



St Peter's Parish Newsletter

February edition 2018

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LETTER FROM THE VICAR.

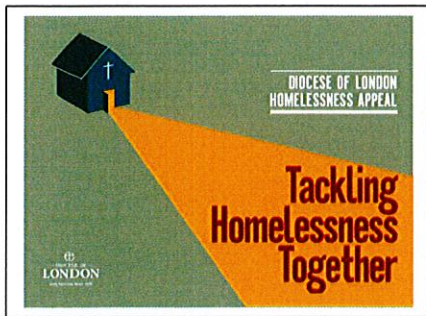
The season of Lent has arrived. With it the last days of winter which I always find a struggle. By February I've had enough of the dark nights and dark mornings. We seem to get the worst of the weather; the rain and the wind wears us down; the last of our resolve to get through it all is used up. Then Lent arrives. How could it get any worse? The season of penance when we are expected to give up luxuries and wear sack cloth.

Deepening our depression is not the intention of Lent. The word Lent comes from the old English meaning Spring. It is a recognition of change and renewal. Lent is an opportunity in the year, as green shoots of new life begin to show their heads amongst the brown leaves of winter, for us to renew our intention to follow Jesus. By fasting and preparation we are setting the scene to receive again the risen Lord Jesus as our Saviour. We can often begin the secular New Year with resolutions and resolve. Lent offers Christians that same opportunity, knowing that in our case, when dedicated to God, our attempts need not be fruitless or in vain.

To help in this journey of renewal there are opportunities for prayer and worship. The daily office is said in the Lady Chapel twice a day as part of our parish programme of prayer. The Mass held on Wednesday offers a chance to pray, be silent during the week and receive God's grace in the sacrament of communion. The Stations of the Cross allow us to walk with Jesus and to reflect on our own faith journey. These are opportunities to be taken up if we are to engage in a meaningful and holy Lent where we are renewed in the power of the Holy Spirit and prepared to receive the risen Lord Jesus on Easter morning.

The darkness of winter gives way to the light of spring. Lent carries us on that journey, drawing us closer to God through the story of Jesus whose words and actions reveal the love God has for us. As we engage with Lent, making our fast prayerfully, we are drawn to the resurrection garden where God's love transforms our lives and renews us for the life God wants us to live.

Fr David



DIOCESAN LENT PROJECT 2018 – TACKLING HOMELESSNESS TOGETHER.

We have all seen the increase of people living on our streets, not just in central London but here in Ealing too. The Diocese of London has taken the issue of

homelessness as its Lent Project for 2018 and is asking all parishes to participate. The diocese writes:

Supporting the Diocese of London Homelessness Appeal:

Tackling Homelessness Together

“The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

There is a noticeable increase in rough sleepers huddled in shop doorways or at tube and railway stations. Rough sleeping is a dangerous and isolating experience and freezing conditions can prove fatal for anyone sleeping on the streets. Rough sleepers are more likely to be victims of crime and almost 17 times more likely to have been victims of violence in the past year compared to the general public. Women are particularly vulnerable: nearly 1 in 4 have been sexually assaulted whilst rough sleeping. **Since the mid-2000's, homelessness in London has doubled.**

The challenge we face may be Diocesan wide but it is also a local issue. By ***Tackling Homelessness Together*** and supporting the Diocese of London's Homelessness Appeal we really can make a difference. Fifteen charities from across the Diocese have been selected as partner charities. In the Ealing area, Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter works at a local level, to provide night shelters and offers an immediate response to those experiencing homelessness in this most practical of ways.

Although many of these organisations will offer additional services to guests such as advocacy, advice and practical support, it is the safety and security of the night shelter along with the love of Christ, support and acceptance shown by an army of volunteers that is so often the catalyst to help those experiencing homelessness to move on and reintegrate into society. It is also telling that some of those who have experienced homelessness and benefitted from the support given at a night shelter, return and volunteer to give 'something back' as a way of expressing their thanks for the help they received.

Using our Lent boxes please support the Diocese of London Homelessness Appeal so we can start '*Tackling Homelessness Together*'

ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING 2018 ~ SUNDAY 22ND APRIL

Reports

April may seem far off but it is not. Soon the Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM) will be upon us. There is much preparation to do. The accounts are already being sorted and prepared for the independent examiner. To assist with this we now should gather the relevant reports and information that go along with the accounts and should be published in the parish. To that end I am asking those who normally submit reports to get writing and send them to me (david.neno@virginmedia.com) as soon as possible. I shall be emailing those I specifically need reports from, those that are legally required, within the next week or so. We would also like to hear from the other groups too so that we can read what is happening in the parish. So could I please have reports by Sunday 18th February? That would be so helpful.

Election of Officers

As with each year there are officers to elect. We are looking for a churchwarden. We have four members of the PCC due to stand down at this meeting and a vacancy to fill, making five new PCC members required. We are also desperate for a PCC secretary. I know when these issues arise the temptation is to stare at our feet and hope someone else will fill those roles. All I ask is you prayerfully reflect on how you can help. That may be by standing for office yourself, it may be by encouraging others to think positively of how they can help the parish. However you approach the APCM please keep the Parochial Church Council, the Officers and the Parish and the Staff Team in your prayers.

Electoral Roll

There are a few of us, although regular members of St Peter's, that have not yet made it onto our official membership list known as the Electoral Roll (ER). It is important that our ER realistically reflects our membership. If you are not on the ER or you are not sure then please speak either to one of the churchwardens or the clergy who will be more than happy to help.

125TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS.

If you'd not guessed St. Peter's is 125 years old this year. Having completed the huge task of restoring stonework on the south and north rooves and the west window this is our opportunity to celebrate the continued life and ministry of this prayerful Christian community in Ealing.

There are loads of things being planned. The main focus will be the weekend of 14&15 July. In preparation for the celebrations a project you can be part of is already underway:

St Peter's 125th Anniversary ~ 1893 – 2018
A Miraculous Catch
(ed's suggestion as we are still working on a title)

As a creative response to our 125th Anniversary this July we are hoping, in the steps of our patron St Peter, to net a miraculous catch of fish.

We are aiming to make 125 fish to display during the anniversary celebrations. The fish could be knitted, crocheted, sewn, made of pottery, wood – whatever your preferred skill. They can be any colour, shape or type – real or imagined. The only things to bear in mind are:

- Size – no smaller than 10cm/4inches and no bigger than 30cm/12inches.
- Robustness – they must be sturdy enough to be attached to a net and not fall apart!

Please make a fish (or five!) and be a part of this colourful and creative celebration of St Peter's history and future.

For more details including templates of fish if needed, please speak to Susan Peatfield, Christine Bates or Sarah Hare (*contact details can be supplied via the parish office*)

ADVANCED DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: 22nd April 2018 APCM; 14th & 15th July 2018 will be our 125th anniversary. There are events planned. Make sure you keep that weekend free.

BREAKING NEWS***Bishop Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London will be joining us to celebrate on Sunday 15th July when she will preach and preside*****BREAKING NEWS.**

RESTORING THE CHURCH GARDEN

When the scaffolding came down from the West Window in July, I was not too surprised that to find that the majority of the plants had died. It was definitely a new beginning for the garden. After removing the small dead plants, it was time to enrich the soil and after that to embark on a plant hunt. I acquired most of the plants from local garden centres and a supermarket. The 2 lollipop bay trees were sourced from a garden centre near Loughborough. They were duly delivered to my house impressively packed in stout cardboard boxes and looking very fresh. Grounds Day arrived and time to pack my car with the plants and garden tools. Firstly, the dead shrubs needed removing. A big thankyou to Matthew McAllister and Patrick Neyman for all their hard work extracting these from the ground. I would not have been able to tackle this job myself. After that, it was time to get planting. Some of the plants are bee friendly, for example the Lavender and the Sedum. Some are named in the Bible; Anemone - Matthew, Chamomile and Chrysanthemum - Isiah, Crocus - Song of Solomon. It is planned to plant Lillies - Book of Kings - for the summer. Spring bulbs have also been planted and they are already pushing their way up through the soil. Space has been reserved in front of the lollipop trees for seasonal planting. Currently residing there are Wallflowers and Pansies. I am looking forward to the Spring and hoping all the plants will flourish.

Ann Lazarow

YOU'D NEVER BELIEVE IT!



It is a bit of a tradition at St Peter's (if the recipient will allow) to mark significant '0s' birthdays. January we were delighted to celebrate the 90th birthday of June Blake. June joined St Peter's when she was 16 and it was here she met her husband to be Bryan. Bryan trained as a teacher in the 1950s and on qualifying went out to what was then Rhodesia to

teach. He proposed to June in a letter and, accepting his proposal, she went out to Africa to marry him. Both their children, Steven and Judith, were born there. When the family returned to London, Brian and June made their home

in the very same street Bryan had grown up in. Bryan continued his career teaching. June took on the role of home maker whilst working in a local play group and Pitshanger Library and volunteering with the Scouts, most notably acting as the prompt in their Christmas Pantomimes. Sadly, Bryan died in 2014 when June finally moved from their family home to live in Castlebar Court. June says she enjoys a party and when asked about her birthday celebrations she said, "I had such a fun time. I saw my family and a cake with St Peter's was a lovely touch. Thank you."

NOTES ON A CHRISTMAS CAROL (OR TWO)

The most difficult task when selecting music for a carol service is to decide what to leave out! There is such a huge wealth of beautiful music for the Christmas season that one is very tempted to include far too much to fit in with the necessary confine of a church service. In St Peter's in December 2017, the choir sang six specialist carols to combine with the congregational pieces (five of which were nevertheless embellished with the choir singing descants).

My first choice was a carol of a general nature coming straight after the Bidding Prayer. "Up, Good Christian Folk" is one of those delightful melodies handed down from the Scandinavian Collection of 1582 known as "Piae Cantiones". It was harmonised by the Revd G.R.Woodward who first compiled the Cowley Carol Book in 1901.

The second carol, "Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree", was an early request from a choir member. It is found in the Cambridge Hymnal, the Musical Editor of which was the talented Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987). She composed the exquisite music for the beautiful words handed down from pilgrims in New Hampshire, America in 1784.

We needed the organ for the Cornish tradition "Sans Day Carol" [aka St Day's Carol: Ed], turned into a real gem by the gifted Cambridge-trained John Rutter. Much of his original accompaniment "dances" over the top of the carol's fine melody.

In 1958 Sir David Willcocks took over the coveted position as organist/choirmaster at King's College, Cambridge and I well remember listening to the broadcast of his first carol service in this world-famous venue – delicious arrangements of traditional carols that made a huge impact at the time. I chose one of them, his version of the old Czech carol, "Rocking" in

which an accompanying two-part choir sits under the traditional melody – gorgeous!

When the readings reach the story of the coming of the Three Wise Men, it is tempting to put in at this point the deservedly greatly-loved arrangement by Peter Cornelius of the chorale about the Three Kings. One never tires of this but I felt a change would be desirable for once and I selected a modern but demanding piece by Francis Poulenc (1899-1963). He was one of the famous “Les Six” composers in 20th century France, and we sang one of his lovely Christmas motets, “Videntes Stellam” (Seeing the star). Poulenc’s music is delightful but difficult and this was certainly the choir’s biggest challenge so far.

I ended the service with an attractive Flemish melody, the “St Joseph’s Carol”, with words by Elizabeth Poston and organ accompaniment by Richard Lloyd, one of England’s outstanding cathedral organist/composers – it concludes each verse with his moving setting of the words, “Hush, O hush, there little babe, hush, God has willed thou liest here thus”, a charming and touching way to round off our special service.

David Blumlein

Lent at St Peter’s

Wednesday 14th February: Ash Wednesday

07.00 Mass with ashing

07.45–08.30 Ashes to Go,
at the Church Steps

20.00 Ash Wednesday Mass

-/-

Daily Prayer: Monday–Friday

08.30

Morning Prayer

17.30

Evening Prayer

Tuesday:

19.30

Pilgrim Course:

Reflections on the Lord’s Prayer

Wednesday:

19.30

Mass

Thursday:

19.30

Stations of the Cross

-/-

Sunday Worship:

09.15

Pebbles (1st & 3rd Sundays of month)

10.00

Parish Eucharist

17.30

Evening Worship



FEBRUARY DIARY DATES:



- 1st 19.30 Mission Team Meeting @ the Vicarage
- 3rd 09.00-13.00 Willesden Youth & Children's Da
Harrow;
18.00-21.00 Candlemas Barn Dance in the Church Hall
- 4th Candlemas Sunday
09.15 Pebbles; 10.00 Parish Mass;
16.00 Junior Confirmation Class @ the Vicarage;
17.30 Evening Prayer
- 7th 19.30 Mass
20.10 PCC Meeting in the Vicarage
- 8th 19.30 Deanery Synod Meeting @ St Mary's, Acton
- 11th Sunday next before Lent
10.00 Parish Mass; 17.30 Evening prayer
- 12th—16th Ealing Borough Schools Half Term**
- 14th Ash Wednesday
07.00 Mass with ashing; 07.30-08.30 Ashes to Go on Church
steps; 20.00 Ash Wednesday Mass with ashing
- 15th 19.30 Stations of the Cross
- 18th First Sunday in Lent
09.15 Pebbles; 10.00 Parish Mass;
12.00 Buildings & Grounds Team Meeting @ the Vicarage;
16.00 Junior Confirmation Class @ the Vicarage
17.30 Evening Prayer
- 20th 19.30 Pilgrim Course 2:1 Vicarage
- 21st 19.30 Mass; 20.15 A.I. Letter Writing Group @ Vicarage
- 22nd 19.30 Stations of the Cross
- 25th Second Sunday in Lent
10.00 Parish Mass;
16.00 Junior Confirmation Class @ the Vicarage;
17.30 Evening Prayer
- 27th 19.30 Pilgrim Course 2:2 @ the Vicarage
- 28th 19.30 Mass Lady Chapel

