

February 2017



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# ST ANDREW'S

## NEWSLETTER



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## 2017 – the year of being kind?

**Chris Ruse suggests we read this extract.**

This is from a blog called 'Psephizo' by Ian Paul, who writes on a wide range of current issues from a Christian standpoint and is well worth following.

*'A friend and colleague commented three days ago that a local school had a single rule: be kind. And that seemed like a good approach to Christian life and ethics, so would become this person's New Year Resolution. For many people it feels as though the last year was not kind, and a little more kindness would be welcome. When my late mother still owned her Catholic faith, one of her favourite prayers went something like this:*

*"Lord, keep me from saying that which is not true, and from that which, being true, is only half the truth, and from that which, being the whole truth, is not kind."*

*When we think of what is kind and unkind, though actions are important it is often words that make the difference and leave their mark, in both positive and negative ways.'*

[psephizo.com/life-ministry/2017-the-year-of-being-kind](http://psephizo.com/life-ministry/2017-the-year-of-being-kind)



## Upcoming Services at St Andrew's:

**Sunday 12 February** Sr. Veronica's Fairwell services (see also below)

**Sunday 19 February, 10.15** The Archdeacon of Wandsworth, the Venerable John Kiddle will be coming to preach at St Andrew's

**Monday 6 March, 8pm** Licensing Service of Revd Alice Pettit as Priest in Charge

## Upcoming Events at St Andrew's:

**Sunday 12 February, 12.30 for 1pm**

**Fairwell Lunch for Sister Veronica** in the church hall. Please sign up at the back of church.

**Saturday 25 February, 6.30-9.30pm**

**Mardi Gras Caribbean Evening** in the church hall. Join us for Caribbean food, songs and limbo dancing. All ages welcome. £10 a head, £20 for a family ticket on sale in church and from the parish office. Food and punch provided. For extra drinks, bring a bottle. Dress in bright colours!

**\*\*\*\*NEWS\*\*\*\* Lizzie Brocklehurst** is abseiling down the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth on 18<sup>th</sup> March in aid of Princess Alice Hospice in memory of her mother, Jan. To donate, please go to Lizzie's a fundraising page: [justgiving.com/fundraising/injansmemory](http://justgiving.com/fundraising/injansmemory)



**A reminder from Jenny Philpott about Women's World Day of Prayer St Thomas Aquinas RC Church  
11 am, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017**

Over 5,000 services will be held in the British Isles on the theme of 'Am I Being Unfair to You?' The Christian Women of the Philippines wrote the service to be used throughout the world and will start at sunrise over the island of Samoa. The service focuses on the bible story of the workers in the vineyard Matthew 20 v 1-16 and there is reflection on the artwork designed by Rowena 'Aplo' Laxamana-Sta.Rosa.

To find out more: [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk)

*A Sunday School Christmas by Joanna Horner Photo Michael Broad also front cover*

Our **Nativity service** on December 11<sup>th</sup> was entitled 'Pass it on' - the congregation responding with these words when good news was announced, and 'oh dear' when bad news was proclaimed! The children acted and narrated the Christmas story in this gently humorous version, published by the charity Shelter, to whom we made a donation collected after the service.



**Carol singing** this year brought in a record £136 for the Children's Society, as more than 20 of us sang our greetings around Royal Park Gate. Our youngest carollers, Oscar and Peter, did a great job, cheerfully and politely, collecting from house to house, and we are sure that the company of Alfie the dog, dressed in his Christmas jumper made all the difference to our success! Returning to the warmth of Margaret's house, where Kay was supervising the mulled wine, was very cheering, and we are very grateful to all those people who opened their doors and supported us.

**The Epiphany party** went with a swing on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-one children joined in energetic, noisy party games, with a party tea served in the middle. At the start, the younger children, aged 1-5 (plus some enthusiastic older siblings) were entertained with gentle games and activities, and Margaret, as always, summoned enough energy to keep the show going for more than 4 hours! Sunday School teachers and parents, enjoyed grazing on the delicious left-overs, and the ladies in the kitchen efficiently set out the food, drinks, and welcome cups of tea. The food finale - jelly and ice-cream - led us into the older children's games full of vigorous action and lots of fun, ending with a Sunday School favourite - number hockey - pairs of children frantically whacking a soft ball with cardboard tube 'hockey sticks', towards their goal.

Thank you to all who took part in these special events - and especially to Margaret, whose dedication, boundless energy and constant good humour, keeps us all going!

## A Head for Heights: Report from Building and Works *by Richard Woolf*

Observant parishioners will have noticed substantial scaffolding and activity on the north elevation of St Andrews since Christmas. Under the watchful eye of Peter Bowyer our inspecting architect, investigation and repairs have been underway on a difficult gutter failure resulting in interior staining above the pulpit. The gutter leadwork had developed a fracture discovered by Selwyn Lloyd after his expert assistance with the Building and Works team.



The renovation work is drawing to a conclusion and the additional work to extend the side parapet rain water down pipe and hopper is now in hand. Natural drying out of the interior staining will enable redecoration once the moisture content of the limeplaster has stabilised. Further updates to follow.

## Praising God with Geoff Davies 1st January 2017 *by Joan Smith*



Geoff began his talk by discussing the meaning of 'praise' - warm approval, admiration of, glorify. We were asked to think of people who had recently died late in 2016 and over the Christmas period and the gushing words used to describe them 'amazing, fantastic' but also their considered praise ...'inspiring, hardworking, and genuine'. We thought how different audiences of different people react in different ways - from the hysteria at pop concerts to hymn singing and applause at sporting events. Tracey then sang 'Hallelujah' by Leonard Cohen accompanied by Jenny, and Geoff asked us then to consider all the people present at and around Jesus's birth and how they praised him, and how we in turn praise Him. Are we like the angels - confident, making the heavens ring with our praise? Or similar to the shepherds who cannot wait to tell others - and we do have times and stories of when our own lives are touched by God. Perhaps wide eyed and amazed like Joseph. And finally Mary, with her calmness, but still full of wonder and beauty; as we can be when full of deep inward praise. After Psalm 150 'Praise the Lord' we were asked to pray for the Reverend Alice Pettit, Sister Veronica on retreat and for 2017 as a time of renewal and growth for us all. Thank you Geoff.