

PASTON ALL SAINTS CHURCH, PETERBOROUGH

Mission Statement :-

“Sharing the fun, friendship and peace of knowing God’s love with everyone”

CELEBRATING 800 YEARS

2017 will be a very important, exciting and busy year for the congregation of Paston All Saints Church as we celebrate our 800th Anniversary. Our first rector is listed as 1217, although it is likely that a church has stood here for many years before that as the font is of Norman origin and there are fragments of Celtic stone to be seen.

The steering committee, given the task of organising our celebrations, has been meeting regularly throughout the past year and has put together a full programme of events. These will commence on Saturday 7th January with a day of prayer for our special year and, the following day, celebrations will be launched with a special service to be held in Peterborough Cathedral at 3.30pm.

Our first big event will be a week-long exhibition in the church depicting the long history of All Saints Church or, as it used to be known, “The Church in the Fields”. This will be held from 11th to 17th February and will include photographs, registers, old documents artefacts, memories and memorabilia. Local school groups are invited to book a visit during this week when they will be met by Edmund Mountsteven (a local benefactor from Tudor times) and Rev Joseph Pratt (a popular Victorian rector who led the parish for 63 years). The church will be open to welcome visitors throughout the week.

From Friday 28th April to Monday 1st May there will be a special bank holiday weekend celebration of weddings with displays of wedding gowns, flowers, photographs and marriage registers. This weekend will include a renewal of vows celebration on Sunday at 4.00pm.

Our 800th Birthday Weekend will be celebrated from Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th June. This includes a large street party with fun, entertainment and games for the whole congregation – young and old. The Great Paston Bake Off will also be judged on this day! The following weekend, a special service of thanksgiving takes place in the church on Sunday 11th June led by Bishop Donald. Visitors are invited to join congregation and special guests at this service.

A big event, open to the whole community and to those further afield, will be our special anniversary fete and fun afternoon. This will be held on Saturday 8th July, hopefully in Itter Park (straight opposite the church on Fulbridge Road). Plans for this are still in the early stages but there will be games, entertainment, stalls, displays, exhibitions and refreshments to keep the whole family entertained.

In September, from the 15th to 17th, we have a Celebration of Baptism. This exhibition will include baptism memorabilia, photographs, christening gowns and our parish baptismal registers. There will also be a special service to include the renewal of baptism vows.

From the 29th September to the 1st October the church will be filled with grand floral displays and garden produce for our Harvest Celebrations. We are noted for our beautiful and imaginative flower festivals and this year will be very special indeed! Bishop John will be preaching at the special service on Sunday. There will be the usually Harvest Lunch with games and community singing and the church will be open during the week to admire the displays.

A special Funerals and Conflicts weekend will take place from 27th to 29th October. Burial registers will be on display as well as detailed plans of the churchyard for those who wish to visit family graves. This weekend links to our annual All Souls Service and to our Remembrance Service which begins in church and parades to the lych gate. Further displays will remember those from the parish who gave their lives during the First and Second World Wars.

On 2nd December there will be a special Day of Prayer as our anniversary year draws to an end. Then on January 14th (2018) a very special time capsule will be buried by Bishop Donald within the church grounds. This capsule will include documents, photographs and artefacts from our anniversary year along with details of the capsule and its position and instructions that it should be opened during the 900th Celebrations in 2117.

It will be a full and tiring year of celebration. Guests and visitors are welcome at any time. For details and updates please view our website at www.allsaintspaston.com , follow us on Facebook or contact the Rector and Churchwardens as listed in the diocesan directory.