



Newsletter for April/May 2018

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APCM – extracts from the Vicar's report.

The readings were Acts 4:5-12, John 10:11-18. These reflect the heart of why we exist as a community. This is a place for belonging, to each other and to God. For getting to know each other and our Good Shepherd better, hearing his voice, learning to follow him, for being cared for and guided. It's also a place to be sent out from to take those things to others, the acts of kindness, the good news of Jesus, the healing and wholeness that knowing him and living his ways brings. Every service ends with the words, 'go in peace to love and serve the Lord'. These readings reflect the core message of Jesus, the 2 greatest commandments, 'love God and love neighbour'. Everything we do needs to serve that vision.

At the Service and following Annual Meeting we heard about a few of the current church projects which will support us as we try to love God and love our neighbours.

Providing better toilet facilities in the Church and the Hall including disabled and baby changing facilities. The refurbishment of our hall to make it a much better space for us and our community.

Good management of the trees and natural area between Church and Common, ready for the Centenary Remembrance service in November around the Ham War Memorial, and to make the Church more visible as a sign of the strong and increasing links between us and all different parts of our wider community.

Creating a lovely hall garden that is comfortable and accommodating for different ages and needs, and also creates a space for quiet reflection and prayer, somewhere that we can offer others as a spiritual retreat. After the April 29th 10:15am service there will be a consultation in the hall to hear the congregation's thoughts and ideas for this special space.

Our services should help all of us to worship and love God. 29th April will be our first all-age Communion service, designed to help children also feel included and learn what Holy Communion is, and know that all of us are invited to 'the Lord's table' to remember him.

A new youth group will be starting up in the Vicarage from next month.

Another recent initiative to support us in loving God is the quiet prayer hour, 10-11am on one Saturday a month. If you haven't yet been to one of these don't miss out. They are special and rewarding times. The next dates are 19th May, 16th June, 21st July, 11th August and 15th September.

Loving our neighbour is behind the ministry of welcome offered by our Guardians who keep the church open to visitors over the weekends and also our presence at Ham Fair on 9th June.

Chris Ruse and Revd Alice are always available for people who would like a home visit or communion.

'Welcome Wednesdays': we plan to start opening up the hall, following the Wednesday 10:30am Church Communion Service. We will serve tea and cake, share a meal, have games and crafts, there will be the opportunity for midday prayer and a Mother's Union meeting with a speaker. Time to chat, to support, to be together. Something for all ages and for everyone. Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered. We still need a few more. Sheets listing the help we need are at the back of the Church.

Taking care of our planet is both loving the God who made it and made us stewards of it, and loving our neighbours who share it with us. This year we plan to officially start work on our first Eco church award. Looking at everything we do, it's environmental impact, and how we can adapt to be more sustainable.

So, from Peter and John in Israel 2000 years ago, preaching in synagogues and house churches, to you and me in 21st Century London, celebrating Holy communion, having our APCM and going home for lunch, we are one people of God and our common purpose it to be and speak the good news of Jesus in acts of kindness which cause people to ask us 'why?'. To know the voice of our Good Shepherd and follow him, joyful at being his, walking in his good ways of loving God and loving our neighbour.

Easter at St. Andrew's 2018 *by Richard Barber and Margaret Rees*



On Good Friday Alice led an interesting and thought-provoking Family Service at which we followed her around the church from side chapel to screen to west end as she told the story of Holy Week illustrated by the painted scenes which had been created at the last Art morning. The beautiful Easter Day scene shows many Pascal candles and the children present decorated their own card candles at the end. A few hymns were sung and accompaniment from the music group made it a special service.

The three-hour service in the afternoon, interspersed with appropriate readings and hymns, was a solemn and moving experience

for all who attended, as befits the dramatic events on which we were reflecting.

Easter morning broke to fine weather and a church stunningly decorated with magnificent flower displays organised by Rachel Lipscomb and her helpers, while those in the Lady Chapel were given by Mary Harris in memory of her late husband Chris. A packed congregation greeted the Risen Lord in an uplifting service, begun by Alice's reminding us how the Resurrection smashed through the despair of Good Friday and then symbolically smashing several chocolate Easter eggs and handing the results to an appreciative congregation! She then preached about the inspiration of finding that Jesus was no longer in the tomb but risen, and the profound meaning that that holds for everyone's lives today.



In the Sunday School we had optimistically prepared for about 16 children and were delighted to have 31 children present! We pinned the tail on Jesus' donkey, heard the story of Holy Week from a child's viewpoint, made paper crosses and went home with stickers and a background to create Holy Week scenes.

The children who had attended the Craft and Art Morning on Easter Tuesday went home with bags containing iced cross and fish biscuits, picture frames, cross-stitch cross bookmarks, Easter baskets (with eggs) and other items made by them on that very pleasant morning. All children were involved and interested and it was lovely to have quite a few children from St Peter's.

Our thanks go to all who helped in any way to make this an especially memorable Easter time at St Andrew's.



Lighting the Paschal Candle – Photo by Michael Broad.

Front Cover, Easter Day Procession – Photo by Michael Broad.

Upcoming services and events:

Sunday 6th May: 10.15am 30 minute all-age service

Thursday 10th May: 8pm Ascension Day Holy Communion service

Sunday 13th May: Sister Veronica and other sisters from the Solomon Islands will be joining us for 10:15am Parish Communion. You are invited to attend a **lunch party** in the hall afterwards to welcome them. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of Church.

Saturday 9th June: Ham Fair. If you are able to help, particularly with assembling our gazebos and driving the vans, please let us know.