
Open to GOD, Open to EVERYONE, Open to CHANGE

All Saints' Church, Lydalls Road

August 2016

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Open Door Retreat

When offered the chance to take time to think about my attitude to God, to events and to people, I was very keen. But, it was a huge challenge to go to the 2-hour session every week for 10 weeks and a huge challenge to spend 15 minutes every day in prayer reflecting on the day and where God was (or was not) within it, and that was just the start.

There were around a dozen of us, from different churches with different traditions, and although each of us was on a different journey of faith, we came together and encouraged each other as we travelled together. The Retreat for me was an opportunity to explore different ways of meeting God in prayer, on a walk, with a phrase or a poem, or an activity, and this led me to go to the....

Festival of Prayer

The Retreat was about doing and the Festival was about listening to new ideas, and taking them away to think about further. I picked one session I knew something about (Celtic prayer), one I knew nothing about (Prayer in Later Life), and one I felt challenged by (the Prayer of Abandonment), having ducked it as too difficult at the Open Door Retreat. The leader for the last one said he didn't mind if we fled the room, and he was so kind and gentle as he led us through the session. The first thing that was said at the first session stays with me: 'What is Prayer? Prayer is a Christian breathing, you do it all the time.'

Helen Walker

Charles de Foucauld's

Prayer of Abandonment

Father, I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will. Whatever you may do, I thank you: I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures – I wish no more than this, O Lord. Into your hands I commend my soul: I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands without reserve, and with boundless confidence, for you are my Father.

Thought for the month

I've heard many people comment recently that 2016 hasn't been a good year so far. The last month has been particularly turbulent, not just in this country but around the world.



The referendum result came as a shock to many and the full impact of our decision won't be known for years. Following on from the result, however, there has been a marked increase in the number of reported racial incidents and people of different ethnic groups (not only eastern Europeans) have spoken of now feeling unwelcome in our country.

In the US, which is of course in the middle of a divisive presidential campaign, the last month has seen extreme violence against black people, attacks on the police and a terrorist attack on a gay club in Florida. And of course July has seen several horrific attacks, particularly in France and Germany which may heighten tensions between different communities across Europe.

All of these incidents reveal a deepening fear and suspicion of people who live among us but are different. Too often the response to our fear is one of anger, abuse and even violence. When we respond in that way, we only increase the spiral of suspicion, hatred and violence. Often people feel fear because they believe that those who are different bring insecurity to their lives in one way or another – to their jobs, to their safety, to their access to public services. As Christians we identify with that threat and insecurity but we should know that our ultimate security lies in God in Jesus Christ and he calls us to follow his example of sacrificial love.

We are called to reach out to those around us in love whatever their religion, culture, nationality, gender, age or sexuality.

In our diocese we are being encouraged to join a campaign to #loveyourneighbour – to reach out to those who are different, through acts of kindness, meeting together and getting to know each other better. As Didcot grows, develops and changes, as new and different people move into our town, perhaps we at All Saints' can ask ourselves how we can meet that challenge as a church and as individuals. Change is difficult but it is also a great opportunity to witness to the love of Christ in our world.

A Prayer for #loveyourneighbour

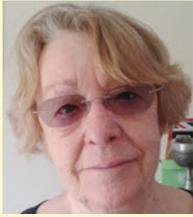
God of diversity, we are fragile, insecure. We doubt our loveliness and our worth. Conflicted within ourselves, we compete, imposing our will on others, trying to outdo and to put down. We fight, creating outsiders and insiders – us and them.

Lord, we confess our part in creating conflict; our collusion with abuse; our failure to challenge the principalities and powers. But we know that you meet us in unexpected places – that you invite us to find you in the people we write off; in places we fear and reject; in experiences we shy away from.

When we avert our eyes in discomfort, you fix our gaze. When we flee in terror, you invite us to return – to fear not. When we grow cold and inert, you touch us and bring the warmth and energy back. Ignite in us a love for our neighbours and a passion for justice. Give us hearts that listen, souls that attend to you, minds that reflect, constantly, on your ways and your will. Help us to know you, forever, anew. Amen.

Karen Beck, Priest-in-Charge, All Saints'

Nice to meet you... Dorothy Bowen



As anybody who has heard Dorothy's accent will know... she's not from round these parts! In fact she was born and went to school a few miles from Whitley Bay (in what was then Northumberland) and she's a proper 'Geordie'. She also went to university locally, studying medieval history at Durham, and then doing teacher training in Darlington.

After returning home, her sister introduced her to Les (who was in the forces) and they have now been married for 52 years! While Les moved round the world with the army, Dorothy taught in Carlisle, Singapore (where son David was born and where the Raj's influence was still felt), Edinburgh (where Alex was born), Warwickshire, Yorkshire and Hohne, Germany (in a base close to where the Belsen concentration camp had been) where Dorothy taught history in an army secondary school.

Les' last placement was here in Didcot, which is where they settled. Dorothy started her local career doing general teaching at Stephen Freeman School, but then moved to teach English at St Birinus, where was a Head of House, and for 10 years was also Deputy Head of the 6th form which she found extremely enjoyable and satisfying.

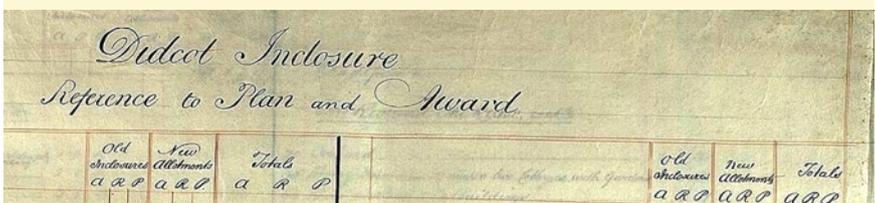
After taking early retirement around the year 2000, Dorothy proved she was a glutton for punishment by spending 10 years at Manor School taking sessions listening to children read. She also qualified as a volunteer advisor at the Didcot CAB — she enjoys fighting for causes, helping people and being practical, so this was a great role for her, but she eventually ran down her involvement as she found she was unable to stand back from her clients' worries and became stressed by them.

She keeps up her interest in both English and History, watching national drama productions both on stage and at the showings in local cinemas. She also does yoga and pilates, is a 'lady who lunches', and has always enjoyed being a grandma.

Dorothy's links with All Saints' go back over a period of time, but she became more of a regular after a local family suffered a personal loss and she realised how the community had come together around that event. She says that she feels part of the rich mix of people who have attended All Saints' over the many centuries there has been a building on the site, and as she walks to church she sees so many others in her mind's eye who have done the same in many different eras.

She suffers badly with hayfever, so helping with churchyard working parties is not possible, but in line with Andrew Jones' catch-phrase "there are roles for everyone" she heroically turns up each time to make drinks for everyone else! She is also on several church rotas, looks after the distribution of this magazine, and in previous years has been on both PCC and Diocesan Synod.

Over the years, Dorothy has spent hours working on our church's history and is currently looking at the enclosure maps alongside our church records. She confesses that she has a tendency to go off at a tangent, seeing what was going on nationally rather than sticking to the local picture! However, you will probably have read some of her recent articles in this magazine and know how enthusiastically she brings it all to life for us. We look forward to hearing more in the future...



Church Summer Fair – Sunday 4th September

We're holding this year's summer fair on Great Western Drive Park, which is through the gate beside the church hall car park. We are following last year's format of having a picnic after the 10am service while we set up, then running the fair from 2 – 4.30pm with teas being served in the hall. This year we are hoping to have massive sponge-sponsorship for the ever-popular water stocks – details are available in church or from Ali. Over the summer we would appreciate contributions of items for the tombola, books, full wine bottles, etc. Please put this date in your diaries to come on the day and to bring as many friends, neighbours, relations and colleagues as you can! Sue Scane (511448) or Ali Adams (212575).



Community

On 2nd July All Saints' Church had a stall at the Right Royal Affayre in Edmonds Park. As you can see from the photo, it was sunny (if a little windy!) and there were many people at the event. The stallholders were running a hook-a-duck competition and giving out information about our activities, but were really just interested in meeting people and showing some tender-loving-care to the town! Many thanks to Kathryn and Dawn for their preparation and to all those who manned the stall on the day.

The Big Churchyard 'Tidy Up', 10 - 5 Saturday 6th August

The August working party is going to be a little different as we have lots of extra jobs we'd like to tackle and are making it an all-day effort (breaking for a picnic lunch 1–2pm). As 'many hands make light work', we'd like everyone to come and join in. If you are a regular, an occasional helper or have never come before we would love to see you.

Whether you can stay the whole day or just help for a couple of hours, we have a job for you...

Some can be strenuous such as painting, mowing, hedge trimming and pruning (think of it all as a Green Gym!). Others are more sedate – raking, sweeping, weedkilling, jet-washing, wheelbarrowing and writing (we have some graves to finish listing). We are going to hire a tree chipper for the day – you may have an unfulfilled yearning to chip branches and hedge trimmings on a grand scale... if this is the case, let us know!

You'll need to wear gardening gear (old clothes) and sturdy boots/shoes, and gardening gloves if you have them (we'll have some spares if not). If you fancy jet-washing the path then bring your wellies!! If you live locally and can bring a wheelbarrow it would be a great help... we'll be able to feed the chipper more quickly. If you'd like to take home some wood chips then please bring some bags.

We always stop for a tea break and a chat (refreshments provided), but don't forget your picnic lunch and something to sit on.

If you can help with the Big Tidy Up please let Andrew (814746), Bruce or Julia know. Love to help but are away that day? Then let us know and we can arrange another time for you to come. We look forward to seeing you!



August Diary

- Mon 1st 7.45pm Fellowship group (hall)
Tues 2nd 9.30am Communion
Thurs 4th 10am Treasure Times (Baptist Church)
Sat 6th 10am - 4pm Churchyard Big Tidy Up!
Sun 7th (Trinity 11) 8am Communion, 10am Morning Worship
Mon 8th 2.30pm Young at Heart (hall)
Tues 9th 9.30am Communion
Thurs 11th 10am Treasure Times (Baptist Church)
Sun 14th (Trinity 12) 8am Communion, 10am Morning Worship,
12.30pm Baptism
Mon 15th 7.45pm Fellowship group (hall)
Tues 16th 9.30am Communion
Weds 17th 6pm Churchyard Working Party
Thurs 18th 10am Treasure Times (Baptist Church)
Sun 21st (Trinity 13) 8am Communion, 10am Morning Worship,
2pm Baptism
Tues 23rd 9.30am Communion,
10.30am Communion at The Meadows
Thurs 25th 10am Treasure Times (Baptist Church)
Sun 28th (Trinity 14) 8am Communion, 10am Morning Worship,
2pm Wedding
Tues 30th 9.30am Communion
Weds 31st 7.30pm Quiet Space

September

- Sat 3rd 10am - 1pm Churchyard Working Party, 2pm Baptism
Sun 4th (Trinity 15) 8am Communion, 10am Morning Worship with
Baptism, 12 noon church picnic, 2pm Summer Fair

On Thursdays the Community Café runs on GWP from 10am, and during termtime Didcot Sings Choir (for teenagers) rehearses from 6.30pm in church.

Opportunities to learn more about being a Christian

Emmaus – the Christian way: from Thursday 13th October we are offering the opportunity to come along and learn more about what it means to be a Christian – what we believe, how we can deepen our faith and how it impacts on our daily lives. Whether you don't really think of yourself as a Christian but are curious to know more, or you have faith but would like a refresher course, this could be for you.

We will meet almost every Thursday at 7.30pm until the beginning of February. Each meeting will be relaxed and informal and will allow people to share their questions and thoughts with each other in a confidential environment. If you would like to know more or are interested in attending, please contact Karen, the Priest-in-charge.

Mission and Evangelism: in September Tim Scane begins his training as a lay minister, which offers members of our congregation the opportunity to join him on his courses. The first term's course is on mission and evangelism. If you are interested in deepening your knowledge about this important area, please contact Tim. The course will be every Wednesday evening at Church House in Kidlington and Tim is happy to offer transport. Please contact him (511448, tim.scane@ntlworld.com) if you would like to know more.

Sunday services

There is normally an 8am Communion service.

Sunday 10am services are Morning Worship, which will mostly be Communion.

Additionally, there is usually a 9.30am service each Tuesday (Communion or Morning Prayer).

Other services can be found listed on our new website: www.didcotallsaints.org.uk



Clergy

Revd Karen Beck (Priest-in-Charge) 01235 813244
karen.beck140@gmail.com

All Saints Rectory, 140 Lydalls Road, Didcot OX11 7EA

Revd Mark Bodeker (Curate) 01235 816501, markbodeker@gmail.com
1 Holly Lane, Great Western Park, Didcot OX11 6DA

Revd Hugh Boorman (Associate Minister) 01235 819036
12 Trent Road, Didcot OX11 7RB

Dr Nick Hards (Licensed Lay Minister) 01235 510146
184 Abingdon Road, Didcot OX11 9BP

Churchwardens

Alastair Adams 01235 212575, 64 Wessex Road, Didcot OX11 8BS

Jean Holderness 01235 814603, 26 Lydalls Close, Didcot OX11 7LA

Parish Directory

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Magazine Distribution: Dorothy Bowen, 01235 815091

Music Leader: Margaret Cotterell, 01235 813718

Safeguarding Officer: Peter Sumner, 01235 538559

Parish records for June & July 2016

Baptisms: Ava Mae Wise, Ashley Mark Crockett, Freddie David Brown, Joseph Ryan Hodnett **Weddings:** Matthew Wigley & Melanie Paton, Kieron Sargent & Michelle Purdy, Jonathan Little & Ellen Richardson **Wedding blessing:** Richard & Lindsey Bettison **Funerals:** Stephen Whitmarsh, Peter Underhill, Sheila Nora Dadds, Joan Mary Atkinson, Tony Austin



And finally...

Regulars at the 10am service will know how often they are spellbound as they hear what the Sunday School has been up to during the morning! The interest and wisdom shown by the children is inspiring to those that listen. On 17th July many of the children received books as presents for all that they've given to us during the last year. And there was also a special presentation to Tim Scane, with a massive card and book to say thank you for teaching Sunday School over the last 18 years. He was an inspiring and fun teacher to have and will be sorely missed...

