



All Saints celebrates 'transformation'

A celebratory mass was held at All Saints, Upper Norwood on 4 September to mark the completion of a major refurbishment and to consecrate the new altar.

Bishop Christopher consecrated the altar and blessed the holy water and baptismal font (photo left), and the service was attended by the Mayor of Croydon and local councillors.

The project has been nearly five years in the making and follows the new roof and re-wiring completed in 2004.

Fr Leonard Marsh, the Vicar says "The building has been transformed. A rather ordinary Georgian 'preaching

box', cluttered with so much from the Victorian period, has become a spacious sacred space, very well suited to modern eucharistic worship.

"The east end of the church was cleared, and a newly designed altar positioned on a platform with accompanying furniture, with a sacrament house at the far east end.

"The Lady Chapel has been renewed. The pews have been restored and re-positioned. New meeting room space has been created.

"The font has been repositioned, and now also functions as a place for holy water.

"At the west end, a new lower gallery has been built to accommodate the organ and choir, helping them to be better heard. We also have a

new sound system.

"Excellent facilities have been built below the gallery, enclosed behind glass and wood movable doors, including hall space, a kitchen and toilet.

"Altogether, this is a remarkable achievement for the community".

Remain steadfast

In a message printed in the order of service, Bishop Christopher congratulated everyone involved and encouraged All Saints to "remain steadfast in living out your vision as a community that is welcoming of all, faithful in worship and bold in proclaiming the Gospel.

"May God richly bless you as you are built into living stones to his praise and glory," he wrote.



MU Family Fun Afternoon

Croydon Minster Mothers' Union hosted its 5th annual Family Fun Afternoon on the Green adjacent to the Minster on Saturday 10 September.

As usual the event was blessed with fine weather and there was plenty to keep visitors occupied.

The main attraction for youngsters was the Bouncy Castle, but the children also enjoyed egg & spoon and sack races, and a Teddy Bear competition whilst the adults were able to relax with tea and cakes.

There was also a book stall, toy stall and traditional side shows including roll a penny, hoop la and fishing.

Although fund-raising was a secondary aim the MU branch (which includes The Minster, St George's, Waddon and the Almshouses) was able to send £145 to the Mothers' Union Head Office in support of their Overseas Development work.



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October

There are so many kinds of prayers contained in the pages of the Bible, prayed by different people for different reasons, some of praise, some of intercession, some of petition, some out of desperation.

The oldest biblical text that exists is what we know as the Aaronic Blessing. It is used in Jewish worship, inscribed on amulets and is fundamental to the life of the community and we hear it often used in our own services.

In the book of numbers it is said by Aaron, hence its name. But it is best known as the Priestly Blessing, or the 'Raising of the hands' which is a reminder to us of how people often prayed – and still do – hands lifted up calling down God's blessing.

It is amazing to think that a prayer which is so many thousands of years old is still being prayed by people as they ask God's blessing, graciousness and peace on people.

Like a fine old wine this is a vintage prayer, however many times we hear it it gets better and better and is a reminder to us of what the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews says that 'Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever'.

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee:

The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:

The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

(Numbers 6.24-26)



Canon Andrew Nunn
Acting Dean
of Southwark

Tatsfield 'Holiday at Home' week

The 'holiday month' of August can seem a bit dull for anyone with nothing planned - so St Mary's Tatsfield embarked on this new venture and over forty people took up the invitation to "holiday at home" in Tatsfield.

To start the week the church hall was transformed into the Tatsfield Ritz serving afternoon tea to guests. Good food was an enduring theme for the week with a hearty ploughman's lunch, warming shepherds pie and indulgent cream teas to enjoy.

Add in flower arranging, card making, sports massage, fun quizzes, a sing song, a trip to Polhill Garden Centre and an afternoon film showing, it was a busy week and definitely a holiday to remember with lots of laughter and many new friendships made. Many of the holiday makers want to book again for next year!

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