

ALL SAINTS TURVEY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY SERVICES

First Sunday

Holy Communion	8 am
Matins	11 am
Evensong	6 pm

Third Sunday

Holy Communion	8 am
Holy Communion	11 am
Evensong	6 pm

Second Sunday

Holy Communion	8 am
Matins	11 am
Holy Communion	6 pm

Fourth Sunday

Holy Communion	8 am
Matins	11 am
Evensong	6 pm

Fifth Sunday

Holy Communion	8 am
Matins	11 am
Songs of Praise	6 pm

One of Bedfordshire's fine Churches

The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends,

The Godless Funeral

Funerals are always a delicate matter and I would never want to offend anybody in this very personal area. But many people today are more open in admitting that they lack any belief and that they would prefer to have a funeral without God. This is something not just encouraged by the Humanist Association but advocated, and facilitated, at our new Crematorium at Norse Road in Bedford. In such a ceremony the focus shifts from the traditional Christian emphasis and becomes more a celebration of the life that has just finished. Many people are encouraged to participate and the favourite readings and music of the one who has died can be performed without any difficulty. To me this seems a good idea. Some people have said that "the Church" would be against any loss of their virtual monopoly in this area, but I do not think that this is true. Most clergy that I know would be glad not to have to take funeral services where they are focussing on the passing of the deceased from this life to the next and everybody else is thinking something quite different. If these ideas gain ground then those who believe in God will have a funeral service in church (or crematorium) where the emphasis will be, as it always has been, on thanksgiving for the life that has ended and a commending of it to God's mercy and judgement, as He alone knows the secrets of our hearts and our true worth, and whether or not He wants to re-create us in a fuller life beyond our boundaries of time and space. There might be a Memorial (or Thanksgiving) Service at a later date. In the past this was usually for those who had played some part in the life of county or nation. Now increasingly this is needed for people who have had a more ordinary existence. It is simply not possible when a funeral is often arranged at short notice for everyone who wishes to be present to attend. But the stress, emphasis and focus of these services for the believer will be on the centrality of God and the Christian hope, belief and expectation that those who do believe will be resurrected by God to another existence in another realm of being. On the other hand those who do not share these beliefs are free to celebrate the life that has ended in any way they wish, without clergy and without God.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Jeffery

MOTHERS' UNION Thursday 15th February at 2.45pm in the
Manor Room : Your Favourite Hymns.

FLOWER ROTA Main Altar Mrs Goddard
Memorial Chapel 18th Miss J Flute

BAPTISM George Thomas Atkinson

WEDDING Christopher Russell Ripley & Catherine Emma Jessop

COFFEE MORNING This raised £80 for church funds. Many
thanks to Mrs Hemming and to all who helped, donated, came
and supported in so many ways.

ELECTORAL ROLL This year we have to make a completely new
membership roll, over the next two months. Will church
members please be so kind as to take a form from the back of
the church, complete it, and return it to one of the church
officers.

A REVIVAL A negro preacher once said in a sermon:
If all the sleeping folk will wake up, and
all the luke-warm folk will fire up, and
all the dishonest folk will confess up, and
all the disgruntled folk will cheer up, and
all the depressed folk will lock up, and
all the estranged folk will make up, and
all the gossiping folk will shut up, and
all the dry bones will shake up - then we can have a revival.

IN LIGHTER VEIN The Vicarage is usually a regular port of
call for vagrants. The minister's wife one day opened the
door to a tramp and, feeling she ought to encourage him to
do something for himself, asked "Have you ever been offered
any work?" "Only once, ma'am," replied the tramp
cheerfully. "Apart from that I've been shown nothing but
kindness."

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH "Reputation is what the world thinks
of us. Character is what God and angels know of us."
(T.Paine)

Rector: Revd. Peter N. Jeffery M.A.
Churchwardens: Mr. Leonard H.A. Savage
Mr. Daniel T. Hanbury Higgins
P.C.C. Secretary: Mr. Robert Keep
P.C.C. Treasurer: Mr. David A. Nightingale
Organist: Mrs. Enid Wadsworth

For weddings and baptisms please
make arrangements with the Rector
(Turvey 881210)