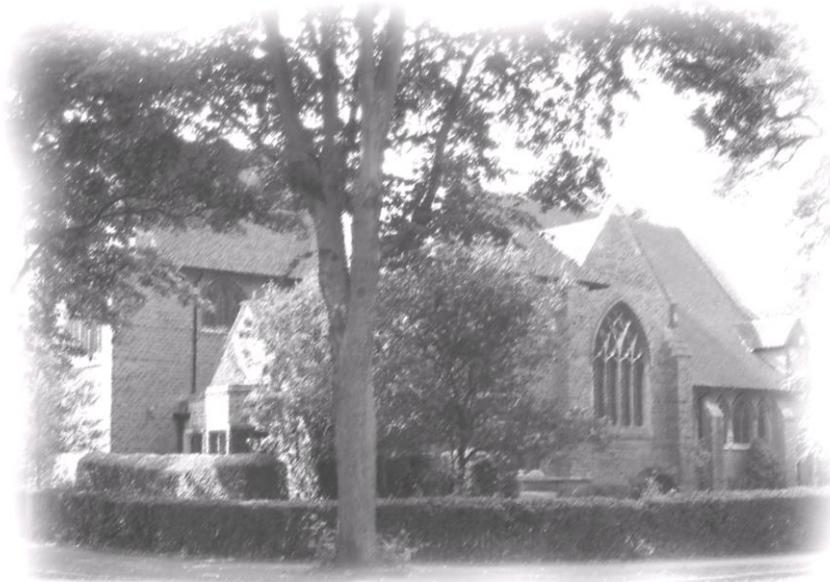


# THE BEACON

## MAGAZINE OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH OCTOBER 2018



### NORMAL WEEKLY SERVICES

#### SUNDAYS

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.30am Family Communion (United Anglican / Methodist Service)

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month – All Age Worship Service (Usually not Communion)

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month – Methodist Local Preacher

5.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month, Choral Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the month, Evening Worship (various styles)

*Changes to these details are given in the weekly Notice Sheet, available free of charge at the back of the church.*

## WEEKDAYS

Daily – Morning Prayer 9.00 – 9.30am

Third Friday in the month:

11.30am Short Service of Holy Communion, followed by lunch in the Community Hall.

### *The Vicar's bit*

I am writing this piece on the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity. The Gospel reading for today was from Mark 8, where Jesus asks His disciples "Who do people say I am... and you, who do you say I am?". In her sermon, Anne referred to the BBC TV programme Who do you think you are? where celebrities discover something about their family tree – often hoping that this will help them find out something about what made them the type of person that they are. The underlying idea is that we are, in some way, the product of our past – our genes, our family characteristics, and history.

This is true of churches as well as people. We, at Saint John's, are a product of a combination of our denominational traditions (Church of England and Methodist) and our own personal faith traditions and experiences. But we are also a product of the character and history of Belmont Village \*. And this is quite right, as Saint John's is the Parish Church of Belmont and its people. We celebrate all this as we celebrate the awarding of Grade II listed status to Saint John's (see article on page 12 of this edition). Listed status is only awarded to something of historic value, and Saint John's does have a proud and valued history.

It would be very easy to rest on our historical laurels, and to set Saint John's in aspic... a nice museum piece that is a 'war church', to harp back to those fondly remembered pasts where 'the church was full, the choir was twice as big as could fit into the pews (it really was once), and where the Sunday school was bursting at the seams'. Leaving aside the fact that such memories are often very rose-tinted, we exist in a different world to the past. The big question is whether Saint John's is fit for now, and for the future.

The answer to that is in our own hands. This will require many things coming together – particularly growth in numbers, and in finances. We all have a part to play in this – whether it is with financial support, time effort and skills to offer, or sharing our love for this place and inviting others to come along and share in fellowship and worship of God, in the variety we offer here.

We are at an exciting and challenging time for the church. Either we can merely live in a Grade II past or look towards a Grade I future! Let's grasp this challenge firmly.

*Mark*

\* Do get hold of a copy of Tony Woolfenden's excellent booklet *A Church for Belmont*, available in the church, if you have not done so already.

A very big thanks from all at Saint John's for Tony's hard work in guiding the application successfully through.

Thanks also to Pat Lancaster for her input, and for guiding the fundraising process that is now in full swing.



### **Services at Saint John's in October and early November 2018**

7 October	9.30 am	Harvest Festival – Parade
	5.30 pm	Choral Evensong
14 October	9.30 am	Family Communion (Trinity 20/ Proper 23)/ Prisons Sunday
19 October	11.30 am	Holy Communion & Lunch (Henry Martyn)
21 October	9.30 am	Family Communion (Trinity 21/ Proper 24)
	5.30 pm	Healing Communion
28 October	9.30 am	Family Communion Family Communion (Saints Simon and Jude/Bible Sunday)
4 November	9.30 am	* Family Communion – All Saints
	5.30 pm	Choral Evensong

11 November      9.30 am      \* Shortened Communion  
                         10.50 am      Remembrance Sunday Service – Parade

8.00 am      Holy Communion (traditional language) every Sunday.  
9.00 am      Morning Prayer, Monday – Saturday in the Lady Chapel.



*By Janet Williams*

On 29th August we met together in the Hall to take part in the Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer. This happens at the same time every year, when we have a short service and remember the particular dioceses to which we in the Southwark Diocese are linked.

This year we heard Fauré's Pavane as an introduction. Then, sitting in a circle around a globe of the world, we prayed in turn for the Dioceses in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Nigeria and India and also for Southwark and Oxford in England. A candle was lit for each Diocese as we prayed for them, followed by some time to be quiet and think about the Mothers' Union members to whom we are linked all over the world.

This short service provides a peaceful quiet time, a welcome break in our busy lives. Our meeting in October, in the meeting room at 7.45 on 24 October, is our last evening meeting of the year. Joan Kimber will be teaching us more about Cake Decoration. Last time she came we all were able to make our own decorations and we had a very enjoyable time. All are welcome to join us.

## **Step by Step Fund Raising Programme**

*By Pat Lancaster*

Some may be aware that August was a month designated for summertime sponsorships where members of the congregation might put their time and talents to good use to raise some money in support of the Step by Step funding appeal. It is heartening to learn that two of our youngest members, Noah and Henry, raised £60.00 between them through helping parents and grandparents in the garden. Planting and watering plants in particular required a much-needed helping hand or two to keep them healthy and thriving this summer. What a magnificent effort by these little ones made to deliver a spectacular result in more ways than one...

Many thanks from all at Saint John's.

## **LFTOO: Hello Autumn and Goodbye Summer...**

*By Pat Lancaster*

Our meeting held at the beginning of September was a much lesser occasion in terms of the hospitality we enjoyed at our summer BBQ but members were tempted with a glass of sangria (or two), if they turned up, to welcome in Autumn and plan activities over the next few months and, in particular, how we might also lend our support to Saint John's *Step by Step* fundraising programme.

The sangria went down very well on the night especially as we had just heard the news of Saint John's successful application for the church to become Grade II listed. So rather than an atmosphere of commiseration at saying farewell to a glorious summer we could celebrate a truly remarkable milestone for Saint John's instead.

Plenty of constructive input followed on how the church might promote our listed status to a wider community and a summary has been prepared to share with the ECC for their consideration. We then turned our attention to the real purpose of the evening to review our events calendar and agree what and who could be available to support some suggested fund-raising activities for the church funding appeal.

Noting the success of our table sale at the Belmont Festival in July it seemed natural that we build on that by holding a table sale at Harvest Festival promoting our talents with home-made goodies and, subsequently, a suitably themed table offering for the Christmas season (such as turning artist's sketches into 2019 calendars). We all went home with a sketch to turn it in to something new... look out for the results in due course.

Similarly, on reviewing past activities which proved popular, it seemed natural to enjoy those again... A theatre/cinema trip, BBQ and quiz walk are definitely to be scheduled along with a new year supper... The challenge will be to make sure that the remainder of our monthly meetings in the year ahead are just as entertaining...

### **Updated calendar in the next edition**

## **BELMONT'S LOSSES IN WAR REMEMBERED AT HOME AND ABROAD**

*By Keith White*

On 8 August, to mark the beginning of the last 100 days of the First World War more than two thousand members of the Royal British Legion carried their standards and wreaths along the same route to the Menin Gate as the Great Pilgrimage of 1928. The standard bearer for Belmont Branch was Russell Speed. He was proud to march with Royal British Legion members from across the United Kingdom and as far away as the Falklands and Hong Kong.



His wife, Denise laid a wreath on behalf of Belmont Branch. The event was titled "GP90".

Representing the Branch in GP90 was a mark of respect for those many lives lost in an entire generation. Russell said, "The experience was overwhelming. The parade itself was spectacular and the route was lined by an international crowd, including Belmont's Bill Cuffe. In contrast, we were humbled to see the sites of the fierce battles and the immaculate war graves that mark the loss of so many young lives."

Belmont village has its own War Memorial commemorating the Belmont people who lost their lives in the two World Wars. On Remembrance Day each year, a large number of people of all ages gather at the Memorial and the church for a parade and acts of worship. The key act of remembrance is the outdoor service at the War Memorial conducted by the Vicar and including prayers by the Jewish community. The church choir and the Crystal Palace band lead the signing of traditional hymns. Wreaths are laid on behalf of the various parts of the local community. In the days leading up to Remembrance Day, other members of the community plant wooden Crosses, Stars of David and Crescents as their personal tributes. The act of remembrance is followed by a service in the church.

This event is well attended by local people from across the generations. It is recognised as a key element in the life of Belmont Village. It is arranged by the Belmont Branch of the Royal British Legion with support from the Belmont and South Cheam Residents Association and from Saint John's. It is a very visible example of the church reaching out to the community.

Belmont has had a Royal British Legion branch for ninety-three years and it has played a key role in the life of the village community.

The Belmont branch is keen to attract new members. If you are someone who would like to support the Branch and the charitable work of the Legion, the Branch committee would really like to hear from you.

*All are welcome:* applications to join the branch from all parts of the community will be welcomed. If you support the Legion's objectives, it does not matter if you have had no relationship with the military. Please contact [belmontrbl@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:belmontrbl@yahoo.co.uk)

## **WE ARE NOW ON THE LIST!**

*By Tony Woolfenden*

Last month I reported on our application for Saint John's to become a listed building. Early in September, as you may have heard, we received the welcome and



unexpectedly speedy news that we had been successful - Saint John's has now been added to the statutory National Heritage List for England at Grade II. The listing excludes the meeting room and community hall.

This gives us official recognition at national level that our church is of special significance and importance. The immediate effect is to put us in a much better position to seek grants from suitable charities and trusts for the major work our building urgently needs, particularly to the roof (squirrel damage and more) and to the west window. Listing does also add some requirements that affect consideration of future changes, but our view is that the quality and construction of our church would require any future

work to be good, careful and suitable, regardless of whether the church were listed or not.

What has made St John's worth listing? The official principal reasons are its:

(a) "architectural interest:

as an impressive, well-built and well-proportioned late-Gothic-Revival church with good interior spatial sense;

for its almost complete set of original furnishings designed by Greenaway and Newberry ;

as a good example of the work of Greenaway and Newberry, a church architectural partnership of significance and distinction;

for its good quality fixtures and fittings including stained glass by Lawrence Lee and Nathaniel Westlake, and the eighteenth century font";

(b) group value with the listed Belmont war memorial opposite the church.

If you have a computer and want to see the full details online (seven pages in all, most of them a very detailed factual description of the church) you can find them by searching for "Heritage England the list" and then putting in our list entry number, 1458604.

A good outcome then for our application, both for its help in our fund-raising and for its recognition that we really are fortunate in having such a fine building. We can now consider publicising our new Grade II listed status to the wider community, many of whom of course already appreciate the value of the building and the range of facilities we provide here in strengthening community cohesion.

## **God in the Arts**

*Rev Michael Burgess is exploring symbols of the Christian faith as found in works of art.*

'He gave us eyes to see them' – Duccio's Wedding at Cana

'The conscious water saw its God and blushed' – in those words, the poet Richard Crashaw describes the first miracle of Jesus at the wedding feast in Cana.

This sign at the beginning of our Lord's ministry points ahead to that other meal when a cup of wine will be poured out for many. The cup is a rich image of life in scripture: from the cup found in Benjamin's sack in Genesis to the cup of blessing in Paul's letters. The cup may be filled with bitter wine to reflect life's sorrow, while the cup of the twenty-third Psalm overflows with goodness. It is as rich an image as the bunch of grapes we often see in a church window or carved on a screen – a sign of the goodness of Creation that brings us the gift of wine.

The wedding at Cana speaks to us of the generosity and gift of our Lord who transforms the feast. Duccio di Buoninsegna portrayed it in the panel he provided for the Maesta, the glorious altarpiece for Siena Cathedral in 1311. We see the table lavishly spread, while Jesus, sat by the side of His mother, blesses the water pots. The servants are busy pouring what is now wine into the jugs and cups. It is the new wine of the kingdom.

Everywhere that Jesus went, the old was made new. For the widow of Nain he changed tears into joy, for Zacchaeus selfishness into love, for the thief on the cross despair into hope, for Mary Magdalene the end of the road into a new journey. What our Lord did at Cana, He went on doing in His ministry, changing not just water, but transforming human lives. And we share in that transforming love at every eucharist as we drink of the cup of blessing. These are some words of the poet Elizabeth Jennings:

'Those grapes, ready for picking, are the sign  
Of harvest and of Sacrament.'



## **Refugee Week – June 2018**

*By Anne Rusbridge*

This is the twentieth year of Refugee Week and to celebrate they are inviting people to do one simple act to raise awareness. On their website is a list of Twenty Simple Acts to choose from such as sharing a story, sending a card, making a gift, reading a book or writing a twenty-word poem.

I have read a book, *Where the Wind Leads* by Vinh Chung, which is a true story of a wealthy Chinese family living in Vietnam who were forced to flee for their lives during

the Communist regime leaving everything behind. Their only means of escape was to become boat people and to read their story was very enlightening. Re-building their lives in a new country was certainly not easy either and makes me realise how a better understanding of someone's culture enables any help to be much more relevant to people's needs. It is a story of faith, hope, strength of human spirit and how a few small kindnesses along the way encouraged the family enormously.

During Refugee Week in June I challenged the 9.30am congregation to try writing a twenty word poem. Here are the poems that have been passed on to me:

Behind walls a child cries,  
Separated from her parent's dreams,  
As lost from hope  
As bodies in a vast sea.

by John Daniels

Had to leave my country  
Packed up in a rush  
No time to say goodbye  
Where is my new home

by Helen Williams

Refugee's Epitaph:  
World Citizen, I said,  
Give me a bed,  
Somewhere for my head.  
No, they said  
So I'm dead.

by Eileen Rice

Mummy! Mummy!  
Don't let go of me!  
I've lost my dolly!  
I'm cold!  
Can we go home?  
Please, Mummy, Please.....

by Judy Staight

Different language,  
Different food,  
Different clothes,  
Different culture,  
Racist comments.  
How long for this strange place to feel like home?

by Anne Rusbridge.

Hungry - trudge.  
Frightened - trudge.

Cold - trudge.  
Crying - trudge  
Where are we? trudge.  
New country  
New friends  
New hope!

by Judy Staight

Hiding in the Bush  
Fear rising at every sound.  
A sofa now in someone's lounge,  
And peace inside my heart.

by Anne Rusbridge

Thank you to everyone who sent me a poem, and maybe this will inspire lots more of you to have a go!

## Prayer for the Month

### Blessing for the Day

Oh God

hold me in the palm of your hand.

I pray that you will mould me into what you want me to be.

May I joyfully fill the role you have given me

and feel your peace deep in my soul,

today and always



# *The Month Ahead*

## **LF Too**

**Thursday 4 October**

**Cinema/theatre visit tbc**

## **Vicar's Pub Night**

**Monday 8 October**

**From 7.30pm Downs Tennis Club  
Holland Avenue**

## **Mothers' Union**

**Saturday 13 October**

**Diocesan Council**

**Venue tba**

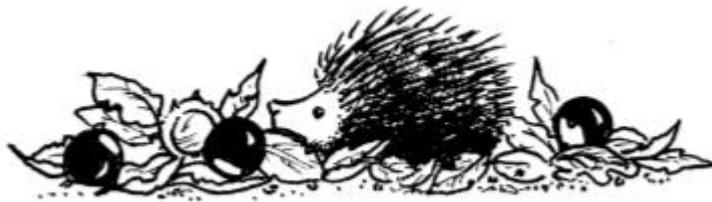
**Wednesday 24 October**

**7.45 pm in the meeting Room**

**"Cake Decoration" a talk and  
demonstration by Joan Kimber**

## **Friday Holy Communion and Lunch**

**Friday 19 October 11.30 am**



## **SUNDAY CLUB**

Sundays at 9.30am in the Community Hall (Age 3yrs and above)

## **SCOUTS (1<sup>st</sup> Belmont)**

<b>Beavers:</b>	Tuesdays 5.30pm - 6.30pm.
<b>Cubs:</b>	Tuesdays or Thursdays 7.00pm - 8.00pm.
<b>Scouts:</b>	Mondays 6.45pm - 8.15pm
<b>Explorer Scouts:</b>	Mondays 8.45pm - 9.45pm

## **GUIDES, BROWNIES & RAINBOWS**

<b>Rainbows:</b>	Thursdays 5.00pm-6.00pm.
<b>Brownies:</b>	Fridays 5.15pm-6.45pm.
<b>Guides:</b>	Tuesdays 6.30pm-8.30pm
<b>Guides &amp; Rangers:</b>	Fridays 7.00pm-9.00pm.

## *Beacon dates for issue*

### **Copy Date**

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

*(if leaving in pigeon holes, by Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, please)*

### **Distribution Date**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

### **Items for inclusion.**

Leave it in pigeon hole for Caroline Everson (Editor)

E-mail: caro1902@hotmail.co.uk

*Please ensure that items are not left in the church office.*

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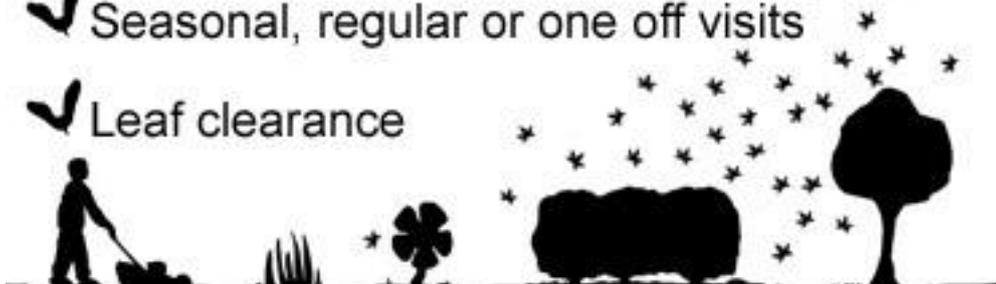
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