

SAINTS ALIVE!

Pentecost 5, July 20th 2008

Volume 3 Number 9

Dear Parishioner,

Greetings to you in the name of Christ. The holiday season is upon us and we keep in prayer all those who travel. It is also the time of Emancipation celebration in the nation. At All Saints' we have taken the view that emancipation is for all people and is indeed a Christian ideal. (Gal.5:1) The practice has been that we celebrate our diversity in a unity before the altar of God. (Rev.7:9-10). At such a service, we explore our diversity in worship, song, dance and fellowship as we seek to free ourselves from the yokes that divide us and cause us pain. That special service will take place on Sunday 27th July at 8.00 am. All are invited.

It is my intention to share with you some facts about Lay Ministry. In our diocese, there are four classifications of lay ministers, namely - reader, catechist, chalice bearer, Eucharistic Assistant. At All Saints most of our lay ministers are Eucharistic assistants and chalice bearers. There are no catechists and one person is in training as reader. I would like to draw this imbalance to your attention in the hope that the areas of reader and catechist may attract a few more committed persons.

Permit me to outline to you as briefly as I can the duties attached to the above mentioned categories.

Reader: to visit the sick, to teach in Sunday School, to undertake pastoral and educational work, to assist the priest or deacon. To read Morning and/or Evening Prayer, the Great Litany, to read the word of God, to preach, to catechize. To distribute the Blood of Christ to the people. To

bury the dead in the absence of the priest or deacon.

Catechist: to prepare persons for Baptism, Confirmation, Reception into the Communicant membership of the Church in the Province of the West Indies and the reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows.

Chalice Bearer: to administer the Chalice at any Celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the absence of a sufficient number of priests or deacons assisting the president.

Eucharistic Assistant: to administer the Chalice in the absence of a sufficient number of priests or deacons. To take the Sacrament directly following a celebration of the Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation, who by reason of illness or infirmity were unable to be present at the Celebration.

What is described above constitutes the formal aspect of Lay Ministry for which persons are licensed under the care of the rector of the parish and the oversight of the appointed diocesan Warden of Lay Ministers. I wish to recognize what I refer to as the informal lay ministry in which the widest range of duties and roles are undertaken, also to the honour and glory of God, with low visibility and without which readiness for worship may not be achieved. All are honored here in our parish and all are needed. May I invite you to consider where your greatest contribution can be made to giving equilibrium to the division of labour in the industry of our parish. Remember, the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few.

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Thank you for your prayers and your interventions, our electrical upgrade has been approved and connected. We move on now to the full installation of the air cooling system. Once again I ask your patience and understanding as the work continues.

I wish to welcome back from holiday our hardworking verger, Ms Pam Sampson. We know she had a good holiday and we hope that she got some rest for the continued grind. I wish to thank

Letter from the Editors.

Dear Fellow-Parishioners,

We would like to thank Dr Sonia Roache-Barker for the following article. Unfortunately we did not have room to print it all this month so book your next month's copy now.

Has Dr Barker voiced your own thoughts or do you take a different view? Either way we would like to hear from you c/o the All Saints Office

Ruminations of an Anglican Christian before Lambeth 2008

I have been deeply disturbed as a Christian these last few years about a number of things that have been happening within the Church – the “Body of Christ” -- things which seem to be leading our believers into many strange new directions, but none more so - as an Anglican believer, than the direction into where our Anglican/ Episcopalian family is going since certain developments in the Canadian arm of the “family”.

I am not an academic nor am I in the bowels of the policy-makers of our Anglican Church community, but I am a worshipper and a conservative traditionalist who continues to believe that the nearest I can come to a directive from a live Jesus-as-Man in real time to day,



Mrs. Shirley Punch for volunteering to undertake the verger's duties during the period and doing an excellent job of it. Thank you Shirley on behalf of all of us for the commitment and love you willingly displayed.

May God's peace remain with you now and always.

Canon Claude Berkley.

We have one father, who is in heaven

The title 'Father' is reserved for only the high priest

Jesus was called Father

Also, the journal issue was listed as "7" not "8". Plus there were a couple of inadvertent typos – congratulations to Kimlyn and Tressa for picking them up.

or at

sajournal@hotmail.com.

Please ensure that you include your name and a contact number.

Last month's deliberate error was the omission of question#3 from the Bible Quiz:

3: Why shouldn't we give anyone the title of 'Father'?

Men shouldn't give themselves titles of authority

June 2008, is in the words of my Bible, which I have been told were written by men of God, inspired of God with a message to mankind for all time until Jesus comes again - until the end of our world.

I grew up believing that this was as close to guidelines for Christian belief and action as we humans can get since Jesus is no longer with us- He died, rose again and has ascended into Heaven and try as we might, we cannot go to Him, face to face and ask Him to change His words.

In my mind, therefore, I have asked the question why has this issue come to this, after so much time - why has this man been allowed to **continue as chief shepherd of a flock of Anglicans/Episcopalians** to the extent that he now contemplates getting “married” to another

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human of the same sex, before the high altar and in the sanctuary where his flock worship and share in the body and blood of Our Lord?

Why are we Anglicans not afraid of what is termed the “sin against the Holy Spirit” which is mentioned in our Bible? Why are we not afraid of this that has been quoted in Matthew 12 v.31-32, Mark 3 v.28-29, Luke 12, v 10? Why are we not afraid of “*the abomination of desolationstanding in the Holy Place*” spoken of in Daniel 9 and 11 and spoken of by Christ Himself in Matthew 24 v 15.?

In reading my Bible I can find only one quotation that may justify this forbearance and it comes from Paul’s Epistle to the Romans, ch.14 v. 13-14 “*Let us not therefore judge each other any more... I know and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself ...*” and I have taken the liberty to expand this message of St. Paul. about choice and preparation of food to include choices in behaviour... but in the same passage St Paul added “*but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother’s way*” and in v. 15 he goes on to write “*but if thy brother be grieved with your meat, now walkest thou not charitably, Destroy not him with thy meat for whom Christ died*” He goes on to talk of meat and wine and one may say that he was being very specific, but if eating and drinking could cause offense, how much more must one’s other behaviours- especially since our Lord has enjoined us to be the “Salt” and the “Light” of the world.

I have checked and rechecked our Bible from the Old Testament to the New to see what kind of behaviour is expected of us by our God that created us as moral and thinking beings, apart from “brutish beasts” and by our God that died for us and our God the Holy Spirit that was poured out on those who wrote the words that we now read and we are told has been left with us as Our Comforter and inspiration to continue to emulate Jesus on this earth.

Jehovah started the process as I read in Genesis ch 1 v 26 - 28.- “*man and woman created He*

them” ; “and God blessed them and said unto them “*Be fruitful and multiply...*”. In Genesis ch 2 v 20 -24 we are told of the “first marriage”. Adam said in v. 24 - “*This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of Man*”

Modernity and liberalization decrees that we treat this story as fable and not as a template for our behaviour- we are told that this fable exists in many cultures and is ageless and not exclusive to Christianity, not realizing perhaps that it is the true parable of man and his relationship to a single Creator who belongs to all humanity- not accepting that there may be one universal law of behaviour that if transgressed is ultimately inimical to the continued existence of Man.(Humankind).

But where do we draw the line as Christians, because then we are hypocrites who can discount what our Lord Jesus Christ himself said in Matthew 5 v. 17 -20 “*Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy but to fulfill.....Whomsoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven;.....except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven*”

In the same chapter He went on to speak of the Ten (10) Commandments given to the Jews and recorded in Exodus 20. v. 1-17. Only one sentence in v.14 deals with a sexual sin and nowhere is it recorded that any mention was made of union between the same sex-one can ask the question why- when we know from many historical references that homosexuality has always been practiced.

There is some expansion of the directives with further guidelines for behaviour in Exodus 21 v.1-10. **with no mention of any directives for same sex union** being entertained in the discussion. In other words it was not even acknowledged - to me this is a given that it was seen as out side of the norm.

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Our Lord spoke of “adultery” in Matthew 5 v 27-30 and “marriage” and “divorce” in Matthew 5 v.31-32 and in Mark 10 v.5-12 He says in these words” in Mark 10 v 6 “*From the beginning of the creation God made them male and female For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife.....*”

How much more explicit can one get?

How can any follower of Jesus Christ subvert these words and read something else into what God intended “Marriage “to be?

Jesus said in Matthew 5 v 28- 30 and Mark 9 v 43-50, referring to the sexual sin of adultery, “*If thy right hand offend thee cut it off...*” We all know what figuratively He meant. It is interesting that in Matthew, this saying is juxtaposed to the sin of adultery but in Mark it follows in Mark 9 v 42 this verse “*And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and he were cast into the sea*”

I personally have met young males who tell me that their first indoctrination into homosexuality happened in school at a time of extreme vulnerability - girls know of “crushes”, boys know of them too. In North America and in some European countries, as we speak, following on the tacit consent for “same sex unions “ is the plea for the introduction into schools for curricula encouraging acceptance of “alternative lifestyles” starting from the primary schools in this new world that extols so-called “human rights” over “God’s Laws”

To me it is obvious that God knows that each of us has an “Achilles heel” where we will be sorely tempted, and this is not always related primarily to sins of a sexual nature. However, he has made multiple provision for our dealing with temptation. He started the teaching in His preparation for His Ministry by going into the wilderness and fasting for forty days - this we are told in Matthew 4, Mark 1 v 12, Luke 4. In every turning point of His life as a human on earth, He sought His Father in prayer and most

importantly- LISTENED to HIM and did His bidding.

In Mark 9 v.49-50, Jesus said “*For everyone shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt. Salt is good, but if the salt have lost its saltness, wherewithal will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another*” He said in Mark 10 v.27, in answer to the question “who then can be saved?” “*with men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible*”

Many men say that they hear from God and thus justify what they profess to believe and what they do. We are told in 1 John ch 4 “*to try the spirits whether they are of God*” ---- We also told that God does not change, He is “*the same today as he was yesterday*” that “*God is not a man that He doth lie*” ...that God is the “*Alpha and Omega*” Rev 1 v. 8

How then can He change His Word- when His apostle Paul writes in Romans 6 v 12-23 inter alia ... “*let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members or instruments of unrighteousness unto sin; but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your instruments of righteousness unto God*” In v. 14-15, he wrote “*for sin shall not have dominion over you; for ye are not under the law but under grace..... What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace, God forbid.....*” He also says in v. 23 “*for the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus*”

To me the whole Epistle of Romans is extremely instructive and germane to the solving of this dilemma within our Church.

In 1 Corinthians 6 v15-20 Paul writes of our bodies being “*temples of the Holy Spirit*” In Romans 12, Paul is very explicit in v. 1 we are exhorted to “*present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God....*” In v. 3 he continues “*through the grace given unto me to every man that is among you, not to think of*

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himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith...

In Romans 1, the word of God thunders through Paul – **read Romans 1 v.16-32**. More particularly in v.18 *“for the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold the truth in unrighteousness... for the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made; even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse..... v. 21 “.... But became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened....”*

The crunch of the matter is declared in Romans 1 v.24- 28 where for the first time in the New Testament mention is made of same sex relationships- but nowhere does Paul say that God has sanctioned this behaviour - in fact he writes in v. 25 *“Who changed the truth of God into a lie and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen”*

If you read the Bible, same sex behaviour was condemned in the Old Testament - in Sodom and Gomorrah - referred to by Christians and non-Christians alike; in Revelation where in ch 2, there is mention made of the Nicolaitians whom it is believed practiced this behaviour. Rev 2. v6 sends a message to the Church of Ephesus *“But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitians, which I also hate”* In v. 5 there is mention also of the doctrine of Balaam *“.....and to commit fornication”*

But have any of you read Leviticus ch 18 where God spoke with Moses saying *“Speak unto the children of Israel and say unto thee “I am the Lord your God...”* in v. 22-25 ***“thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things; for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you ”*** In v.30 *“Therefore shall ye keep mine ordinance that ye commit not anyone of these abominable customs which were committed before you and*

that you defile not yourselves therein; I am the Lord your God”. God’s promises to the Jews are further qualified in **Joshua 24 – read v. 14-27**. In v.15 there are the famous words *“Choose you this day whom ye will serve..... but for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”*

You may say that we are not Jews and that this commandment does not apply to us - but all of scripture refutes this – even Jesus Himself who proclaimed that He came to *“fulfill the Law”* Paul says in Romans 11, v. 11 *“Have they (the Jews) stumbled that they should fall ? God forbid; but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy....”* In v16- and more particularly in v.19-21 *“Thou wilt say then, the branches were broken off that I might be grafted in Well: because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not high minded but fear: for if God spared not the natural branches; take heed lest He spare not thee...”*

Paul and all the apostles teach the early Church about ways of keeping purity and holiness sacrosanct within the Church

In 1 Corinthians 5, Paul speaks of “fornication” within the Church and how to deal with it according to Jesus’ laws. In v. 5, he *mentions “delivering one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus”* in v. 7 *“Purge out therefore the old leaven that you may be a new lump....”* In v.11-13, he gives very clear instructions. It is true that Paul’s instructions about a number of things have not been followed to the letter in our Anglican dispensation- for instance we do not insist as do our Roman Catholic brethren that all clergy should be celibate, taking one bride “the Church”. This has led to problems of another nature in their dispensation, but in this instance, it would not have posed the dilemma that now lies in our court.

Paul however speaks of **Marriage** in Hebrews ch 13, v.4 and in 1 Corinthians 7 v.1-12 and again in v.15-40 where he speaks also of virginity. Mention is made of “brotherly love”- agape love in Hebrews ch 13 v1. These are his

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words and thoughts and some may question them.

But Peter (Cephas) whom Jesus mandated to start His Church speaks of **Marriage** in 1 Peter ch 3. He speaks of WIVES (**women**) and HUSBANDS (**men**). He says in ch 1 v. 14- 16 *“As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves; according to the former lusts in ignorance ... because it is written Be ye holy; for I am holy”* In ch 2 he writes in v.9-11 *“But ye are a chose generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people...Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul”* He speaks in 2 Peter 2 of *“false prophets also among the people”*. In v. 1 he speaks of God’s vengeance against Noah’s and Lot’s worlds because of sin; in v 5 -7 and in v. 9-10 he writes *“The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgement to be punished; But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and DESPISE GOVERNMENT.....”* Peter refers again in the rest of the Chapter, as does John in Revelation, to Balaam and to those who subvert the words and teaching of God. Jude mentions Sodom and Gomorrah and *“giving themselves over to fornication and going after strange flesh”* in v.7 *“suffering the vengeance of eternal fire”*

In **1John ch 1 v 9** we have the Christian’s universal way of escape

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”...

But

- (1) First of all we have to **recognize what is SIN,**
- (2) **Acknowledge that we have sinned** and
- (3) Be humble and contrite enough to **ask for God’s forgiveness** and then-

(4) **“GO AND SIN NO MORE”** – not my words but the words of Jesus.

We know that to tread that narrow and difficult road it is possible only with God- who makes all things possible.

Writing to the Church, John says to the *“little children”* in 1 John 12 v.13 *“your sins are forgiven you for His name’s sake”* and *“because ye have known the Father”*;

To the *“young men”* in v. 13 *“because ye have overcome the wicked one”* in v. 14 *“because ye are strong and the word of God abideth in you”*

To the *“fathers”* in v.13 and 14 *“because ye have known Him that is from the beginning”*

To everyone in v. 16 *“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes.... Is not of the Father, but is of the world...”*

James the first Bishop of Jerusalem writes in his Epistle Ch 1 v 14 *“but every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin. And sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death”*. He continues, from v 21 to v. 27, admonishing us against hypocrisy in our daily lives, being the double minded people that we truly are.

In the New Testament (as in the Old) there are messages for husbands and wives; for the women – old, young; widows, divorcees, unmarried- messages that speak to virtue and godliness, but never decrying marriage- the myth that has been perpetuated for years about Christianity, the myth that makes sexuality and sexual feelings a sin for a Christian, largely because we listen to what others have said but have never taken the time to really read and understand the Word of God.

What then is the role of the Church in this present-day world?

What effectively can the Church try to do?

(The second part of Dr Sonia Roache-Barker’s article will be printed in our August edition)

TO LOVE GOD AND TO USE HIS GIFTS TO HIS GLORY

These are the answers to last month's Quiz.

And now for a reverse Bible Jeopardy.

Without looking at last month's issue – or the Bible -, can you identify the children of the fathers named in numbers 1,2,10,11, and 18?

1 - **Jesse** 1Sam 16:11;

2 - **Abraham** Gen.17:5;

3 - *We have one father who is in heaven* Matt. 23:9;

4 - *Prodigal son* Luke 15:22-23;

5 - *Rachel* Gen. 31:19;

6 - *To gain understanding* Prov. 4:1;

8. - *5th Exodus* 20;

9 - *Isaac* Gen 22;

10 - **Jairus** Mark 5:22-23;

11 - **Zebedee** Mark 3:17; 12- *Corinthians 2 Cor.* 6:18;

13 - **Abba** Mark 14:36; Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6;

14 - *Father of lights* James1:17;

15 - *Death* Exodus21:15;

16 - *Greek* Acts 16:1;

17- *In case they become discouraged* Col 3:21;

18 - **Kish** 1Sam9:3;

19 - *Alms* Matt. 6:1;

20 - **John** Luke 1:59

Saints' Passages June 2008

Baptisms

8th June, – Kyla Alexis Rowe

8th June, – Sariah Sydney Theresa Layne

14th June, – Bianca Margaret Walcott Hardy

21st June– Tristan Aveshay Leonidus Toyer

22nd June, – Jeremiah Christopher Preddie

Funerals

10th June – Richard Hyatali

10th June – Winifred Leung

12th June – Laurice Lashley

12th June – Violet Gragwell

14th June – Colleen E. Jones

20th June – Althea Pierre



Isn't some of Jesus' ethical teaching just plain crazy?

For example: Jesus said you should turn the other cheek if you're attacked. Isn't that just crazy? Well, it certainly can't be easy or fun. But if the alternative is tit for tat revenge, surely that can work out a lot worse – just think of Northern Ireland, or Israel and Palestine.

What Jesus said goes against our instincts to stick up for ourselves – but then there's not much point having a religious teacher who simply tells you to do what you already instinctively do anyway. It shouldn't be

surprising that what Jesus said was sometimes hard to take, and goes against the grain.

Remember, though, that Jesus often used colourful language, exaggerated so that it sticks in the mind. (Who would remember if Jesus had said, "Faith is harder for the rich", instead of "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God"?) So maybe he meant his "turning the other cheek" saying more as a general principle than an absolute rule.

On the other hand, among those who have taken his words most seriously are two of the great heroes of the 20th century, Gandhi and Martin Luther King. They were both inspired by Jesus to change their worlds through non-violent protest. Their achievement suggests that turning the other cheek may not be that crazy after all.

NOTICE - RUMMAGE SALE

Where? At the All Saints Church Hall

When?

Friday 25 July from 2pm to 6pm and
Saturday 26 July from 6am to 10am.

On sale: books, hats, wigs, clothing, shoes etc

Daniel

L S H I N A R K O X K M A G R V V
 U W C B K P I M A G E S D N A H V
 S M A E R D E C R E E S U I R A D
 Q N R F T O V C M O U N T A I N L
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 W E N U M I S H A E L D V O U G S
 N A S I I B A C Y L L E B A N P E
 Z I E Y W I H H L I R M L R O E W

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Abednego	clay	interpret	Shadrach
Ashpenaz	Cyrus	iron	Shinar
astrologers	Darius	kingdom	silver
Azariah	decree	legs	stone
Babylon	den of lions	magicians	stump
band of iron	dreams	Mede	upper chamber
beast	fiery furnace	Meshach	water
belly	gold	Mishael	wine
Belshazzar	Hananiah	mountain	
Beltshazzar	hands	Nebuchadnezzar	
brass	heaven	prayed	
Chaldeans	image	pulses	



Hurricane Season

Is there oil in your lamp?

What the wise virgins are stocking up with

- ✓ Three days supply of drinking water
- ✓ Tinned food
- ✓ Medication

- ✓ Pet food
- ✓ Gas
- ✓ Waterproof storage for essential documents

Where is your nearest emergency shelter?