# All Saints' Laleham

OOOOO Connect, Grow Serve, Share, Worshin

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ASSOCIATE MINISTER Rev Ian C. Smailes 211 Thames Side, Laleham TW18 1UF 01784 461 195

#### CHURCH OFFICE:

**ADMINISTRATOR** Mary Hunt mary.hunt@allsaintslaleham.org.uk ADMINISTRATOR/PA Claire Welham office@allsaintslaleham.org.uk (Mon/Wed 1.30pm-2.30pm 01784 441160 temporarily at All Saints' Youth Centre during Church Office refurbishment)

#### CHURCHWARDENS

Karen Rieveley Vaughan Smith

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# All Saints' Laleham

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# LALEHAM MAN IN PRISON!



#### " ey! I need to talk to vou.

Design

Constructio Maintenance Turfing & Lawn Care

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CANDSCAPE?

A prisoner shouts across the exercise area. He's friendly but insistent and I'm not sure if he means me or the chaplain I'm standing with. As he strides guickly towards us, the officer nearby concludes that all is well and looks away again. It's my second day in prison this week and I can't help wondering how I got here...?

Looking back, in 1988 | had stood at the front of Laleham Church waiting for Tania, the love of my life to walk down the aisle. Growing up in the village, we had been church members and part of the local community with great friends, supportive family and good role models - such things seemed pretty normal to me, but the last 3

decades have shown me otherwise. I can't say exactly when it started, but sometime after the start of the new millennium, the contrast of the privileged life we lead and those struggling and suffering in our world took hold and wouldn't let go. Clean water, food on the table, a roof over your head, a loving home and a space in which to thrive are certainly not the norm for millions. As someone who calls themselves a follower of Christ. I also couldn't escape the reality that Jesus was a radical reformer who pushed for equality and social justice. After a career in British Airways it was Medair, a humanitarian organisation based in Switzerland serving people in war and disaster-torn countries, that gave us the opportunity we had been looking for.

# **Churchyard Trees**

A professional survey of the trees in the Churchyard has been carried out.

This has recommended the cropping of the great beech tree on the corner of the road, and the replacement of two conifers with oaks. With the approval of the council, work will be carried out early in

the Summer, paid for by donations from The repairs to the Church tower are This image is from a three-minute video

the congregation. now completed, also paid for by the generosity of the congregation. of the Church and its location made by Alastair Duncan, while Churchwarden and can be found on YouTube.

www.allsaintslaleham.org.uk

# **Parish Newsletter** JUN - AUG 2017 // FREE

After a few years in Medair, I was asked to lead Prison Fellowship. PF is a national network of 2,400 Christian volunteers who support prisoners in the 120 prisons of England and Wales.

l always thought l wasn't good enough or clever like friends who are doctors and can do amazing things. The truth is the parable of the Good Samaritan isn't a nice bolt-on for those we think of as special people, but a challenge for every follower of Christ.

Peter Holloway is the Chief Executive Officer of Prison Fellowship. Come and hear more about Peter's story, and the work of Prison Fellowship, when he comes to speak at the morning service on June 18th. A testimony to the impact of Prison Fellowship is inside.

Parish Newsletter June - August 2017

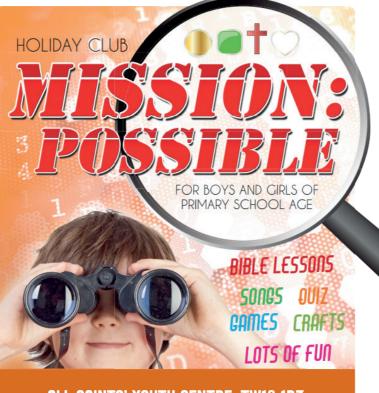
# **Church Office and** Heritage Centre Refurbishment

• hey were once the Laleham Public Conveniences and due for demolition.

a Church Office and Heritage Centre. Thanks to the continued generosity of members of the Church congregation, a further £30,000 has been raised to for the parish for decades to come. A modern working environment will be provided for the Church staff, with space to welcome visitors, and a more controlled environment for the Heritage Centre collection.

installed, with the main work being carried out through June. During this period the Church Office will move to Monday and Wednesday afternoons





ALL SAINTS' YOUTH CENTRE, TW18 1RZ **TUE 22 - FRI 25 AUGUST** 9.30ам - 12.30рм \*\* BOOKING SOON \*\*

# General Election 2017: Quizzing the Candidates

aith has a central role to play in politics and this general election, say the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

In a pastoral letter to the Church of England, Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu urge people to set aside "apathy and cynicism" and draw new inspiration from the ancient Christian virtues of "love, trust and hope".

The three-page letter encourages

voters to remember Britain's Christian history and heritage, as well as a concern for future generations and God's creation, as they make their decisions.

Following the divisions of recent years, it calls for reconciliation, drawing on shared British values of cohesion, courage and stability.

At a time when political differences may be felt more intensely than ever, the Archbishops insist that a Christian's "first obligation" during the election and

beyond is to pray for those standing for office, and recognise the personal costs and burdens carried by those in political life and by their families.

Christians also have a duty to play an active part in the process, they add.

Churches Together in Staines and Laleham are organising a Hustings in which Spelthorne's candidates can be guestioned. At the time of going to press the planned date is 7.30pm Friday 2nd June at St Peter's Church in Staines.



# AN EX-OFFENDER WITH KEYS!



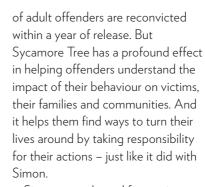
C imon needed his next  $\mathcal{I}$  hit of heroin at almost any cost. So he went out burgling.

He'd begun taking heroin as a 19 year old. Multiple prison sentences over the next 24 years failed to prevent him from slipping back into addiction. He was unaware of the devastation his crimes were causing.

"I didn't think I was hurting people like that," explains Simon. "My catalyst to change was a Prison Fellowship Sycamore Tree victim awareness course | attended in prison. A victim of a crime came and told us how it had affected her life."

"I started to resent the offender and realised that I was doing the same thing to other people. I was sick of hurting my family, hurting myself and hurting society. My justification for the crimes was that there weren't any victims. If I robbed a business, I wasn't hurting anyone as an individual, but the course made me realise that I actually was."

Reoffending statistics in England and Wales are shocking. Nearly half



Simon was released from prison in November 2012, headed straight to a drug and alcohol treatment centre and has been clean ever since. "Because I'd been entrenched in this lifestyle for so long, this was one of the hardest things I've ever done," he recounts. "But, do you know what? It was the most rewarding as well. Now I love life and I am able to be there for my family."

And remarkably, less than four years after leaving prison, he works in a prison as a drug rehabilitation officer. He is a rare, yet amazing example of an ex-offender with keys!

people like Simon turn their lives around in prisons across England and Wales.

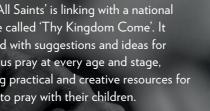


Do you pray?

t seems around half of us in the UK do, according to the latest European Social Survey.

But does prayer make any difference? What can I pray about? And is there a right way to pray? These are some of the questions we'll

be exploring in our services over the coming weeks. All Saints' is linking with a national initiative called 'Thy Kingdom Come'. It is packed with suggestions and ideas for helping us pray at every age and stage, including practical and creative resources for parents to pray with their children.



Parish Newsletter June – August 2017

And Prison Fellowship is helping



# Dates for your diary

### **JUN 2017**



10:00. 10:30. 18:30.



10:00. 10.30 18.30



10.00 10:30. 18.30



10.30

## **JUL 2017**



10:00. 10:30. 18:30.



10:00. 10:30. 18:30.



10:00. 10:30.



10.00 10:30. 18.30



10.00 10:30. 18.30.

# **AUG 2017**



10:00. 10:30. 18:30.



10.00 10:30. 18.30



10:00. 10:30. 18.30



10:30. 18:30.

Services at 10.30am in Laleham School Hall. Other services in All Saints' Laleham unless specified.