

allthesaints@allsaints

Newsletter of All Saints' Anglican Church, Via del Babuino 153.

March 22nd 2020

MOTHERING SUNDAY

From the Editor: thank you so much for your encouraging words following the first issue of the Newsletter last week. The fact that different people liked different things suggests that there was something for everyone!

From Father Rob Warren

Dear Friends,

Our Sunday service for Mothering Sunday is available online at the following URL

<https://bobsprospect.blogspot.com/2020/03/all-saints-anglican-church-rome-sunday.html>

Please feel free to share it with any of your friends who may be cut off from their home church - either in real life or in some virtual form - and might appreciate it.

Also - for those of you with children at home or stuck at home yourselves, there are resources for children and for adults which can be accessed via our website

<http://www.allsaintsrome.org>

by clicking on the tab "Faith at Home" along the top of the page. Many blessings

Fr Rob

All Saints' Church

And here is the link to Edoardo's sermon: <https://romananglican.blogspot.com/2020/03/a-mothering-sunday-reflection.html?spref=fb>

Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Lent. Although it's often called Mothers' Day it has no connection with the American festival of that name. Traditionally, it was a day when children, mainly daughters, who had gone to work as domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother and family. Today it is a day when children give presents, flowers, and home-made cards to their mothers.

History of Mothering Sunday

Most Sundays in the year churchgoers in England worship at their nearest parish or 'daughter church'. Centuries ago it was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' church - the main church or cathedral of the area. Inevitably the return to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away returned home. (It was quite common in those days for children to leave home for work once they were ten years old.)

And most historians think that it was the return to the 'Mother' church which led to the tradition of children, particularly those working as domestic servants, or as apprentices, being given the day off to visit their mother and family.

As they walked along the country lanes, children would pick wild flowers or violets to take to church or give to their mother as a small gift.

Children of the Gospel

Another thought is that the name comes from one of the Bible readings for that day, which refers to motherhood in a different way.

But the Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all,

Galatians 4:26

The writer of the text wanted to explain to the Galatian community what their relationship as Christians was to the Jewish Law.

In the full passage (Galatians 4:21-31), the two children born by Hagar and Sarah to **Abraham** are seen as symbolising two promises from God.

One is the Law (or **Torah**), which is restraining and earthly. The other is the Gospel, which is spiritual and liberating. The Galatians are told to regard themselves as children of Gospel.

Traditional foods

Mothering Sunday was also known as Refreshment Sunday because the fasting rules for Lent were relaxed that day. Originally, both Old and New Testament lessons on mid-lent Sunday made a point of food. The Gospel reading from the New Testament told the story of how Jesus fed five thousand people with only five small barley loaves and two small fish.

Now there was much grass in the place; so the men sat down, in number about five thousand. Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.

John 6:10-12

The food item specially associated with Mothering Sunday is the **Simnel cake**.

A Simnel cake is a fruit cake with two layers of almond paste, one on top and one in the middle.

The cake is made with 11 balls of marzipan icing on top representing the 11 disciples. (Judas is not included.) Traditionally, sugar violets would also be added.



Why Simnel?

The name Simnel probably comes from the Latin word *simila* which means a fine wheat flour usually used for baking a cake.

There's a legend that a man called Simon and his wife Nell argued over whether the cake for Mothering Sunday should be baked or boiled. In the end they did both, so the cake was named after both of them: SIM-NELL. Val Spicer presented Pope Francis with the gift of a Simnel Cake on the occasion of his historic visit to All Saints' in 2017.

(Historical information from the BBC website)

The hymns originally chosen for today's Mothering Sunday service reflect that it is all-age.

"Fathers and Mothers" is sung to the tune Bunessan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VL9xXyLrq00>, more familiar as Morning has Broken, always appropriate to listen to on a Sunday morning!

The author of the words is Timothy Dudley Smith, former Archdeacon of Norwich and Bishop of Thetford, and author of several hundred hymn texts.

The second hymn, "For the Beauty of the Earth", appears in over 500 hymn-books in the English-speaking world. Here is John Rutter's popular setting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0qQyW0W0Rw>, but many churches choose this more traditional setting:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpW_ij9PaVM. In the spring of 1863, Foliott S. Pierpont sat on a hilltop outside his native city of Bath, England, admiring the country view and the winding Avon River. Inspired by the view to think about God's gifts in creation and in the church, Pierpont wrote this text. The Offertory hymn "Ye holy angels bright" is here sung in Manchester Cathedral:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAwTDwbVM3o&list=RDNAwTDwbVM3o&start_radio=1

The author Richard Baxter (right) was Chaplain to Charles II.

The final hymn is an African-American traditional song: "He's got the whole world in his hands". For those who like The Mormon Tabernacle Choir is full swing here they are <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-32k9TuEUE>, but if you would rather hear a solo version here is a classic performance by Mahalia Jackson

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkbHHQtT_Ho

According to many sources, including his published obituary, this song is said to have been written by Master Sergeant Obie Edwin Philpot, although he never held a copyright or earned a royalty.

The song was first published in the paperbound hymnal *Spirituals Triumphant, Old and New* in 1927. In 1933, it was collected by Frank Warner from the singing of Sue Thomas in North Carolina. It was also recorded by other collectors such as Robert Sonkin of the Library of Congress, who recorded it in Gee's Bend, Alabama in 1941. That version is still available at the Library's American Folklife Center.

Frank Warner performed the song during the 1940s and 1950s, and introduced it to the American folk scene. Warner recorded it on the Elektra album *American Folk Songs and Ballads* in 1952. It was quickly picked up by both American gospel singers and British skiffle and pop musicians.



News from All Saints'

- All Saints' is online! As church services remain prohibited for the safety of everyone you can play recordings of our usual Sunday service via the Weekly Message that you will find on our web site www.allsaintsrome.org. See also our Facebook page. You will also find on the same site material for Sunday School, to use with your children. We hope you will enjoy these recordings as we work to service our community during this challenging time,
- As you might imagine churches such as ours in Italy are highly dependent on revenue from concerts and other rentals of space which are impossible at the present moment. All concerts have been suspended and we would be grateful for your generosity in this moment in history. There is a link on our website that enables you to make a contribution, however large or small: thank you.



- One event that took place just before the lockdown was the theory exam of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. This is the organization that provides the highest number of music exams in the world, and All Saints' is proud to have been associated with them for ten years, first as a centre for instrumental exams, and now as the centre for Rome for their theory exams. This has meant that the crypt has been set up with tables and chairs as a regular exam centre for up to 25 candidates from all over Rome, and it is rewarding to note that this is often the first time candidates and their parents have set foot on our premises. While the children have been sitting their exams in the crypt many parents have spent time admiring the church itself.

- Last week I mentioned an Evensong last month that celebrated the life and work of George Herbert. Last year we dedicated an evening to Herbert, with poetry, anthems and hymns. It was a successful evening that we hope to repeat in the future with other important subjects: if anyone has an inspirational idea we would be glad to hear from year. Meanwhile here is a group photo of the performers that day. They include Tim and Angela Macquiban, who have returned to Chester, and organist Hugo Williams, who is now at Oxford University.



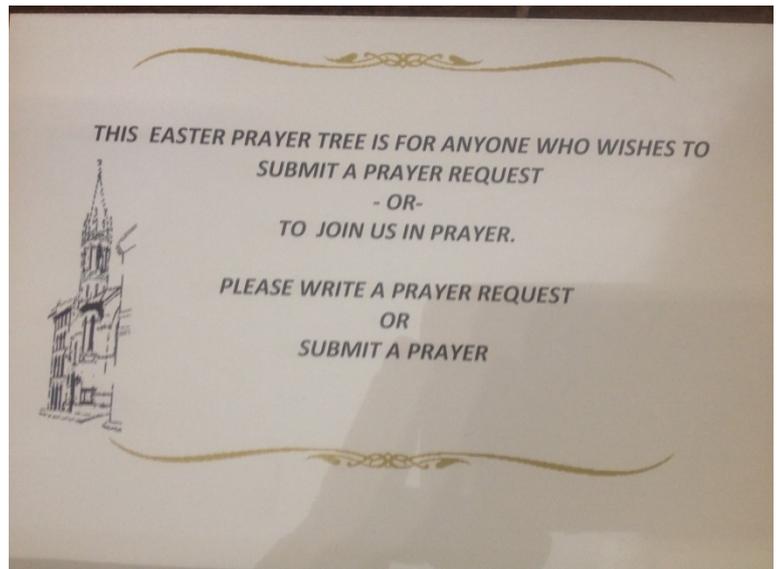
From Caireen

Easter Olive Tree of Prayer

As you know we started our Easter prayer tree just before things changed, and attendance at church was not permitted. It is important to us that All Saints remains a place of prayer and worship despite the lockdown. Mass will continue every Sunday and Thursday as usual, with Father Rob and a family member present, on behalf of the whole community. Prayers will also be said on Wednesday at our usual "Light at Lunch" time.

At this challenging time, we would like to keep this part of All Saints prayer life going, despite the restrictions. So, if you would like to place a prayer on our Easter Olive Tree of Prayer, please email your prayer to caireen.stewart@yahoo.co.uk with "PRAYER TREE" in the subject heading, and we will write out your prayers for you, pray, and place them on the tree before God.

If you have any other pastoral need, please contact Father Rob at the usual contact numbers.



“He who rescued us from so deadly a peril will continue to rescue us; on him we have set our hope that he will rescue us again, as you also join in helping...by your prayers, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted to us through the prayers of many.”
2 Corinthians 1:10-11

Faith at Home

At this time when we find ourselves at home and searching for faith formation resources to use at home, we have pulled together some resources for individuals, families and friends. <https://lessonplansthatwork.org/faith-at-home/>

From Tina Etherington



It was such an honour and a huge blessing when Father Rob gave me the opportunity at the end of the Sunday service on 16 February 2020 to talk about something close to my heart: **Education**, and especially the education of very poor girls in developing countries

Did you know that in many countries in the world girls are unable to go to school when they menstruate because they are so poor that they cannot afford any form of hygiene protection? Can you imagine that? They are obliged to stay at home during those days and, consequently, miss from three to five days of schooling each month. Month after month.

By the end of the year they have lost from 24 to 48 days of schooling .The result? They are unable to keep up with their studies and gradually fall behind their classmates. This can then lead to these disadvantaged girls dropping out of school altogether; in fact, in one of the schools I visited in Zambia the drop-out rate was 50-60 girls each year. What possibilities are then open to them with such limited schooling? Not much: an early marriage, or working as a labourer for a few dollars a day or, as I was told in that school in Zambia, prostitution.

Enter the fantastic international charity Days for Girls, to which both Jane Castrucci and I belong, that I first heard about in 2013 whilst working with our small Foundation for Water and Education in Cambodia.

Days for Girls (DfG) envisions a world where menstruation is no longer a source of shame and taboo. It was founded in the United States in 2008 with the aim to empower girls and permit them to go to school *every day* by supplying them with a **sustainable hygiene kit** as well as **health education**. So far, the DfG Kits (designed to last up to three years) and health education programs have reached more than 1.7 million girls and women in over 100 countries.

There are **DFG teams** all over the world, including **two in Italy**: one in Varese and one here in Rome, which I started in June 2016. Our very international team has over 20 members working in 3 continents with 14 different nationalities (English, Italian, American, Swedish, French, Brazilian, Welsh, Dutch, Ecuadorian, Uruguayan, Australian, Ukrainian, Cambodian and Pakistani)! Our team also includes 4 young Cambodian girls and a young lady of our congregation who have all taken the **free online Ambassador of Women's Health course** and who are thus authorized to teach the DfG educational health programme!



What's in a kit? Each **kit** is in a draw-string **bag** and includes reusable cloth menstrual pads made up of 2 colorful waterproof shields and 8 absorbent flannel liners (all sewn by volunteers); 2 pairs of knickers; a washcloth and a bar of soap; 2 zip-closure plastic bags for washing and storage, and an instruction card. The kit enables girls to carry their clean and used pads discreetly and to take care of their own hygiene needs.

What is the educational programme? Important topics such as menstrual and reproductive health, personal hygiene, self-defense, and sex trafficking are covered using the DfG Health Education Flipchart. Personal hygiene topics include a fun and very interactive session on the correct way to wash your hands. I have many wonderful videos of girls and women “washing their hands” whilst singing happy birthday – which is what we are now being taught to do during the coronavirus outbreak!

So far our Rome Days for Girls Team has distributed an amazing **1103 kits** – 561 in Cambodia and 542 in Zambia, which are the two countries that I visit and where we have contacts. However, there are now plans to start distributing in Bangladesh too. At present, we are preparing another 200 kits for my planned trip to Zambia in June, but this is now on hold subject to the development of the coronavirus situation.

As you can see from the photos, the kits are very well appreciated.

We are totally **self-financing**. Our greatest expense is the



underwear at 1 euro a pair (many girls do not have **underwear** and in one school distribution in Zambia the girls started clapping when I told them there were two pairs of knickers in every kit). We distributed 230 kits (that's 460 pairs of knickers!) when I was in Cambodia in November/December 2019, and we will need 400 pairs for the 200 kits I will be taking to Zambia in June (that's 400 euros!)

I mentioned this to the congregation on 16 February and I am truly delighted to report that thanks to their incredible generosity, the Rome Days for Girls team received a donation from All Saints Church of **342.45 euros**....that's going to buy a lot of knickers!! **Thank you all so much** 😊

Finally, I would like to conclude with a true uplifting story. As I mentioned, the only path for some girls who drop out of school is, unfortunately, prostitution. I learned this from the headmistress of a school I visited in Zambia to distribute kits in 2017. This school is in a border town (with the Congo) and the headmistress told me that many girls dropped out on a yearly basis due to the extreme poverty resulting in a lack of education. Well, when I returned on a follow-up visit a year later, the headmistress virtually ran out to greet me and excitedly told me that the number of girls dropping out of her school had fallen drastically because the girls were now coming to school even when they had their period – and this, all thanks to a Days for Girls kit!

That's how much difference we can make with our kits! We are providing opportunities and empowering girls with dignity. The aim of Days for Girls is to reach: "Every Girl. Everywhere. Period."

Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information on the work of DFG or if you would like to help in any way. I would be happy to give a presentation to schools if required. Website: www.daysforgirls.org

Contacts

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Ambassador of Women's Health free online course:

<https://dfgi.teachable.com/p/dfg-kit-distribution-101>

From Thelma Mitchell

The Editor writes: Thelma was my predecessor as Editor of the Newsletter and her news will be welcome to many of the congregation.

So lovely to see the return of the newsletter and I know you will be glad of contributions - been there...! I don't know if you know but I am a C of E lay chaplain at Bournville College locally. This prayer was sent out for us from Birmingham Methodist church organisation to use as we may be confined to barracks for some time to come. I also think it is very apt for the situation in Italy, if you can use it.

God willing we'll be at All Saints again soon! Love and prayers to you all,

'May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who have not risk factors remember the most vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.
May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.
May we who have to cancel our trips remember those that have no safe space to go.
May we who are losing our margin money in the turmoil of economic market remember those who have no margin at all.
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.
As fear grips our country let us choose love.
During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our Neighbours. Amen'

Where are they now?

Father **Jonathan Boardman** is now Rector of St Paul's in Clapham, South London, a dynamic church with a particularly lively cultural life. The current building dates from 1815 and it boasts a beautiful Eden Community Garden where locals can learn about gardening and wild life. Jonathan in spite of recent poor health has been active on the musical and dramatic side and recently produced and acted in a performance of Shakespeare's "A Winter's Tale".

Father **Alaric Lewis** is currently Rector of St George, Colegate, in the Diocese of Norwich. He returned to All Saints' in December to take over for a couple of weeks, and many parishioners were able to catch up with his news. St George is one of the area's many mediaeval churches, but with a Georgian interior and an early nineteenth century organ and is Grade I listed. Father Alaric's church describes its worship as being "straightforward Anglican, accessible and undemonstrative". He has let us know that he is broadcasting Morning and Evening Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer from one of his churches every day: see for example youtu.be/xx_4YbxhlwU.

Sarah Townend will be remembered for her beautiful singing as a regular member of the church choir, and as a much loved teacher at St George's School. After returning to the family home in Southend she is now teaching in Clapham, London. At lunch with her recently I found her in fine form and has fond and recent memories of her friends at All Saints'.

Some views of Rome in lockdown, such as you have never seen it before. Photos by Edoardo.



From the "Church Times"

- Church leaders in Britain and Ireland have urged Christians to take part in a National Day of Prayer and Action about the coronavirus on Sunday 22 March. The call, issued at midnight last night, states: "Whether you are continuing to worship as congregations or not, we have the great privilege and freedom to be able to call upon God, wherever we are, individually and corporately, for healing in our nation."
People are asked to light a candle in their window at 7 p.m. on Sunday "as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ".
- In 2018, Blackburn Cathedral branched out into the beverage business with its own gin label (News, November 16, 2018). This week, he added coffee to his drink list and also has plans for tea. His coffee brand has been named Dean & # 39; s Beans in recognition of the entrepreneurial spirit of the Dean of Blackburn, the Very Reverend Peter Howell-Jones (pictured), who devised Cathedra Gin as a way to increase income for work. pastoral of the cathedral.
- A RADICAL change is planned for the *Church Times* Train-A-Priest (TAP) Fund appeal this year. All the money raised will go to support clergy training in Africa. Since 1952, the TAP Fund has supported ordinands and their families in England. Over the years, generous readers have donated more than £4.7 million to help relieve C of E ordinands of financial worries.
- A 16th Century font has been unearthed at St Andrew's, Chippenham, during excavation work in the churchyard. The vicar, the Revd Rod Key, told the BBC: "It was replaced by the Victorians, when they redid the church a couple of hundred years ago... It will be up to the church authorities to decide what is done but temporarily it can be on show and in the end it may well have top be put back in the ground."
- The Sudanese Government has pledged to abolish the death penalty for apostasy –the renunciation of a religion – in place of a disposition making it a criminal offence to accuse someone of apostasy. A spokesman for Christian Solidarity Worldwide said: "If enacted it will be an important step towards freedom of religion or belief."

In these trying times a smile is needed. In this week's Church Times a serious question was asked by a reader: "What is the purpose of exchanging the Peace, and how long should it last? The two answers that were printed were:

1. The purpose of exchanging the Peace is an act of reconciliation after the prayer of confession and absolution. There is no need to cavort round the church like rush hour at Charing Cross, but a simple greeting to the person next to you.
2. The purpose of the Peace is to see how many people you can shake hands with before the Vicar alls "time" by announcing the Offertory hymn.

Please, do not forget that our Easter prayer tree is still going strong - although you may not be here to leave your prayers in person, you can still send them up to God.



Thank you for your contributions to the Newsletter, and please continue to send them to me at a.cochlin@libero.it. Next week will be the Fifth Sunday in Lent, to be followed the following week by Palm Sunday. In next week's issue there will be an article by our churchwarden Philippa Hitchen, now working from her home in Buckinghamshire, with a fascinating and relevant insight into what it is like to work for an international organisation away from headquarters. Keep accessing our newlook website www.allsaintsrome.org for up-to-date news and online resources!