



St Peter's Parish Newsletter December edition 2018

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Letter from the Vicar.

Whilst on my journeys (which as I write will soon be coming to an end) one of the things I have been doing is reflecting theologically on the issues of community and conservation; for the latter because it is a subject I think is of crucial importance to the future of our planet and our people; the former because I think we are working with an erroneous understanding of what community is today in the 21st Century, it being something we need to work harder at now more than ever. The theological reflection has been to consider what should the Christian response be to these issues and to find out what the church universal is doing in these areas.

What I wasn't ready for when I visited AROCHA Vancouver was the change in emphasis of my reflections. I had thought, as I was staying at a Christian Conservation Centre, my main focus would be the issue of conservation. I did in fact get to share in some of the Centre's conservation work. However, it was the question of community that exercised my thoughts more. I had long discussions with David Anderson, the Centre Director, and members of the Team about what we mean by community. What makes a Christian community in such a diverse and dispersed setting? Which for me encouraged reflections on what we might mean by community at St Peter's; a diverse group of dispersed individuals who, if they are able, gather for a couple of hours once a week to worship. With these there are those who are not able to gather, such as our housebound members and those who are unwell or working away. What part have they in our understanding of community, if we have one?

AROKHA Vancouver is made up of several communities, all drawn together by a single ethos; conservation as part of the gospel mission. There are the half dozen full time employees/community members who live on site with their families - which by their very nature make up a series of sub-communities; then there are the twenty plus part-time employees/members who commit and share in the work of the Centre two or three days a week and live off-site. Then there are the Interns; fifteen or so young people, drawn from across the world (we had Canadians, Americans, Australians and Singaporeans when I visited) who come and spend three months working on one of the Community Projects (educational; agricultural; conservation or communication). Then there are the hundred plus volunteers who give of their time to help with the farm work as well as support the food box programme and other practical tasks. These groups came together in various combinations to eat together twice a day. Some gathered for morning prayers held in the main house. There is a Community Day on Thursdays when everyone (excluding the

volunteers) passed through the Main House at some point for a meeting or teaching session as well as to share in the Community Worship time in the afternoon, after community chores.

The AROCHA Vancouver Team are constantly trying to make sense of what this all means if they are claiming to be a Christian community in such a fluid scenario. After my short time with them I began to realise what was important was that the question was kept fresh and alive; and with the question, conversation. There would be no definitive answer but by keeping the question alive their approach to their community was fresh and invigorating as well as challenging; constantly looking to change, challenge and renewal, improving how they lived together, understood each other and cared for each other.

In Matthew 18:20 Jesus tells us 'When two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.' (NRSV). This seemingly fluid and ill-defined definition of Christian Community should free us from formal institutional definitions and allow the Spirit to infiltrate our lives together. To keep alive why we come together, whether it is to worship or to carry out church business, is to keep alive the ethos that draws us together in the first place; that we believe Jesus died for us, that he rose on the third day and is now at the right hand of the Father; that through him we are forgiven and we are called to proclaim Jesus as our Lord and Saviour and God's love freely given to everyone who will receive it. If we believe this to be true it is from this that all we do and say, all that we are, comes.

Yet understanding community in the context of Christian fellowship is not simply about doctrine and taking for granted that we are all the same. I realised the key for AROCHA Vancouver and indeed any group or community was conversation. In Vancouver the community's strength and sense of shared life came from the two meal times each day where conversations were shared. I didn't learn about Patsies United Churches Ministry whilst packing food boxes, I learnt it from chatting over lunch. I didn't learn about David and Shona's personal tragedy when clearing land, I learnt it over supper. I learnt about Susie's up and coming wedding over lunch, not whilst doping the bird survey (I did ask if she was walking down the aisle in her dungarees...apparently not!). So much came from those many shared conversations, some silly and flippant, some serious and everything in between.

Jesus' observation that when two or more gather he is with us is about this life giving sharing in conversation. When gathered, sharing takes place. The theology of community must begin with our understanding of the place of conversation and sharing. We understand our faith in the context of the broken bread and shared cup of the eucharist; we gather for a meal, a meal offered through Jesus. In it we are asked to give of ourselves. It is in the giving that Jesus is made real in our relationships with each other.

Fr David

Ealing Foodbank

A gentle reminder of the important work of Ealing Foodbank. Sadly, as Christmas approaches the work of the Foodbank is needed all the more. Your support is vital. If you use the drop off points in our local Supermarkets, thank you. If you forget or that isn't convenient or indeed the shop you use doesn't have a Foodbank drop off then remember we, at St Peter's, are a collection point too and would be more than happy to deliver your gifts for those in our borough who are in desperate need.

Foodbank are really pleased to accept any donation. However, this month they are particularly looking for:

- Tinned meat; Tinned fish; Dried milk; Long life sponge puddings; Potatoes - tinned and instant; Long life fruit juice and squash; Tinned custard & rice pudding; Vegetarian chilli & curry – cans; Washing up liquid - small sizes please.

And of course, if you can offer a festive gift that would be great. Thank you for all you do to support those in need in our locality.

A Letter for my Great Uncle

As Armistice approached I received this letter from a relative of one of those remembered on our war memorial. I thought you might like to read it. (printed with permission)

Dear Reverend Neno

I am writing to you on the eve of Armistice Day as my great uncle, Percy Robert Freeman, is recorded on your Roll of Honour. Thank you for recording this so efficiently on your website.

My mother's family have a history with your church. My grandmother (Helene Freeman) was married there in 1924, and my mother, Joyce Cutts was married there on 13 Dec 1947. Her two sisters, Hilda and Nina Cutts were also married there. In 1952 my family moved to SA. My mother's love for the land of her birth never wavered.

I wanted first of all to thank you for the information about those from your church who died in the two world wars. Then I wanted to ask you to pray for the young man who was Percy Freeman. He was cut down at the age of 19, before his life had started. He was missing in action and his remains were never found. He is presumed buried in an unmarked, and possibly a mass grave.

For the rest of her life, his mother worried that somehow he had survived and that he was in some kind of home. She always set a place for him at the table so that if he came home one day, he would know that he had not been forgotten.

I live in Cape Town, in a country where war memorials are often falling into disrepair and where participation in the two world wars is largely disregarded and seen as colonial. So it gladdens my heart that in England you are paying homage to those who died so horribly and in such great numbers. I feel that this is the least we can do for these unsung soldiers.

I have a daughter who is living in Chiswick. Strangely, and totally unprompted by any family connections in West London, she and her husband chose your area of London and the part where her maternal family moved over a century ago. Truth is often stranger than fiction!

I am going to visit her just after Christmas and will come and have a look at your beautiful church.

*Thank you again
Regards
(Name supplied)*

Armistice 100 concert at St. Peter's

In addition to the morning act of remembrance, the centenary of Armistice was marked at St Peter's with a unique performance of Verdi Requiem, being arranged for two organists and soprano solo.



Italian organist, Alberto Brigandi consolidated the work, conceived for the huge forces of full symphony orchestra and massed choir, making it (just about!) playable by four hands and feet, as seen on the big screen. Vix Sherliker rose to the monumental challenge of demonstrating the necessary colours, character, and high notes(!) for the contrasting sections. The event was publicised on Radio 3 on the morning of the concert, thanks to our talented marketing guru, (Mrs) Alex Pridgeon. Thanks to Neil for playing

percussion, Fr Michael for compering, and the readers who enhanced the performance.

Mark provided the additional pair of hands and a new arrangement of Eric Coates' Dambusters March, transcribed from the orchestral score; to his knowledge the first arrangement for organ. Coates' piano arrangement, from which others play, is constrained to melody and bass. Returning to the original hand-written orchestral score, (of which there is no full score copy), and with an additional pair of hands, enabled the rich harmonic detail and counter melodies of the original to be faithfully restored.

In a world before radio, records, cassette tape, CD, the internet, and recorded music available at our fingertips, the art of transcription brought music to a considerably wider audience than otherwise could have heard it. W.T Best (1826 – 1897) Liverpool City Organist, and little-known music giant, was said to have a repertoire of a staggering 5,000 pieces. He single-handedly transcribed the oratorios and orchestral works of the day for the grand concert hall organ of St George's Hall, Liverpool, at that time, the largest organ and musical instrument in the world. Subsequently it has been superseded by the organs of the then unbuilt Liverpool Cathedral and Royal Albert Hall, by the same outstanding Liverpool firm, Willis. Audiences flocked to enjoy transcriptions at St George's, notably for the same music scheduled up the road at The Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, or the 'The Phil', as it's locally known. The St George's audience enjoyed a wider variety of music for a fraction of

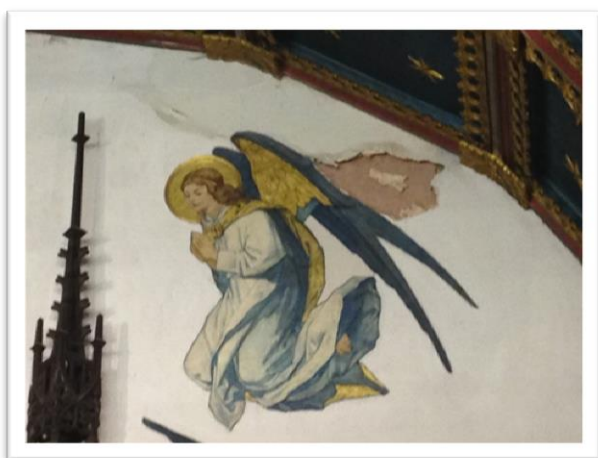
the cost, and in a considerably grander venue! Mark plays some of Best's vast collection of transcriptions at St Peter's.

We were sorry not to hear RCM trumpeter Jack Wilson's playing in the morning service this year, but delighted to see him on TV at The Royal Albert Hall performing alongside singer Tom Jones, et al, in his new role as trumpeter for the RAF Squadronaires.

A professionally edited DVD video recording of the Armistice concert is available from Mark for £10.

Mark James

LADY CHAPEL Appeal



The Lady Chapel, as most of you know, is in urgent need of repair as some of the plaster has come away from the wall just above the top right angel wall painting. This will need expert restoration and we have received a report from the Conservator who will carry out the repair on how this will be achieved. An application to the Diocese is awaiting approval for the repair work and we hope to receive this soon. We already have a campaign underway to raise the necessary finance for the Lady Chapel and other urgent work and one way of achieving this is, for people who are able, to put an amount equal to the cost of a flat coffee each week, after the Sunday Mass, in

the coffee cups by the main door of the church and at the exit to the hall. We already have received donations of £2,370 and are aiming to raise £10,000.

Alongside this, we will be making application for funds to several charities which will also include other work in the Lady Chapel, such as cleaning and oiling the Reredos, plastering over the crack on the north east wall and redecorating the walls. Charities who may be able to support us would expect the community to raise a certain amount of the funds themselves and we are already doing this.

The Lady Chapel is a very special place at St Peter's and, hopefully, when we have raised the necessary funds we can get this work carried out early next year.

Moir Babary

Parochial Church Council meeting 30th October 2018

This is a brief summary of the last PCC meeting regarding some of the items discussed and decisions made.

- Our Treasurer reported that income over expenditure for the first 9 months was higher than expected. We have changed our insurer which resulted in a lower annual premium. Our 125th Anniversary event received a generous donation and raised income from our stalls. However, there is some major unbudgeted expenditure necessary which will significantly impact our cash flow. Funding was discussed, particularly with reference to the Lady Chapel and it was agreed the Finance Committee would discuss this further.
- Approval was given for our Chalice Ministers to be relicensed by the Bishop.
- A brief report on Pebbles was given advising they have a number of new leaders and that it is going well.
- An electrical inspection has been carried out and more work is necessary for which we are seeking a further quote.
- It was agreed that, as our Christmas candle holders are now a safety hazard, alternative methods of placing candles around the church will be used this year. New candle holders will be investigated for the future.
- An evacuation practice was to take place during a Sunday service in the near future.
- Upcoming events were an organ concert on Remembrance Sunday, a Sparklers' party for children and a Christmas party for adults and children on 21 December.
- A Building & Grounds working party had been held in October and Matthew McAllister was thanked for organising it and Susan Peatfield for providing the breakfast.
- The Night Shelter administration was said to be progressing satisfactorily.
- Fr Michael gave a report and thanked the congregation for the welcome extended to himself and Neil. He expanded on where he sees the church and its' development and the importance of community. He emphasised how valuable the Ivy Café has been to be able to chat and share food and drink. He outlined some of the Christmas events. He finished by saying "Jesus knew what community was all about-my prayer for St Peter's is the community he would want and recognise".

The next meeting will be 24 January 2019.

Stewardship Programme 2018: Giving in Grace.

Another quick reminder of our Stewardship Programme 2018: Giving in Grace. Everyone was asked to complete a Pledge Card as part of our commitment to St Peter's for the coming year. If you have not had a chance to do this yet there is still time. Cards can be obtained either from the Parish Office, Fr Michael or Linda Foster. It is really important for our budget preparations and parish planning that everyone who feels able completes and returns a card. They can be returned completed to the parish office or to one of the leadership team. Thank you for your support of the ministry at St Peter's. your contribution is greatly appreciated.

Fr David

Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter 2018.



We are hosting the Night Shelter again this year and volunteers are always welcome. Help to make up beds, cook food, welcome our guests, offer support through the night, serve breakfast, clear up, wash bedding are just some of the jobs we could do with help with. The Night Shelter can only happen with your help.

If you can offer time for this important project please contact Fr Michael (revmselby@gmail.com) or Ben Sherliker (bensherliker@gmail.com). You can also leave your details at the parish office if that is easier and they will be passed on to Ben or Fr Michael.



CHRISTMAS PARTY



Friday 21st December

6.30pm – 10.00pm in the hall.

Family fun, carols, games, dancing, acts, songs, food and drink.

Bring your own "Tipple" – soft drinks will be provided.

There will soon be a sign up list for the Bring & Share supper.

If you would like to entertain – please see Fr Michael.

Christmas at St Peter's

Sunday 16th December - Third Sunday in Advent

17.30 Carols by Candle Light

Christmas Celebrations:

24th December ~ Christmas Eve

15.30 Christingle Service

23.30 Midnight Mass

25th December ~ Christmas Day

10.00 Mass of the Holy Nativity

30th December ~ First Sunday of Christmas

10.00 Parish Mass

December's Calendar

| DATE | DAY | EVENT | VENUE |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| SUNDAY 2ND | Advent Sunday | 09.15 Pebbles 10.00 Parish Mass 17.30 Evening Prayer | Lady Chapel Parish Church Lady Chapel |
| WEDNESDAY 5 TH | | 15.00 Ivy Cafe 19.30 Mass | Church Hall Lady Chapel |
| THURSDAY 6 TH | Feast Day of St Nicholas of Myrna | | |
| SUNDAY 9TH | Advent 2 | 10.00 Parish Family Mass 17.30 Evening Prayer | Parish Church Lady Chapel |
| WEDNESDAY 12 TH | | 15.00 Ivy Cafe 17.00 Durston House Carol Service 19.30 Mass | Church Hall Parish Church Lady Chapel |
| SATURDAY 15 TH | | 10.00 Best Feet Forward Putney Circular | Church Car Park |
| SUNDAY 16TH | Advent 3 | 09.15 Pebbles 10.00 Parish Mass 17.30 Carols by Candle light | Lady Chapel Parish Church Parish Church |
| WEDNESDAY 19 TH | | 15.00 Ivy Cafe 19.30 Mass | Church Hall Lady Chapel |
| FRIDAY 21 ST | | 18.30 Parish Christmas Party | Church Hall |
| SUNDAY 23RD | Advent 4 | 10.00 Parish Mass 17.30 Evening Prayer | Parish Church Lady Chapel |
| MONDAY 24 TH | Christmas Eve | 15.30 Christingle Service 23.30 Midnight Mass | Parish Church Parish Church |
| TUESDAY 25TH | Christmas Day | 10.00 Mass of the Holy Nativity | Parish Church |
| SUNDAY 30 TH | Christmas I – Feast of the Holy Family | 10am Parish Mass | Parish Church |

