

St Peter's Parish Chest April 2014

Parish Office: 020 8997 3655

e-mail: admin@stpeterealing.org.uk www.stpeterealing.org.uk

A monthly bulletin of all that is accomplished by and within our church's community

Suggested Contribution 30p

Letter from the Vicar



Tell me the old, old story...

I really like a chat over a cuppa. Too rarely is this a possibility these days, or so it seems; to take time to sit and chat. My mother and godmother did it every day when I was a kid. At around 11.30am every day they would take it in turns to go to each other's house (we lived next door to each other so it wasn't far), put the kettle on, make a pot of coffee, sit down at the dining room table and chat. The lord only knows what they could possibly find to talk about considering they did this every day but they did. Fashion, neighbours, food, children, husbands; almost anything could be the topic of the day. In some respects I suppose it didn't matter what the topic was, it was the friendship, the fellowship that was important. In the midst of these chats these two women shared their story. They shared their family history, their hopes and fears and expectations for life. They shared with each other.

This is why I enjoy that chat over a cuppa. You never know where the conversation is going to lead, what the subject will be but by the time the cuppa is finished and we need to part to get on with the day I and my co-chatter have shared something of ourselves, something of our own story.

Story telling in that sense really is part of who we are. It is how we build relationships, communicate ideas, clarify who we are and what we value. It is not about fibbing, quite the contrary it is about being the most honest and truthful we can be. This seemingly innocuous conversation is really important in expressing and developing who we are. If we don't tell or share our story it ceases to have value and to help us grow and develop as people.

Story is a truly important part of the Christian faith. As we come to Easter we realise we have been part of a story, the telling of a story that has changed us and we hope will change others. Obviously I am talking about the story of Jesus, his triumphal entry to Jerusalem, his last meal with his followers, his arrest, trial and execution. As April unfolds we will tell the story of his resurrection and forty days later his ascension to the right hand of God.

The danger in this regular telling of this story, which through the Eucharist we tell every Sunday, is to see it as just that, a story. We can slip into seeing it as that narrative held in the pages of the gospels that

we read in church. To fall into this is to betray the true story of Jesus.

The true story is that which has touched our lives; the story that drew us into the good news of Jesus; our own story of engagement with Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. The story that would tell us how you came to be a Christian, how you came to the faith that you have today; the story that connects you to the story of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection.

The story of Jesus is living and dynamic and needs to be told a fresh every day in the way we live our lives and express our faith. This comes home to us all the more as we unfold the Easter story again this month. As we share in the symbol of our discipleship in the washing of feet, as we walk with Jesus on the way of the cross during the Walk of Witness, as we wait at the foot of the cross during the Three Hours of Good Friday and how we celebrate with profound joy the resurrection of the Christ of the world, the story of Jesus becomes our story, our awakening to the truth of God's love for us and all creation.

Thinking though of that opening cuppa, what good is all this if we don't tell others the story too. Too many people in our community do not know the story of their salvation, and I don't just mean people of other cultures and faiths. There are two generations in our community now who have never been told that story, the story of the saving of the world. They don't know about Jesus and they think church is irrelevant, or at least don't see church as having a meaningful place in their daily lives. Well, as long as they don't know the story of Jesus, as long as they don't know the story of Easter and just think it is something to do with bunnies and chocolate eggs then we have failed our Saviour who died for us.

We need to have that cuppa with lots of people and begin to tell them our story too.

Fr David

Counting our blessings



A welcoming sign of spring at St Peter's

By now the sun has hopefully put in a return appearance after a very chilly end to March. This lovely picture of the flower bed just by the west door of St Peter's shows what a beautiful sight is enjoyed by those who walk up and down Mount Park Road each day. The green fingers that plant and tend these beds belong to Ann Lazarow. Many thanks, Ann for cheering us all up!

Someone else whose generous use of their time and skills cheers us up week by week is Anne Reilly. Anne organises the coffee rota and also ensures that delicious cakes and biscuits are available each Sunday. On Mothering Sunday a particularly lovely selection was available for us all to enjoy after the service. Anne has also made sure that many other St Peter's events including concerts are suitably "refreshed" – thank you!

Open Doors



"Hands together...."

St Peter's is open daily from around 8am to 6pm. This simple witness of open doors is a very powerful one in the parish. Many people during course of the day walk through these doors. Some people will stay to enjoy the quiet, to pray and to light a candle. Many more though will just come in to look around and "catch their breath" in the midst of a busy or stressful day. There are those who make a regular habit of popping in – perhaps on the way to collect children from Montpelier School or one of the many activities running in the church hall. In this way St Peter's is a part (and heart) of the day to day life of the parish.

Other opportunities to make this connection are also valued. For example, on **Wednesday 26th March** Durston House School performed their end of term concert at St Peter's to a packed house of parents, staff and friends.

Earlier in the month, on **Saturday 15th March**, Fr David renewed our connection with the Beaver Scout Colony by leading a very enjoyable session showing the Beavers and their leaders some of the things that happen at St Peter's.

I am very grateful for Michael Brewin, a Beaver parent, for the photographs of this busy and instructive morning.



A table spread for all....

Mothering Sunday

The fourth Sunday of Lent this year fell on **Sunday 30th March**. This is the day, sometimes called Refreshment Sunday, when traditionally people had the opportunity to return to their own home churches or "Mother" churches. It has become the practice more recently to use this time to also give thanks for our own mothers, motherhood and those who have been mothers and children to us. We were reminded though in the story of Moses in the bulrushes and Jesus' words to his mother Mary from the cross, that we are all called to share Christ's love and warmth and care in the world, way beyond the boundaries of our own homes and families.

Junior Church read these passages and led us in prayer very clearly and thoughtfully. It was good too to be joined by two St Peter's Cubs leaders and Cub Scouts.

It was then very appropriate that everyone in the congregation was given tokens of thanksgiving. The distribution was very ably overseen by the younger members of our serving team. This year Junior Church made beautiful favours with hand written cards and chocolate treats to be given out along with brightly coloured pot plants. Many thanks to the Junior Church children and leaders, and to the early bird(s?) who collected the plants again this year. A really joyful occasion.



"For my lovely mum!"

An Update on Stonework



Allison McAllister writes:

What's happening with the Stonework? When will the scaffolding be going up? How much money do we still need to raise? Well, let me explain where we are with the project.

Stage 1 of the project involves detailed surveys, writing specifications and then tendering to three companies. This all happened during 2013. In January 2014 we received the reconciliation for stage 1 and the revised cost for stage 2 from English Heritage. This was not great news as all the tenders came back significantly higher than the initial estimates. This is due, in part, to more work being required (more crumbling on arches on south side and the leaking from the south tower more extensive than originally thought) and to an increase in costs generally.

In financial terms instead of the overall project costing £250k we are looking at a figure of almost £320K. This breaks down to, broadly speaking, £28K for Stage 1 and £290K for stage 2. Stage 1 is complete and has been paid for completely by part of the grant from English Heritage and some money from the St Peters stonework fund.

So let's focus on Stage 2 and where the funding for this is coming from.

As soon as we realised that the cost of the project had increased we approached English Heritage for an 'enhanced' grant (i.e. an additional £24K) for stage 2. We already have a grant of £136K from them for stage 2 and we are therefore asking for this to be increased to £160K. After further form filling and providing them with up to date financial information English Heritage have accepted this application and we hope to hear the outcome at the beginning of April.

On the advice of the Archdeacon and after a meeting with the Willesden Area Finance adviser we have applied to the Diocese for a grant of £20K and also a loan of £20K.

We are also due to hear the outcome of our grant application to Garfield Weston Foundation by the end of March. So, as this edition of the Parish Chest goes to print there are quite a few financial decisions being made by various committees that will affect St Peter's stonework finances. As you read this, pray for wisdom for those decision makers!

We do have a grant of £20K from National Churches Trust and £2750 from Allchurches Trust and we continue to get generous donations from our parishioners. Immense thanks to all who have given.

Funding for Stage 2

National Lottery Fund with	136 000
English Heritage (enhanced)	(24 000)
Listed Churches VAT scheme	48 000
National Churches Trust	20 000
Allchurches Trust	2 750
St Peters Stone Fund Donations	18 250
St Peters Stone Fund Target	(21 500)
Diocesan Fund	(40 000)
Garfield Weston Foundation*	??

In summary

We have received/been granted	225 000
Waiting on the outcome	64 000
TOTAL	289 000

If we were fortunate to be successful in all the pending outcomes the St Peters Stone work target figure of £21.5K (as of 16 March) would be reduced slightly. For the moment it is best that we stick with this figure until we know the outcomes.

If we are not successful in securing any more grants then the scope of work would have to be scaled back slightly to fit the finances. So, if you have not already given to the stone work appeal NOW would be an excellent time to do it so that we can ensure that we maximise the amount of repair work that we can do. Or indeed if you think you may be able to give something later in the year please do talk to one of the Church Wardens.

Once the finances are confirmed, the schedule of work will be agreed, contracts signed and the scaffolding will go up hopefully just after Easter and the work can begin!

***STOP PRESS!**

Since writing this article Allison can now confirm the great news that we have now received a cheque for £5000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation.

Communion before Confirmation

Fr David writes:

It is that time of year as we begin to think about preparations for First Mass. We have a policy at St Peter's of admitting children to communion before confirmation. This recognises their full part and commitment to the Christian faith and their active part in the life of this Christian family. We acknowledge their value and their baptismal relationship with God by receiving them as full communicant members of the Christian family of St Peter's. To do the candidates need to be in year 2 or above at school and they are expected to attend a series of classes that will end with a service during which they will be admitted.

The classes are scheduled to begin on **Thursday 8th May at 4pm**. The candidates will be admitted to communion on **Sunday 1st June**, the Sunday after Ascension Day in the Parish Mass.

If you would like to know more or would like to discuss any aspect of this programme please speak to Fr David. *Names of candidates should be to him by Sunday 4th May 2014.*



Music Notes

David Blumlein writes:

On Sunday 9 March was sung "Call to remembrance" by Richard Farrant, who was born at some time before 1535 and died in 1581.

He was appointed to the Chapel Royal in about 1552 but resigned in 1664 to become Master of the Choristers at St George's, Windsor. He was re-appointed to the Chapel Royal, apparently as Master of the Choristers while retaining his post at Windsor! He was also much involved in theatricals. It was customary at this time for boys to take women's parts on the stage and the London theatres teemed with boys. Farrant's boys at the Chapel Royal and Windsor had their own theatre at Blackfriars and so popular were their performances that the city's most fashionable society fought to get seats, which were expensive. There was also a lucrative business in hiring out boys to perform in banquets and entertainments in London; there were in great demand at Elizabeth's Court.

This made Farrant rich and helps to explain why he wrote so little sacred music, and all that has survived are in English and consist of a Service and three anthems. "Call to remembrance" and "Hide not thou thy face" are both 4-part miniatures of rare beauty and perfection.

Notes for your diary...

Richard Pinel plays at St Peter's Tuesday 29th April 7pm

Organist of St George's, Windsor gives a solo recital of virtuoso organ concert favourites. With lighting and big screen projection

St Matthew's Concert Choir sing Bach's Mass in B Minor Saturday 11th May 7.30pm at St Matthew's W5 2QA

Year's Mind

2 April	Vera Boyce (2003)
4 April	Elizabeth Hughes (1957)
6 April	Mabel Gibbard (1986)
8 April	Stella Gordon (1958)
	Fanny Grove (1963)
11 April	Arthur Gibbard (1978)
18 April	Kenneth Corden (2004)
20 April	John Ord (1975)
21 April	Roberta Staden (1964)
22 April	John Gray (1961)
27 April	Frank Gordon (1973)
	Sally Husbands (2002)
28 April	Kathleen Beaty (1981)
	Graham Allen (2000)
30 April	Muriel Brooke (1965)

Greeting from Australia!

Here as promised is an extract from a lovely letter from **Peter Straw** with his memories of St Peter's and a photograph of himself at that time.



Peter writes:

During the war, my family had moved to 15 Amherst Road, Ealing, and I went to live there permanently after leaving boarding school in June, 1944. I joined the 5th Ealing St. Peters Own Scout Troop and we attended the Church. It was not very long before we had a visit from Fr. John Borrill, the Assistant to Fr. Pond, the Vicar. I then became a member of the St. Peters Junior Fellowship, attended Church regularly and was confirmed in it on 25 November, 1945.

During this time we met an Australian, Tom Roddy, who was married to an English lady, and he introduced us to an Australian businessman, Eric Roberts, who had extensive property interests in Australia. My mother made the decision that she, my brother Christopher and I were going to Australia under the sponsorship of Mr. Roberts, to seek a new life.

Many names come to mind from both the Scouts and the Fellowship but now only have contact with Alan Hughes, who was my very good friend for the six years I lived in Ealing, his wife Maureen and Derek Sadd. They do not live in Ealing now.

As I am on the downhill run to 82 years of age, it is unlikely that any of the present congregation would know of me. However, it has given me great pleasure to visit the website and renew my acquaintance with the history of the Church and see the changes that have taken place since I left. Further, it has also been pleasurable to read the Parish Chest and I intend to indulge myself by reading the Chest Archives. However, should someone wish to correspond with me by email, I will be more than pleased to respond."

Peter's email address is peterstraw5@bigpond.com
It would be so good if someone reading this recognises any of the names Peter mentioned and is able to get in touch. Or of course anyone interested in the history of our parish - this would make an excellent further article for *The Parish Chest!*
Deadline for the May edition is **Wednesday 23rd April**. All copy to sjpeatfield@aol.com