



St Peter's Parish newsletter

December 2020/January 2021

www.stpeterealing.org.uk

Letter from the Vicar

“Our hope is in the name of the Lord” *cf Matt 12.21*

As I write this letter the announcement is being made of the first vaccine for COVID19 being administered. The news is buzzing with it and the air is full of questions: will it work? How will we feel? What will it mean for Christmas? For family gatherings? For getting back to normal?

What seems most poignant is the number of questions being asked that this time last year would not have even been considered. What an indication of the depth of change in our lives over the past nine months. Living through it we would point to many things that have changed and things we now must do or not do to carry out our normally daily business. Looking back we see how much has had to change; how much we have had to change to see ourselves through this pandemic. This is not the end; it is the beginning of a new stage of the management of the virus. And as one commentator said, we have now to live with this virus for the vaccination will protect us but not eradicate the disease.

All that being said, much good has come from this past nine months. People report on how they now better know their neighbours, we have highlighted the value we have or should have for the NHS. It has been wonderful to see people step up when help was called for and how we regained an understanding of our interconnectedness and the need we have to be part of a community.

At this time we are traveling through the season of Advent, a time when Christians know to be patient, to wait in hope and expectation. It is a time when we hear the prophetic promises proclaimed in scripture of our God who proclaims his love for us in the person of Jesus whose birth we will celebrate in a week or two. Christians live in hope which is proclaimed throughout the gospel message. The hope Jesus proclaims through word and action, not just within the pages of a book, but also in the lives who live their faith in him day by day. The hope we have is a living hope witnessed in our lives of faith.

Much talk was going around in church circles of being able to return to a Christ-centred Christmas as the High Street Christmas seemed to be threatened. It should be said that a Christ centred Christmas is always with us if we continue to live our faith day by day. As with the vaccine we will travel day by day to discover its efficacy and what it means for the future of our communities. So too in the life of faith we live day by day, growing in our relationship with God and being witness of hope that brings fulfilment to our lives and reveals the love of God to the world. Happy Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Love and prayers,
Fr David

Finding Your Way Round Your Bible: Letters 4B

Last time we explored some themes in Paul's letters to Timothy. This time – a short spell in our book shop – we look at them a little further in Paul's letters to Titus and Philemon.

Who was Titus?

Titus is also someone Paul met early in his missionary journeys, presumably also in Galatia where he met Timothy. We gain the impression that Titus is older and "tougher" than the younger and more timid Timothy. Unlike Timothy too, Titus is wholly Greek, hence why Paul is determined that Titus should not be circumcised, while Timothy should. Titus was an effective "trouble-shooter" for the Gospel in Corinth (2 Corinthians 2 verses 13 -14) and is now in a leadership role in the church on the Greek island of Crete.

Why was Paul writing to him?

The young church on Crete lacked leadership and there was a danger of the Gospel becoming diluted or abandoned. Titus is instructed to put their house in order. While it covers some of the same ground as the letters to Timothy there is an emphasis on good works as well as sound doctrine. The date of the letter to Titus is contested, with some scholars arguing for the same date and place of writing as 1 Timothy – Illyricum in c 56AD – and others for much later – Rome c 63 AD.

Titus is a very quick read, but here are a few highlights:

- 1 verse 12: "Cretans are always liars" Paul quotes Epimenides, showing his knowledge of Greek culture cf Paul in Athens Acts 17 verses 22 - 29. In the Greek world "to Cretanise" meant to lie.
- 2 verses 1 – 5: Women should be teachers of good things cf 1 Timothy 2 verse 15.
- 2 verses 11-14: The work of grace and the hope of the Second Coming of Christ.

Who was Philemon?

Philemon was a slave-owner whose home served as the meeting place of the local church in Colossae (modern southern Turkey). He was a Greek Christian who had been converted probably as a result of Paul's ministry in Ephesus.

Why was Paul writing to him?

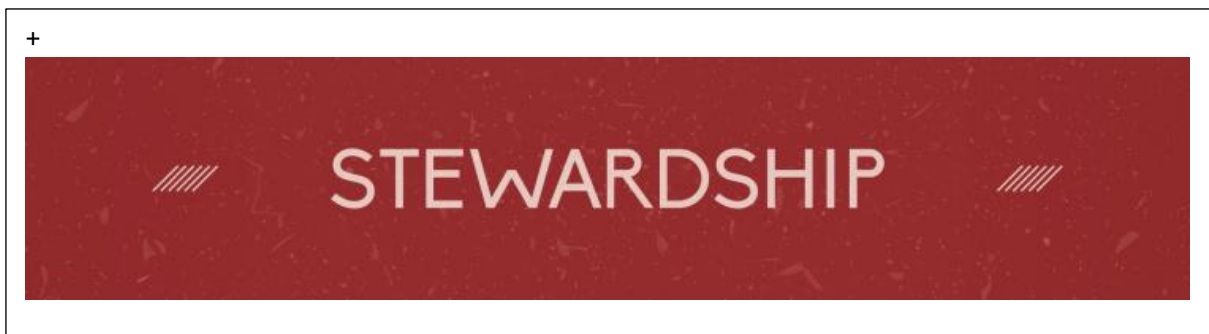
Philemon owned a slave called Onesimus, who had run away and fled to Rome where he became a Christian and spent time with Paul. Paul is now pleading the cause of Onesimus with Philemon so that on his return he is dealt with in mercy rather than cold justice. This is not a teaching letter but it nonetheless contains material on the nature of salvation and redemption.

Philemon is an even quicker read and needs no highlights, only to note that it reveals the personal kindness of Paul. He writes it in his own hand and promises to pay anything Onesimus owes. It has been described as "an earnest plea for Christian love even in the cruellest human institutions of the day."

Many believe that Philemon freed Onesimus on his return to Colossae and that eventually became Bishop of Ephesus. Again, we cannot know, but we can see that to say that Paul condoned slavery is to misunderstand both Paul and his world.

Well, we are nearly done with Paul! As our final session with him we shall look at those other accusations concerning his understanding of authority and the nature of grace. We shall do this as a part of our look at the greatest of his letters, probably the finest articulation of the Christian faith ever written, Paul's letter to the Romans. Truly a treat in store.

Susan Peatfield



Christmas is soon to be here, or indeed by the time you read this it may have arrived. We will have done plenty of shopping, maybe most of it online this year. We will have made every effort to make Christmas special and joyful. The virus will have made it different and we will still have to take care. Yet we hope for a joyful celebration. As Christmas arrives and we prepare for the glorious celebration may we ask you to think about St Peter's too. Finances continue to be tight as we are unable to take collections and hall bookings are very restricted and yet expenses still have to be met: cleaning, heating, repairs, renewals, restocking. If you can help at all please use the banking details below. If you do not do online banking cheques can be made payable to St Peter's PCC. To quote a famous supermarket, "Every little helps". Thank you and may we wish you a blessed and joyful Christmas:

- BAC transfer
- Standing Order.
- Contactless payments using a card reader we have now purchased.

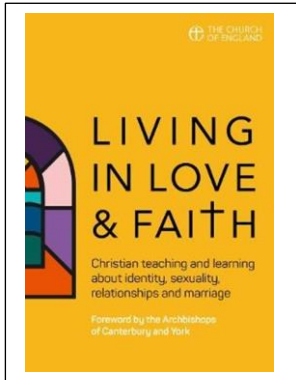
To make BAC and Standing Order payments please use these bank details:

Bank: HSBC

Account Name: Parochial Church Council of St Peters Ealing Parish

Account Number: 60377082 Sort Code: 40 11 58

Please do not leave this until tomorrow, tomorrow has a strange habit of never coming.



Book Review: Living in Love and Faith by The Archbishop's Council published by Church House Publishing 2020

This is not the usual book review. This is not really the kind of book to do review. It may, however, be an important stage in the life and ministry of the Church of England which may affect one way or another the other Christian Churches throughout our country. It comes from a number of 'conversations' encouraged and organised by the Church of England General Synod. It is attempting to deal with the thorny issues of inclusion in the wider church, exploring what that might mean within different traditions and

theological perspectives.

This is not a fireside read. Sometimes it is quite clearly not an easy read and occasionally it is downright painful. This is not the end of a discussion but a new stage in which Christians of different perspectives on human sexuality are being encouraged to explore together. Already, some from each end of the discussion perspective have condemned it. Others are ignoring it and yet others are making sense of it. What ever our perspective it is a discussion we should be a part of. And that discussion begins by dipping into the waters of Living in Love and Faith.

Fr David



Christmas is here and still people in our borough need to be fed. Thank you for your support of Ealing Foodbank. Lockdown still has its effect and as people are losing their jobs the role of Foodbank is even more important. Please help as much as you can; either by leaving supplies at Church, there is a collection

table in St Peter's and if the church is locked, parcels can be left in the vicarage porch. You can also leave donations at most of our local supermarkets. Let's help make Christmas a little easier for those who are struggling.

December Shopping List

- UHT Milk – Whole & Semi Skimmed, not Skimmed
- Savoury Biscuits & Crackers
- Long Life Fruit Juice & Squash
- Ready Made Custard – tins or cartons
- Tomato Ketchup
- Peanut Butter, Honey & Jam
- Vegetarian Chilli & Curry
- Shower Gel, Hair Shampoo, Hand Wash
- Laundry Products – powder, liquid, tablets (small sizes please)

If you can't send food you can donate money by going to the Ealing Food Bank website (<https://ealing.foodbank.org.uk/>) and following the 'Donate' link

This foodbank is run in partnership with local churches, facilitated by Ealing Foodbank. Registered charity number 1156369 | Registered in England and Wales

Christmas at St Peter's

The Programme:

Sunday 20th December – Advent 4

4pm Carol Service via Zoom



Thursday 24th December – Christmas Eve

3.30pm Christingle Service (take one)* (Zoom and Church)

5pm Christingle Service (take two)* (Zoom and Church)

11.30pm Midnight Mass* (Zoom and Church)

Friday 25th December – Christmas Day

10am Christmas Eucharist* (Zoom and Church)

Sunday 27th December – Feast Day of St John the Evangelist

10am Parish Mass

* Please note. Due to expected high numbers and COVID restrictions these services are by ticket only.

Tickets are free and available from the parish office. You can either:
email to admin@stpeterealing.org.uk or call on 020 8997 3655

We have done our best to include as much music as possible, thanks to Mark James our Director of Music, Karen Foster and members of St Peter's choir. However, we are not permitted, as a congregation, to sing in doors so there will be no carols this year.

All services will be Zoomed. If you are on our regular list the Zoom invitations will be sent out. If you would like to be on our list please let the Parish Office know. We will be sending appropriate material to those who have booked for each service as appropriate.

Preparations for all services conform to COVID regulations as directed by HM Government, The Church of England and The Diocese of London.

Havant Passion Players – A Living Advent Calendar.

This was posted on a clergy support website. Margaret saw it and we thought you might like to know about it. We've watched them and really enjoyed them. Hope you do too.

Good afternoon everyone,

I am involved in a group called Havant Passion Play (HPP). We are an ecumenical group committed to telling the stories of Jesus through drama and performance. Until now we have concentrated on performing passion plays in the open air, generally every other year. There is no charge and anyone can stop by on their way to the shops and watch the drama unfold. We don't bother about which church people go to or whether they say they have no faith, or anything in between. Those of us leading the company just want to share the story with those who are involved in the production and with those who simply watch, so that they can see for themselves how relevant our Christian Faith is for them.

We're an amateur company, but our production team is usually led by professional director/actor/writer, James Burke-Dunsmore, who is best known for his moving portrayal of Jesus in the Trafalgar Square Passion on Good Friday. He brings skill, experience and creative expertise to our enthusiasm, which I can honestly say makes all the difference!

Earlier in Autumn 2020 we decided that we should produce something special for Christmas this year. 2020 has been such a challenging year and we felt it would be good to do something to help people prepare through Advent. Recording a few monologues seemed like a good idea and so we began to think about making that work. As often happens with these things, there seemed to be a God-shaped (what an interesting and varied shape that is!) meant-to-be-ness about it and the project simply snowballed! We ended up writing 26 original scripts and developing a plan for the HPP Living Advent Calendar, in which characters from the Nativity are brought to life by our actors and a new insight into the story is uploaded every day through Advent on YouTube, Facebook and our website.

National lockdown meant bringing the filming of three trailers and the first eight monologues forward on a day's notice and these are already being uploaded daily! The remainder of the pieces are being filmed as I type and will continue to be uploaded as we move through Advent.

This is storytelling at its best - mystery, intrigue, scandal, friendship, laughter, love, hope for the future, and all just a click away! We are encouraging everyone to take just a couple of minutes a day to open a new window on the story and journey with us through Advent.

Sarah has generously said that I can tell you about the project here so, if you would like to, please visit our Living Advent Calendar at:-

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0I-IVtK9Pc-tmjYh4gXefg>

or by typing HPP - Living Advent Calendar into the search bar.

Website: <http://www.havantpassionplay.org.uk>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/havantpassionplay/>

Do please share amongst your church networks and beyond.

With every good wish for a happy and a joyful Christmas when it comes. x

Dave Walker Cartoon

SANTA'S BIKES



MOUNTAIN BIKE: FOR
REACHING THE GROTTO
IN THE WOODS



CARGO BIKE: FOR ALL
OF THE PRESENTS



FOLDING BIKE: TO
TAKE ON THE TRAIN



FIXIE: MAINLY USED BY
SANTA'S TRENDY
BROTHER IN LONDON

Comfort and Joy



The Church of England have created a new Advent and Christmas theme this year to reflect the current Covid context. It is hoped that Comfort and Joy will better enable us to reflect where the country is and will be by the end of this year. This builds on the success of #FollowTheStar, the theme of the 2018 and 2019 campaigns.

This Christmas the Church will need, in the words of St Paul in Romans 12.15, to 'Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep'. We will aim to celebrate where we can together in one place – but also embrace a wider community that wants to join in the celebration but may not be physically able – or emotionally ready – to do so.

Resources for both parishes and individuals are being released over the next few weeks on the Church of England website. They include:

- A series of short reflections – Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas – for Christmas Day to 2 January
 - They will be made freely available via audio, smart speaker, as well as in app and email formats with accompanying prayer activities for children and families.
 - You can order a booklet version here
- Nine online services throughout Advent and Christmas
- Advent, Christmas and Epiphany music free to download and use in your online services
- Service templates that can be downloaded
- Services and worship via the Daily Hope free phone number (0800 804 8044)

The national digital team are also hosting webinars to help churches prepare.

For more information and updates, please visit the Church of England website

Worship @ St Peters:

Sunday

09.00 Gemstones for 0-11yrs (2nd & 4th Sunday – Church and Zoom)

10.00 a.m. Parish Mass (Church and Zoom)

5.30 p.m. Evening Prayer (via Zoom)

Monday-Tuesday, Thursday – Friday

5 p.m. Evening Prayer (Zoom)

Wednesday

5 p.m. Contemplative Prayer (Zoom)

Tuesday & Thursday

9.30 p.m. Compline (via Zoom)



Zoom credentials for Sunday Mass are emailed each Saturday. The Zoom credentials for midweek evening prayer are continuous. If you would like to be added to the email list, please let Lesley in the Parish Office or Fr David know.

You can download Zoom onto your device, or you can call in by phone, dialling the number given in the email.

Contact Details:		
Revd David Neno	david.neno@london.anglican.org	020 8997 1620/ 07976 905294
Revd Dr Adam Dobrzynski	a.a.dobrzynski@gmail.com	07453 619591
Revd Dr Margaret Joachim	margaret.joachim@london.anglican.org	020 8723 4514
Mrs Susan Peatfield	sjpeatfield@aol.com	020 8997 8376
Parish Office Lesley Brooks	admin@stpeterealing.org.uk	020 8997 3655

Contributions.

A big thank you to those who have already contributed pieces to this newsletter. It is so great (and makes my life easier) to have contributions from our readers. It would be great to have more. Material to me at the email below by Wednesday would be great.

Parish Calendar for December 2020 and January 2021

December 2020		
Thursday 3 rd	6pm Reflections on Advent. Hope	Zoom
Sunday 6th Advent 2	10am Parish Mass with Baptism of Joshua Brown 5.30pm Evening Prayer	Church/ Zoom Zoom
Wednesday 9 th	5pm Contemplative Prayer Gathering 6pm Amnesty Letter Writing Group	Zoom Zoom
Thursday 10 th	6pm Reflections on Advent. Love	Zoom
Sunday 13th Advent 3	9am Gemstones 10am Parish Mass 5.30pm Evening Prayer	Church/ Zoom Church/ Zoom Zoom
Wednesday 16 th	5pm Contemplative Prayer Gathering 6pm Amnesty Letter Writing Group	Zoom Zoom
Thursday 17 th	6pm Reflections on Advent. Joy	Zoom
Friday 18 th	End of School Autumn Term	
Sunday 20th Advent 4	10am Parish Mass 4pm Carol Service	Church / Zoom Zoom
Thursday 24th Christmas Eve	3.30pm Christingle* (take one) 5pm Christingle* (take two) 11.30pm Midnight Mass by Candlelight *	Church / Zoom Church/Zoom Church/Zoom
Friday 25th Christmas Day	10am Mass of the Holy Nativity *	Church/ Zoom
Sunday 27th St John the Evangelist	10am Parish Mass	Church/ Zoom
Please check with the weekly bulletin as events and details can be subject to change. Christmas is still developing.	* These services will be by ticket only. Please contact Lesley for tickets.	To receive Zoom invites please make sure your email is on the parish list. Contact the parish office to check.

January 2021		
Friday 1 st New Year's Day	12 noon. Midday Prayers followed by drinks (BYO)	Zoom
Sunday 3 rd Epiphany Sunday	10am Parish Mass 5.30pm Evening Prayer	Church/ Zoom Zoom
Tuesday 5 th	7.30pm Standing Committee Meeting	Zoom
Wednesday 6 th Feast Day of The Epiphany	5pm Contemplative Prayer Gathering	Zoom
Sunday 10th Baptism of Christ	9am Gemstones 10am Parish Mass 5.30pm Evening Prayer	Church/Zoom Church/Zoom Zoom
Wednesday 13 th Hilary, Bp of Poitiers	5pm Contemplative Prayer Gathering 6pm Amnesty Letter Writing Group 7pm Christians Together in Central Ealing	Zoom Zoom Zoom
Sunday 17th January Epiphany 2	10am Parish Mass 5.30pm Evening Prayer	Church/Zoom Zoom
<i>Monday 18th - Monday 25th</i> <i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</i> Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021 (ctbi.org.uk)		
Tuesday 19 th	7.30pm PCC Meeting	Zoom
Wednesday 20 th	5pm Contemplative Prayer Gathering	Zoom
Sunday 24th January Epiphany 3	9am Gemstones 10am Parish Mass 5.30pm Evening Prayer	Church/Zoom Church/Zoom Zoom
Wednesday 27 th	5pm Contemplative Prayer Gathering	Zoom
Friday 29 th – Sunday 31 st RSPB Big Garden Watch Big Garden Birdwatch Join the fun - The RSPB		
Sunday 31st Candlemas	10am Parish Mass 5.30pm Evening Prayer	Church/Zoom Zoom