



St Peter's Parish Newsletter February edition 2019

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Letter from the Vicar.

As I come to write this letter for our February edition we seem to be floating between two major seasons in the Churches calendar; Christmas has passed and Lent is approaching over the horizon. I don't suppose many of us have yet given much thought to Lent and what we might engage in during that time of reflection and preparation. There are some indicators in this edition of what you could share in as part of your Lenten discipline. I wonder if we might be helped by spending time in this Epiphany season reflecting on the biblical stories of Jesus we read as part of the Sunday Mass: the visit of the Magi, the wedding in Canaan and Jesus's baptism in the Jordan.

These are stories that tell us why our discipline, our decision to follow Jesus makes sense. Or rather gives substance to our pilgrimage of faith.

The Magi tell us that God's mission, through Jesus, is open to the whole world, and not a select cultural few. Gentiles visit the infant Jesus and in their gifts witness to who Jesus is and who God is for the world – gold and the kingship of our lives, frankincense and divinity cast in human flesh, myrrh and the salvation of the world, the destruction of death. The gospel message is opened to everyone for the first time, and salvation becomes a universal hope and a promise for all who believe.

The wedding in Canaan – an ordinary family celebration shows how this divine being, this creator of the universe actually wants to walk alongside you and me, we scraps of flesh on this floating speck of dust, floating in the midst of this vast universe – amazing! At the wedding we focus on the wine and Jesus' power over the natural order. We don't often reflect on the fact that God in Jesus is present at a wedding – think about the profound change in the relationship between God and the universe.

At his baptism John rightly says it should be Jesus baptising him, not the other way around. John recognises Jesus' authority and power. Yet Jesus insists he should submit to John's authority in the community. Again, we often reflect on the profound words of God as Jesus comes out of the water: "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased" (Matt 3.17). What we don't think about is the fact that Jesus is baptised. Like all who accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, Jesus begins his journey of faith, his life of ministry, by entering and receiving the water of salvation as a declaration to the world and a commitment to God.

The season of Epiphany encourages us to think about our relationship to and with God through the ministry of Jesus. This helps prepare us for the gravity and importance of Lent; helping us to a meaningful fast or discipline, walking with Jesus in every aspect of our lives, knowing he understands us, loves us and wants to be with us, even in our seeming insignificance.

Fr David

P.S.

“Thank you to everyone who shared in this year’s Stewardship Programme 2018 – Giving in Grace. If you have not done so yet may we encourage you to contact you bank and make the necessary arrangements for your updated offering. Should you need it our account information: Please pay to ‘PCC of St Peter’s Ealing Parish’ (Christian Stewardship Account); At HSBC Bank; Sort Code:40-11-58; Account No. 60377082. Thank you for your generosity and commitment. Love and prayers, Fr David”

Bishop of London’s Lent Appeal 2019 – Modern Slavery

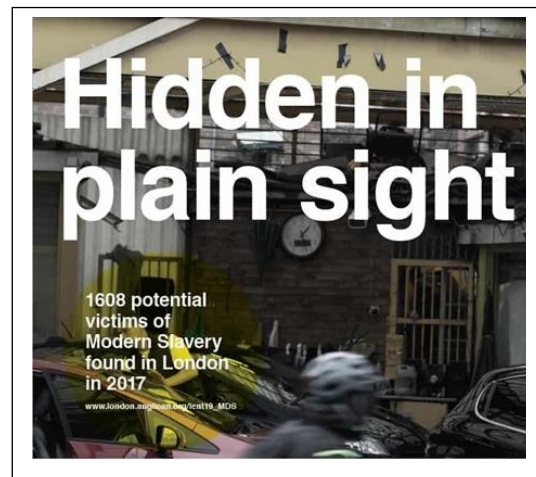
At Diocesan Synod on 1 December 2018, Bishop Sarah announced that Modern Slavery will be the focus the 2019 Lent Appeal.

This will build on the work of the Clewer Initiative, part of the national church’s approach to eradicating modern slavery which was launched by Archbishop Justin in October 2017. It rightly calls for a community-wide response to modern slavery – developing partnerships between the Church, statutory and non-statutory agencies to create a network of advocates seeking to end Modern Slavery.

As Bishop Sarah explained

“There are at least 40 million victims of modern slavery in the world today, and tens of thousands in the UK. In one of the wealthiest countries in the world, in a capital city heralded for its history and culture, modern slavery is thriving. Thousands are forced into domestic servitude, forced labour or sexual exploitation in plain sight of Londoners, and many more are at risk of falling through the cracks, hidden from the view of the authorities, charities and the church. Behind those statistics there are real people. Whether it be a woman or girl trafficked to work in the illegal sex trade, a man forced to work on a construction site, or a child married against their will, none are free.

“Micah tells us that “he has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” This may be the best-known passage from the book of Micah – it is



full of words and phrases that occur throughout scripture: justice, love, kindness, a walk with God. We should bear this in mind, that life can be safely travelled only if it is made “with God.”

Once again we will be partnering with five charities that are already working to end Modern Slavery in London:

- Tamar
- Ella’s Home,
- Love 146,
- The Rise Project (The Children’s Society)
- Kalayaan

All do equally incredible work, and we are asking all our parishes to prayerfully consider how we as a Diocese can join together and raise awareness of an issue that is ‘Hidden in plain sight’ whilst raising funds to support our partner charities help those trapped by Modern Slavery.

Best Feet Forward: A ramble on Hampstead Heath Saturday 12 January



Gathering at Ealing Broadway tube at 10am a motley crew of St Peter’s bods and neighbours headed to Hampstead Overground Station. On arrival we ignored all the tempting little shops, including the Hampstead Branch of Daunt Books and headed off for a 5-mile stroll through one of London’s largest

green spaces. Though cloudy and a little chill it was dry and the going underfoot was firm. The park was crowded too with walkers, dogs and runners. Funnily enough we never spotted any swimmers in the ponds, though we guessed they may have ventured out earlier in the day. The heath is centered on Kenwood House and its estate and it was at Kenwood we were able to take a vital break for coffee and a reviving cake. Richard led with aplomb and confidence, only slightly shaken by his regular pronouncement ‘This is where we got lost last time!’. At the end of the walk, which took us on a circular walk returning us to the station, some went off for a lovely pub lunch. A fine way to spend a Saturday.

For any who may be interested in joining us (we are always delighted to welcome new walkers) our next outing will be:

Saturday 16 February Acton Town to Hammersmith.

For the last two years we have been examining our eco credentials as a church using the **A Rocha UK Project** questionnaire in a quiet background way. Angus and I have been looking at our lighting system and replacing some of our bulbs with led replacements, but there is a lot more replacing to do.

The finance committee has looked at cheaper and more 'green' providers of our energy.

There has been some discussion about our 'green space' and how we use it.

The questionnaire is made up of questions in the following categories:

- Worship and Teaching
- Buildings
- Land
- Community and Global Engagement
- Lifestyle

We could aim to reach a higher grade in all of the above areas and work towards gaining our 'Eco Church Status' certificate. These fall into the Gold, Silver or Bronze awards. We could work towards a certificate by assessing whether our land is encouraging wildlife, used to grow produce; whether we can use solar energy, save rain water; whether we can insulate our buildings more than we currently do; whether we could put on eco days, and have speakers on ecology.

There is much for us all to think about.

"If we are keen on improving the ecology of the world we can start with our church building and land and teach our members through example and preaching how to care for God's creation."

Fr Michael

Encounters



'I invite you therefore, in the name of the church to observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word'. Words taken from the Ash Wednesday Service encourage us to enter into a holy and blessed Lent.

The programme prepared by our Staff Team aims to help us to do just this. This year's programme is entitled 'Encounters' and is encouraging us to see how, when, where and why we encounter God. To see this encounter as more than a Sunday experience and to understand and to look for the many ways we encounter God day by day.

Throughout Lent our Sunday Mass Sermons take as their opening title 'Encounter...' where the preacher will be exploring with us the many aspects of encounter with the divine. On Tuesday evenings we will follow in the way of Jesus through the Stations of the Cross, encountering him and those with him on the way to Golgotha. Wednesday evening Mass will be replaced with a simple supper, Lectio Divina based on Gospel encounters with Jesus and Mass. The simple supper will begin at 6.30pm with the whole evening finishing by around 8pm. On Thursdays we have the pleasure of welcoming John O'Brien and Christiane Ghose from Contemplative Outreach UK (www.contemplativeoutreach.org.uk) who will spend five sessions on Thursday afternoons from 2pm beginning on 7th March, teaching and exploring the encounter with God through contemplative prayer. The sessions will last approximately an hour and will be held in the Lady Chapel.

So you see, there is much happening to help you to a holy and blessed Lent where together we can encounter the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There are more details about Lent, Holy Week and Easter in the pamphlet available at the information desk.

Fr David



Foodbank shares exciting news with us this month. A new client centre is opening in Ealing Broadway at Ealing Green Methodist Church. It will open in February on Tuesday mornings between 10am and 12 noon. The sadness is that this is necessary due to the increasing demand upon Foodbank services.

Foodbank also reports that there has been a massive increase in meal parcels being given out in 2018 with a spike of 1282 in August alone. Someone from every ward in the London Borough of Ealing has now been to the foodbank and the main reason for cause of crisis is low income (25.4%).

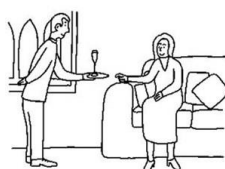
In other news harvest donations in 2018 weighed in at 11.1 tonnes, a record amount and the December collection from Tesco added another 2.6 tonnes to the store. The foodbank adds a 'but'. But deliveries to the cafes are regularly each over 300 kgs a week, and Southall and Acton are more like 400-500kg each week which is why foodbank asks for regular donations. To help with this, the foodbank has recently been offered a permanent collection point at Asda Park Royal, which is really good news and if you have a large car/small van and some time to spare, the team of volunteers drivers would love you to join them. Email hilary@ealing.foodbank.org.uk.

As the number of clients increases so the Crisis Navigators working for Help through Crisis (HTC) at the foodbank cafes also find their time to see people squeezed. HTC are looking to recruit Triage volunteers to support the Navigators in their work of helping people through the crisis that had brought them to the foodbank - contact Janet via the foodbank website www.ealing.foodbank.org.uk

Thank you for all your support for this vital work in our area.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

THE BENEFITS



USE OF THE SECRET MEMBERS-ONLY LOUNGE



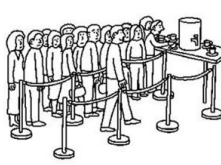
PREVIEWS OF SERMONS THE NIGHT BEFORE RELEASE



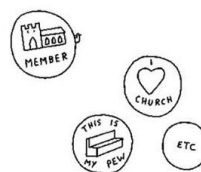
WHAT THE VICAR ACTUALLY WANTED TO SAY IN THEIR LETTER
EXTENDED REMINISCENCES
PREVIOUSLY UNSEEN MOMENTS FROM MIDWEEK MEETINGS
A SPECIAL BUMPER EDITION OF THE PARISH MAGAZINE



A 'GET OUT OF A ROTA FREE' CARD



PRIORITY LANE AT AFTER-SERVICE COFFEE



A BADGE, AND SOME STICKERS

RENEWING THE LADY CHAPEL

The work on fund raising for the Lady Chapel continues. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far. To date we have received £5600, which is huge. With the Gift Aid claimed against this it means we have raised about £7000. We have decided to stop asking you for money for now as you have been so generous (though of course if you wish you can still donate and we would be delighted to receive your gift) and to concentrate on approaching grant making bodies, using the money we have raised as 'seed' funding.

Time is still of the essence and the Grant Team are hard at work. So please do keep them in your prayers. In the process of this project we have identified several issues in the Lady Chapel that need attention. This isn't such a shock. When dealing with, loving and living with such an august building we must be ready for the fact that expensive repairs will be necessary from time to time. This is one of the many reasons we would encourage you to think about legacy and remembering St Peter's in your will. Gifts such as those just keep giving as they help maintain important places such as St Peter's. There will always be building works to do. Please remember St Peter's so others to come will enjoy what you enjoy today.

Lady Chapel Grant Team

Annual Parish Church Meeting – Sunday 7th April 11.30am

It is that time of year again when we get all excited about report writing and electioneering. Well, excited might be putting it a bit thick but it is important. It is the occasion when every member of St Peter's gets the chance to be part of the governance of our community.

There are three seats on the PCC coming vacant; we have a vacancy for a year on the Deanery Synod, and sadly Moira Babary will be standing down as Churchwarden having completed a four-year stint in office. Although irreplaceable we will need to find someone to take her place and work alongside Trevor. So there is much to prayerfully consider. These roles do take time, but then anything that is worth it has a cost.

Reports and accounts will be out mid-March. Please do pick up your copy, you will hopefully be joyfully impressed with what has been going on at St Peter's over the past year. You may also be encouraged to play your part in contributing to the governance of the church for this coming year.

Fr David

February's Calendar

DATE	DAY	EVENT	VENUE
FRIDAY 1 ST		Six Nations Rugby begins	
SUNDAY 3 RD	Candlemas	09.15 Pebbles 10.00 Parish Mass with Commissioning of our Chalice Assistants 17.30 Evening Prayer	Lady Chapel Parish Church Lady Chapel
MONDAY 4 TH		18.00 Interfaith Meeting hosted by Rupa Huq MP	Houses of Parliament
TUESDAY 5 TH		14.00 West London Leaders Meeting	Christ the Saviour Church Hall
WEDNESDAY 6 TH		15.00 Ivy Café 19.30 Mass	Church Hall Lady Chapel
THURSDAY 7 TH		19.30 Deanery Synod	St Gabriel's Church, North Acton
SUNDAY 10TH	<i>4th Sunday before Lent</i>	10.00 Parish Family Mass 12.15 Buildings & Grounds Meeting 17.30 Evening Prayer	Parish Church The Vicarage Lady Chapel
MONDAY 11 TH		19.30 Events Team Meeting	The Vicarage
WEDNESDAY 13 TH		15.00 Ivy Café 19.30 Mass 20.10 Amnesty International Letter Writing Group	Church Hall Lady Chapel The Vicarage
SUNDAY 17TH	<i>3rd Sunday before Lent</i>	09.15 Pebbles 10.00 Parish Mass 17.30 Evening Prayer	Lady Chapel Parish Church Lady Chapel
MONDAY 18TH – FRIDAY 22ND SCHOOL HALF TERM			
WEDNESDAY 20 TH		15.00 Ivy Café 19.30 Mass	Church Hall Lady Chapel
SUNDAY 24TH	<i>2nd Sunday before Lent</i>	10.00 Parish Mass 17.30 Evening Prayer	Parish Church Lady Chapel
WEDNESDAY 27 TH		15.00 Ivy Café 19.30 Mass	Church Hall Lady Chapel
THURSDAY 28 TH		19.30 Mission Team Meeting	The Vicarage