

February 10/18. Today I reflect on just one quote from this literary

“You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.” — John 13:1

As Christians we are taught to help and care for each other. The quotations emphasising this fact. “Love your neighbour as yourself.” “Whatsoever you do for the least of my brethren, you do it for me.” These are two of the most well-known phrases. But do we ever stop and ponder these words?

Yes, of course, we could all argue that we help other people every day. After all, we visit sick relatives, we help our children with their homework and we phone friends up with a cheery word when they are feeling down. It could go on - and then we often sit back satisfied that we have done our deed for the day”. But these are all simple everyday things we do automatically as human beings. You don’t need to be a Christian to do kind words or do kind things for the people we know and love.

Jesus does not say, “Whatsoever you do for your friends and relatives” “for the least of my brothers”. It seems obvious that these words refer to immediate contacts. To me, the words suggest those people who are struggling with life and faith, those who are over-burdened, those who are lost themselves or those who don’t know which way to turn.

You may say that, here in All Saints Church we already “do our best” by running the Peterborough Food Bank very well indeed. We fill shoeboxes and support a range of worthwhile charities through our Lent Lunches, Lenten services and our collection of stamps and milk bottle tops. However, before thought of looking out into our local community, at our neighbours, our homes, areas of natural beauty and discovering what their needs are.

That is exactly what we are doing during this 800th Year because, we are aiming to do at least 800 acts of kindness. Already we have received requests from one of our local schools to paint murals in key areas of the church. More requests will be shared regularly with members of the congregation

which planning and preparation going on). I am very grateful to all those who have taken on tasks and busily working hard to make this year a success. Thank you.

My prayer is that as the year progresses more people will take up the opportunities given to us as the church in All Saint parish on this anniversary of 1217 to 2017 to primarily encounter more people in our parish than ever before – sowing the seeds of faith and hope through our ministry and mission from our 801st year!

For this year is not just an occasion to offer praise and thanksgiving for the past and its faithfulness; this year is not just an occasion to look back at the history of our church and to come alongside the people of our parish. It is also an exciting ways in the present; and this year is not just a chance to look forward where we want to be and go as a church in the future.

No: this year is where we bring the past, present and future together. We celebrate what has gone before; welcome people in their journey and our vision for the future.

I am daily praying (in the midst of all my prayers for the church and its people) for this 800th anniversary year that it may be a year for us – especially in relationship: relationship with one another, with our church and especially relationship with people in our parishes. I am (indeed I am sure) that daily in your prayers you are praying for our church, your church, our church, in this most exciting year!

Yet even though this is an 800th anniversary year, this is not a special year in which we pray, care, support, extend ministry, and mission as a parish church as all other years. The 800th anniversary year demands that are many, but I would be the first to work hard to meet that back from day to day ministry as a result. The more people who offer support, encouragement and prayer then the less this year will be a special year.

May the Lord bless our church in this anniversary year and may our church afresh be a blessing to you and this parish for ever.

The flower guild had a meeting in November to decide how we were going to decorate the church for Christmas. With Rev Mark's approval we decided to have arrangements hanging from the windows. This would mean the flowers would not get in the way of the heaters and it would give us a chance to try something new. Helen Biggs took on the challenge and did an excellent job. As did all the ladies of the Flower Guild who were able to take part, Irene Johnson, Shirley Bird,

Margaret Webb, Doreen Patman, Margaret Scott, Jennie Jepson and Jenny Wise. Special thanks go to Chris Warren who, despite having moved to Market Deeping several months ago, continues to be a valued part of the Flower Guild.

We were very fortunate to receive several generous donations either in the form of a financial contributions or the donation of flowers from members of the Flower guild. This help and support is really appreciated and meant that we were able to decorate the church with flowers without needing to use money from the church account.

Decorating the church is a real team effort and I hope the arrangements enjoyed by all.

Thank you also to Peter Templeman for cups of tea and coffee. We also had two extra helpers this time. Peter and Barbara Templeman's lovely granddaughters Harriet aged 5 and Amelia aged 8. They made sure we had plenty of biscuits, took charge of watering the arrangements for us and offered words of encouragement throughout the morning. Thank you, you were both absolutely delightful.

PE4 Service for Christian Unity

On Sunday 22nd January, just ten members of our congregation joined our friends from other PE4 churches for a joint celebration in Brookside Methodist Church at the start of Christian Aid Week. With a combined band from Werrington and Brookside the hymns were lively and the singing was rousing! Rev. Mark and Calixte, along with the other ministers in this area, helped to lead the service. Our next meeting is on Thursday 2nd February at 2.00pm in Werrington and this will be an open meeting raising ideas for speakers, for visitors are always welcome.

Union, Sacred Heart and St Oswald's Ladies Circle, members from our own congregation and our Diocesan Friends, were welcomed by Rev Mark and Branch leader Sylvia. Hymns, carols and readings followed. Readings were given by Rev. Mark and Branch leader Sylvia. Members from Brookside Fellowship and Union.

During the service, our new branch leader Ivana Smith was Mark and Diocesan President Barbara Haynes., who took involvement and leadership over the past four years. Ivana presented pot plants to Christine and Keith Warren during our committee meetings, and to Sheila Evans for planting the church service.

After the service refreshments were served and members meeting and greeting friends. From the Mothers' union Calixte you to Rev Mark and Calixte for leading the service and setting up, and everyone else who helped in lots of ways happy occasion. Sylvia presented the latest report for the February magazine.:-

Our first meeting of 2017 was a visit to The Crab and Wine Hall for our New Year Lunch on Thursday 12th January. Rev Mark and friends from the congregation and the Church Friends Mothers' Union members, their husbands and friends for varied menu, the atmosphere and the service provided made

Our special 800 Years of History Exhibition will be held in Paston Church from Saturday 11th February to Friday 17th February. Seven Sessions (so far) have been booked for school visits. (9.30am-4.00pm most days) Through photographs, written reports, maps, extracts from old Church records, figures of Edmund Mounsteven and Rev. Jos. Pratt, traces from old documents and rarely-seen artefacts on loan from the Diocesan Archives of the church congregation may arrange their members of the church time so as to avoid congestion. Local History Societies and interest and out local scouting groups are hoping to arrange

First of all may I say thank you for the tremendous interest people have shown in helping to put this exhibition together. Marion Brown, John Driver, Barbara Northampton and I have spent many interesting and in Margaret Webb, David Marrington and Jennie Wise have been stars. Many have Record Offices searching through lists of loaned photographs and books and all have been willing to share their knowledge pictures and reading a wide variety of documents. With of Paston over the years. For example, I have been given a newspaper article skills, Peter saved us a great deal of time I showing a photograph of the old rectory in the mid-nineteenth century with a many of the documents. Some of the older artefacts, p horse drawn carriage waiting outside and Rev Pratt leaning through the window. 17th century, were extremely difficult to read have a picture of the dedication service for the war memorial (lychnage) in 1901 the ones written in Latin! A big thank you along with the original architects drawing and lettering designs! I have details and Records Office for being so friendly and helpful. The int a poster of some of the fund-raising efforts held in order to completely repair the valuable source of information and I dread to think how n nave roof and its beams in the mid-twentieth century. Similarly many of the items of paper I have used. relating to the building of the church hall, and there are also countless old parish WE STILL NEED MORE HELP. - YOUR CHURCH NEI

- Read extracts from documents dated between 1291 and 1764. We estimate that the exhibition will fill the whole church
- See a summary of offerings made to the church at Easter 1648. people to man the exhibition and welcome visitors. With 1
- Read the description of our church written in 1950. visiting times, refreshments will be on sale and these will b
- Learn about John Mountsteven MP and his benevolent son, Edmund. vestry (as at other large exhibitions that we have held
- See how our church was described in the 1870's Imperial Gazetteer Equipped. Please sign up on the lists in church or see Steve,
- Discover the history of Fulbridge Road, the coming of the railway and the SUMMER FETE
- Read the story of our church school in Dogsthorpe. Our special 800th Year Fete will be held in Itter Park on Sa
- The 1876 obituary of our longest serving rector, Joseph Pratt. delighted to report that some of the afternoon's entertainm
- See photographs of our active social life over many years. the extremely talented Peterborough Youth Ensemble.
- Take a closer look at our architecture, stained glass and beautiful confirm their attendance, Watch this space for more excitin

are to call him Friday”. “That is an unusual name”, exclaimed Sid. “Well” said Ted, “When I went to see him and looked him over very carefully, I said to my wife, I feel we should call it a day!”

To all our Dear Friends at All Saints.

‘EXPERT’ METAL DETECTOR

Paddy, who was very keen on metal detecting, went to a site where was found some time ago. He found a spot and began digging. After he had dug down 60ft and still getting a signal response, he suddenly realised caps on his boots.

We moved to Market Deeping nine months ago – the quick lives! We have returned to All Saints on many occasions services, duties and events, although they have been getting slowly becoming more involved in our local church, St Gut he had steel toe

ON THE RUN

Did you hear about the gangster who cut the legs off his bed, so that he could lie low for a while.

As has always been the case with All Saints, everybody at wonderfully welcoming and friendly. It has been difficult All Saints as our first connection began in 1969, when we were introduced to the Church by Rev. was the Curate at the time and a close neighbour. One of

FINDING THE WAY

Two tourists were driving through Anglesey. As they strolled Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogoch, they started to argue how the name of this village should be pronounced. When they stopped for lunch, one of the tourists asked the girl assistant, “Could you help us please? We want to know where we are, and would you give us the correct pronunciation? The girl leaned across the counter and said, “Burrrrrrr Grrrrrrr Kiiiiiiiing”.

daughter Rachel, who was also married at All Saints in 1999 they started from somewhere as many Curates have come the Christian C they started for

A CUTTING DISPLAY

A famous magician was appearing on TV to talk to viewers about the secrets of his act and about his life. “What is your favourite trick?” asked the interviewer. “Sawing a woman in half”, was the reply. “Do you have any family members?” he was asked, “Well”, said the magician, “I’ve got six half-sisters!”

Apart from the obvious life-changing spiritual effect All lives, our greatest blessing has been the friendship of so many We hope that those friendships continue forever and we fulfil many of the regular All Saints events in the future, Anniversary programme.

UNFULFILLED DESIRES

- I always wanted to be a belly dancer, but I didn’t have the stomach for it!
- Another wish was to play the guitar, but I didn’t have the pluck!

We send you our love and best wishes for the Bless you all! Chris

A “THANK YOU” FROM GUIDE DOG BETTY A

To all friends at Paston Church :

What a lot of stamps you saved, Our plea was not in vain

stanground - but quickly grew to nine so as to make sure people were able to access the service near where they lived. A spokesman said, "We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why we provide three days' nutritionally- balanced emergency food and support for people who are referred to us in crisis." The Food Bank is part of a nationwide network, supported by The Trussell Trust, and works to combat poverty hunger across the UK.

Under normal circumstances, Holly could just about scrape by, but when her daughter, Phoebe, became poorly and had to spend three weeks in hospital she was forced to close her small clothing shop . When Phoebe recovered, the bills returned home to empty kitchen cupboards, bills racking up and no support them. Holly felt unable to ask her family for help again and after discussions with the local Citizens Advice Bureau she was referred to the local Food Bank. Holly said: "The people there were wonderful, they understood and saved us."

Having worked in the police force for six years, followed by 12-years in the Royal Military Police, Richard, 49, had always considered himself fit and healthy. However, this all changed when a chest infection quickly developed into a heart condition and he suffered from two major strokes followed by 19 minor strokes leaving him unable to work. His situation deteriorated further when he was forced to move home and, due to this change of address, his Employment Support Allowance was delayed. His local Citizens Advice Bureau referred him to the Food Bank. "The volunteers were fantastic, offering a chat and a shoulder to cry on. Without the Food Bank I don't think I would be here today," he said. "It's a really bad situation that people have to decide whether they can feed themselves, feed their children or put the heating on. It's a case of having to budget and to go without."

Here at Paston Church we have been supporting the Food Bank for several years. They supplied this list of items that they particularly need

- tinned spaghetti
- nasta sauce
- instant mash
- tinned fruit

of the Lord to bless our 800th year. It was a pity more didn't minutes, so we are encouraging people to pray throughout the year. We might bless the church and all those giving of themselves to happen to local people. **On the 8th of January** twenty members of the church came to Evensong at Peterborough Cathedral. The clergy there pray began the year appropriately at our mother church.

On the 15th of January, we launched our 800 Acts of Kindness display in church (anonymous the Acts of kindness you have done each week/ month. We have 1000s of groups and organisations offering acts of kindness to them. Currently we have been approached by Discovery Se discussions with the local Citizens Advice Bureau she was referred to the local Food Bank. Holly said: "The people there were wonderful, they understood and saved us."

Our memorabilia items for sale throughout the year (coasters and notelpts) can now be ordered. The order form by the diocese church, though the memorabilia will be on sale at all 800th anniversary events.

Steve and his team have been and are very busy as this month is our 800th anniversary event. Please see elsewhere in the magazine. **We have been contacting** local businesses for raffle prizes for our Summer Fete.

Delivery of New Year greetings cards and notification of 800th year were delivered to the remaining 3,000 houses in the diocese to the small group that helped with this delivery.

Meetings have taken place for the summer fete and wedding has started on the anniversary service and great Paston Bakers congregation and friends party.

Publicity for the History week has taken place through web posters and radio and TV.

We are offering a two-week course in February on ‘Living with Loss’, looking at issues to do with bereavement and grief. If you would like to come to the course, please sign the list in church or contact Rev Mark. We are organising the dates around the people who come.

We record the death of Arthur Chapman fellowship member and assure especially his daughter Diane – our prayers.

We have appointed a new architect to oversee the fabric of the church – **David Llewellyn**.

The parish had a super Mother’s Union New Year’s Lunch at the Pie and Winkle in Werrington. Lovely to see all who came and thank you to the members of the Mother’s Union who organised it.

Don’t forget – help required to tidy up our churchyard before our 800th History event on Friday the 10th between 9am to 12noon.

And huge help needed for that History week – contact Steve if you can spare even just an hour. We are hoping for a good number of people to visit. We already have many school children from the local schools going around.

Christmas notes

We had 376 more adults and children through the church doors from our Christmas school services and events – up to an amazing 973! Our reflective ‘blue’ service was up by two to 16 and the Itter Park carols was down by 5 to 28 – but considering the lousy weather this was amazing! Our Carol service was down by 17 to 68. It was too long this year and we will make sure it is strictly an hour next year and serve mulled wine and mince pies. We saw increases in attendance at our two Christmas Eve services – Christingle and Crib services – 26 more to 436 people at both 2:30pm and 4pm services! As such (with Gift Aid) we were able to send over £600 to the Children’s Society. Midnight was up by 4 to 88. Christmas Day 8am service was up by 1 and the 10am Family Service increased by 18 to 25!

So, in our ‘Christmas period of counting’ we rose from 1242 people in 2014 to 1305 in 2015.

the booking of christening and weddings (and every week)

Thursday 2nd: 2pm Mother’s Union Meeting (Hall)

Friday 3rd: 7:30pm Support Group Meeting (Curate)

Saturday 4th: 8am Men’s Breakfast (Hall)

Sunday 5th: 8am Holy Communion; 10am Family Service Baptisms; no 6pm service.

Tuesday 7th: 9:30am Play and Praise (every Tuesday in February and 21st)

Thursday 9th: 2:15pm Holy Communion – Bishopsfield

Friday 10th: 9am – 12noon Churchyard tidy up morning; 12noon to setting up for our History 800th anniversary week.

Saturday 11th: No Church cleaning due to History week; 9am to 12noon 800th History exhibition open to the public.

Sunday 12th: 8am Holy Communion; 10am Parish Communion

Monday 13th: 10:30am to 4pm History 800th exhibition open to the public; 7:30pm Parochial Church Council meeting (Hall)

Tuesday 14th: 10:30am to 1pm and 2:30pm to 4pm History exhibition open to the public.

Wednesday 15th: 9:30am to 4pm History 800th exhibition open to the public; 7:30pm Deanery Synod meeting (St. Jude’s)

Thursday 16th: No meeting of the Altar Guild due to History week; 10:30am to 4pm History 800th exhibition open to the public; 7:30pm Holy Communion at Anchor Court; 7:30pm Reading Group.

Friday 17th: 9:30am to 4pm History 800th exhibition open to the public; 7:30pm Christingle

Saturday 18th: Church unavailable – clearing up after History week

Sunday 19th: 8am Holy Communion; 10am Family Communion; 10am Coffee morning and bring a brace (Hall) (Half Term week 20th to 25th of February)

Monday 20th: 10am Coffee morning and bring a brace (Hall)

Internment of ashes at All Saints Church: None this month

Graveside service William Chapman

Baptisms: Sofia Berry-Manna

Weddings: None this month

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 11th March at 7.00pm.

This is advanced notice for the first of our special Anniversary Year quiz evenings. As in previous years teams may consist of up to six members. Put the date in your diary now and persuade all your neighbours and friends to come along and join in the fun. More details in next month's magazine.

LENT LUNCHESES begin on Saturday 4th March and run for the six weeks of Lent. There is always a superb (and delicious) choice of home-made soup and it is a time to enjoy fellowship whilst raising much needed funds for our two chosen charities. (These will be announced soon) If you can help to prepare or serve the lunches please sign up on the notice board at the back of church or speak to Barbara Templeman.

PENSIONERS' AFTERNOON will take place on March 17th at 2.00pm in the Church Hall. All the usual fun, games and singing. Volunteers of transport for those unable to make the journey themselves are gratefully appreciated.

CHARLES SAYEGH

BSc (Hons) Podiatry Northampton University **M.Ch.S.**

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