



Newsletter

A New Year and a change to our newsletter dates

Not sure how many of you buy monthly magazines or journals however I am sure that they all come out in advance of the month starting. Well we have decided to do the same, we will aim to issue our monthly newsletter on the last Sunday of the month so we can talk about the month ahead before it starts.

We would love to hear your ideas on content for the newsletter and this will be a topic for our January PCC along with "communication".

We hope you are/were, (depending when you read this), able to enjoy your Christmas with friends and family in these changing times and we wish you all a Happy New Year

Mike, Margaret and Dave

Welcome to 2022

Welcome to this New Year

Do you make New Year Resolutions? Have you made any resolutions for 2022? I have been thinking about this question? Do I make resolutions and if I do, can I keep them? In the past, when anyone asked me if I had made a New Year's Resolution, I would always say, "Yes, my resolution is to not make any resolutions." I reckoned that at least if I did that, I wasn't setting myself up to fail. But, I have learned over the years that it is ok to fail. It is better to try, and accept that we might fail, than to not try at all.

After nearly two years of living with Covid, we have all been reminded of how precious many things we took for granted really are. Family, friends and freedom to do those things that matter to us. So, I think that there has probably never been a better opportunity to make some resolutions as we move into this new year.

So what sort of resolutions should we make? I would suggest that they should, firstly, be ones we stand a chance of keeping. If I were to resolve to swim the channel, it would be doomed before I start as I am a very poor swimmer. Secondly, I suggest that that they should be ones that would make a positive difference. I have a few suggestions, though I am sure that you will have some of your own.

Be kinder to yourself

Be kinder to the environment

Make time for family and friends

Be gracious to everyone

Live the best life you can as a member of God's Kingdom

I pray that you may make a resolution or two that will help make a difference to you and those around you.

May God bless you in 2022.

John



In Quires and Places where they.....

For many years I have thought that if I were to record my experiences as a Reader this would make a good title. But firstly, where does this title come from?

For me, it was simply a line in italics after the third collect in Morning and Evening Prayer. Something I saw each Sunday from the age of seven, when I joined the choir at St Michael's Church Northampton. It reads as follows:

In Quires and Places where they sing, here followeth the Anthem.

You will, of course, note that I omitted the word sing. That is simply because much of my experience took me to places where, unlike here at All Saints, there was no choir and singing was very limited.

Anyway, I hope that you enjoy what I hope will be an interesting stroll through some of my experiences as a Reader over the last forty years. So, here goes.

In Quires and Places where they..... Part One - Let Loose

As I mentioned in the November Newsletter, I was first licensed way back in 1981. In those distant days, a newly licensed Reader was only permitted to minister in their own parish for the first year. An apprenticeship perhaps. An opportunity to hone my skills and gain confidence in the leading of services. An opportunity too to have my preaching dissected by my rector. An opportunity to develop as a minister before being let loose on the unsuspecting folk in the villages around Northamptonshire.

Therefore, it was 1982 before I was let out on my own. I was sent to take evensong at Weedon. You may never have heard of Weedon, but it is definitely worth looking up on the internet. There are three major travel routes that pass through the village, the A5 trunk road from London to Holyhead. The West Coast railway line and the Grand Union Canal. Fascinatingly, the church, which sits on the edge of the village, is now sandwiched between the embankment that carries the railway and the embankment that carries the canal. Weedon was also, from the early 1800's, the home of the Royal Ordnance Depot. Built there as it was about as far from the sea as you could get and therefore safe from attack in the event of an invasion.

Weedon was also the home of my best friend when I was a pupil at Northampton Grammar School, as his father was Vicar there in the late 1960s.

To be honest, I don't remember much about this first time that I was let out on my own, except for one significant thing. Something that I am sure the railway enthusiasts amongst you will smile at.

When I was trained all those years ago, I was advised that sermons should be no longer than ten minutes. My tutor said, "If you haven't struck oil in ten minutes, stop boring." I was so conscious that I should not preach for more than ten minutes and so nervous about going somewhere new for the first time, that Jo had to undergo many rehearsals on the days leading up to that Sunday. She reminded me that I even recorded it and listened to it back.

So, with all this preparation and a year of leading evensong in our own church, the service was going really well until we came to my highly rehearsed and over prepared sermon. I climbed the pulpit steps, aware that all eyes were on me and trying not to trip over my cassock. "In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit," I began. Everyone sat down, still looking expectantly at me. I am not sure what they were expecting, but I certainly wasn't expecting what happened next. As I opened my mouth to share all that planning, to interpret the scripture, an extremely loud and very long express train thundered past with a blast of its horn, scaring me witless and drowning out my opening sentence.

The Lord has a great sense of humour.

John



Our Website is back

In these days of social media, mobile devices, internet and YouTube, we clearly need to be changing the way we communicate both internally within the church and with our local community. The word 'local' in these days seems to stretch boundaries as our reach is limitless when we use social media. Some will say social media is bad, it certainly can be abused and we have to be careful. We have adapted well to the use of some elements but we still need to really understand how to use others to benefit our outreach in Southbourne.

We owe a debt of gratitude for the hard work Rich and Adrian have put in to rebuild our website and get it launched. It has not been without it's 'challenges' to get us to this position, however we are now in a great place. Below is how the top of our home page looks

[Home](#) [Services](#) [News](#) [Church centre](#) [Safeguarding](#) [Links](#) [Contact us](#)



Welcome to All Saints Church, Southbourne, Bournemouth

You may be new to the area, or have lived here for years. You may have been a Christian for many years or have just decided to come to church for the first time, All Saints Southbourne welcomes you. We hope that you feel at home here. Our different services through the month and year reflect our differences, but at all of them we want to draw closer to God, being thankful, learning from the Bible and growing as disciples.

To explore our website choose an option from the menu at the top of this page. Alternatively, use the quick links below.

- [Service times and information](#)
- [Latest posts on our Facebook page](#)
- [Latest service recordings on our YouTube channel](#)
- [Download our latest newsletter](#)

Do take time to explore it and share the link: <https://allsaintschurchsouthbourne.org/>

Our open **Facebook** page gets many hits for posts we make but none more than Mike's post about 'SmALL Saints' reopening. It has had 656 viewings, yes many will be the same people returning to read. However, if they only clicked on the link and closed it, they have made contact and you never know what they could lead to in the future.

Our **YouTube** recordings of the services are being viewed by those unable to get to the church, those wishing to listen again having been to the service and also people who live far from Southbourne who like to watch.

We have increased the number of **mail drops** that we have done across the Parish this year with 3 postcard updates being distributed. Thanks to all those who walked the streets to deliver them.

Betty's Christmas message

In case you missed it at the back of church here is Betty Knight's Christmas message to all.

"I hope this letter finds you well, at the end of another challenging year for everyone.

I am still living here in my own home in Southbourne, and keeping well. I very much appreciate the support of my 3 children Stephanie, Richard and Leonie and all the help and care I receive from my neighbours and the team of carers that see me every day to help me stay here.

There have been many more family visits this year once restrictions were eased and we were able to meet safely. The highlight was my 103rd birthday in June which we celebrated in the garden with as many of my close family as were able to be there.

I wish you a Happy Christmas and send my best wishes for the New Year"

Betty

Dates for your diary

Worship in January

Sundays at 9.30am - Holy Communion with hymns and choir

Wednesdays at 10am - A said service following Common Worship Liturgy

Groups

Small Groups will recommence w/c 3rd January

SmALL Saints will start again on Tuesday 11th January

Events

Don't forget All Saints Dramatic Society Pantomime, Cinderella, at the Corpus Christi Centre in Parkwood Road. 7th - 9th & 13th - 15th January at 7.30pm, with matinees at 2.30pm on 8th, 9th, 15th & 16th. Tickets are available from our Box Office on 07548100770 or can be obtained via the website allsaintsdramaticsociety.com.

Welcome

We have just revamped our 'Welcome' booklet bringing it up to date and you can find this at the back of the church. Clearly this is for visitors and those new to our church. We hope that with this and the welcome you give to those who are new, that they will want to come back again and become part of our church community.



Parish Office

Open Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9.30am–12.30pm

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