a person, having neither to weigh thoughts or measure words but pour them all out, just as it is, chaff and grain together, knowing a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping and then, with a breath of kindness, blow the rest away.'

Listening is a gift and, of course, we know that our Heavenly Father hears, not only our words, but our deepest thoughts and longings and holds them in his heart.

We find the Scriptures full of references to listening.

'The Lord hears the cry of His people' 'This is my beloved Son, listen to him' 'Listen, then if you have ears to hear'and many more!!

Every single person needs to be heard, to be listened to and the hearers require an open heart and a genuine desire to pay full attention

to what is being said. Not always very easy to do!

Listening is a vital part of all human life. We need to learn to listen to ourselves and our bodies, to listen to the sounds of creation and the everyday world we live in, to listen to others and really hear what they are trying to communicate. Finally, of course, we need to really learn to listen to God who is always seeking to communicate to us, yet we often leave no room for Him to speak with our long lists of prayer requests.

It has been said, 'We have two ears and one mouth', so we need to listen twice as much as we speak!

It is worth practising! We might be surprised by what we hear!

COMING NOW! - *Julian Dale*

"If you do what you love, you'll never work a day in your life."

2017 marks my 25th year working as a Criminal Barrister in Sussex, and although there are a few aspects of my old job that I'll miss, (particularly the friendships of the robing room at Lewes Crown Court) my heart has been leading me in a different direction for several years. I decided in 2014 that I wanted to devote myself (and whatever gifts I have been given) full-time to God, and to this end, Hilary and I sold our old house in Milnthorpe Road, and moved to a very nice but more modest property in Cliff Road, so that we would be in the financial position to accept a permanent post working for the Church should a suitable one become available. I'm thrilled to be given the opportunity to become one of All Saint's new Children, Youth and Family Workers; to be a full-time advocate for Jesus and an organizer of fellowship and fun.

"Lukewarm Christians rarely bubble over." Canon J. John

I believe that a good teacher should enjoy interacting with children, which I do, and should bubble-over with infectious enthusiasm for what is being taught. A keen sense of curiosity and wonderment for God's creation is vital, as is kindness and a sense of fun. This is the kind of teacher that I will strive to be.

Children should feel cherished at church and should be keen to come. I believe that they should play a full part in church life, contributing as well as receiving. As a Youth Worker I will be part of a team seeking to introduce the All Saints' youth to a God who is sovereign, powerful, tender and true. An undiluted God who has edges and who is worthy of wonder. A God who knows them, and loves them, and has had a plan for their lives since before they were born.

It promises to be an awfully big adventure!

PRESSING ON - Duncan Fraser



The time has come for the Fraser family to leave the sunshine coast after four very happy years. We're moving to Eynsham in Oxfordshire where I will become the vicar of Eynsham and Cassington, joining the church families of St. Leonard's and St. Peter's. The two villages are between Oxford and Witney on the cusp of the Cotswolds with the River Thames grazing the south-side of Eynsham. Sound's nice? It is indeed a beautiful area and we are blessed to be going there to join an evangelical and committed group of Christians in the work of the gospel and the next stage of our family's life.

Inevitably, leaving Eastbourne arouses mixed feelings. We have grown to love this town over the last few years, and East Sussex over the past decade, with its beauty and diversity. We have also been a part of two loving and lovely church families in Eastbourne and so moving on will not be easy. I am, however, spurred on by two truths.

Firstly, new challenges are good for us. It's how God usually gets stuff done in our lives; how he changes us to be more like Jesus, truly human. Sometimes those challenges are painful, sometimes they're just hard work, sometimes they force us to think hard about whether we're really leaning on Christ in all things. They prepare us for what is to come in this life but also in the New Creation. If we are to reign with Christ (2 Tim 2:12) then the Lord has a good deal more that he needs to change in me yet!

Secondly, Christian friends gathered are never lost. Every time we receive the bread and wine from the Lord's table we are reminded that, although geographically separated, we are one in Christ. In those times I often think of Christian friends and family across the world who will be remembering Jesus in the same way and I'm encouraged. However, there are friends I've made in Eastbourne who I know I will never see again for death has already brought separation. Amazingly, the hope of the gospel promises us that even this kind of separation will be overcome when Jesus returns and makes all things new. There will be plenty of opportunities for continuing relationships where they left off as we worship and serve the Lord together. So we press on.

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU ALL, DUNCAN!

WHO TO CONTACT FOR INFORMATION:

STAFF TEAM

VICAR: The Revd. Robert Lovatt (410033)

CURATE: Rev. Duncan Fraser (07810 324088)

CHURCH MANAGER: Andy Anderson (732823)

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES WORKERS: Benjamin Lucas & Julian Dale (419400)

Church Warden	Bill Owen	653756
Church Warden	Andy Turner	741170
PCC Secretary	Doreen Nightingale	734440
Home Groups	Andy Anderson	732823
Prayer Ministry	Bill Owen/Valerie Gurney....	653756
Prayer Chain	Linda Owen	653756
Cameo	Christine Woodward.....	735665
Come Aside	Robert Lovatt	410033
Prime Time	Jane Schulze	412649
Christian Life Group..	Margaret Gardner	734742
Aroma (Women)	Gail Ball	730552
J21:12 (Men)	Robert Kirby-Maynard	501609
Parche Teams	Bernie Watts.....	325231
Flowers	Sue Walker	411165
Choir/Orchestra	David Churchyard	740243
Bell Ringers	David Leworthy	470186
Pastoral Visits	Beryl Twitchett	431814
	Christine Costambeys.....	721820
	Bernie Watts	325231

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the above if you have a question or comment about their area of responsibility or you would like to be involved in that activity.

If there is any other area of church life on which you would like information, please get in touch with the Church Manager and he will direct you to the most suitable contact.

If you have any gifts or talents you would like to be used at All Saints' to the glory of God, please let us know!

Grapevine Extra: To suggest or request content for future issues,
please contact: Doreen Nightingale Tel: 01323 734440
Email: dmnig36@btinternet.com

Office Opening Times: The Church Office is open:-
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday 10am—12.30pm & 1.30pm—3.30pm
It is closed on Thursday

Visitors are welcome during the above times;

At any other time an appointment is needed

Tel: 01323 732823 Email: admin@allsaintseastbourne.com

Website: www.allsaintseastbourne.church