

# St Peter's Parish Chest January 2014

Parish Office: 020 8997 3655

e-mail: [admin@stpeterealing.org.uk](mailto:admin@stpeterealing.org.uk)

[www.stpeterealing.org.uk](http://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



### "We have arrived!"

The other evening I was coming home on the tube. It was late; I was tired and looking forward to getting home. I was on the Piccadilly Line. When I'm on that line I love the way it whooshes past Ravenscourt Park, Stamford Brook, Turnham Green and Chiswick Park. But this trip was different. The train pulled out of Hammersmith Station swiftly enough, then it stopped. Then it started, and then it stopped at Ravenscourt Park...for a while. District line trains passed us. Was that the one I wanted? Then it started again and stopped and continued to be stopped. It started again and stopped at Turnham Green (it wasn't after 22.30). The train started again and...stopped. More District line trains passed us and some Piccadilly Line trains going the other way. My frustration levels rose and rose and rose. I couldn't get off, we weren't told why we kept stopping (we had no announcements in our carriage). Try as I might my blood pressure began to rise and with it a real sense we were never going to reach our destination. Now I know that is nonsense but I am sure you know what I mean; that fleeting moment when all seems lost and then you eventually pull into your station and all that frustration melts away as you make your connection and continue on your journey.

Advent can feel a bit like that. Perhaps not quite so frustrating but can feel a bit of a haul. 'When-o-when are we going to get to Christmas'. All the shops are full of glitz and twinkle. Everyone is having office parties. And we are still singing doleful (sometimes) and reflective hymns. We're in purple (which although colourful and I do rather like purple, it is a penitential colour) and we're not supposed to decorate our tree!

Then all of a sudden, it's here. Happy Christmas! And it is parties and family and eating and drinking and presents and all those wonderful things that make for a great celebration.

The thing is, you can't have one without the other. The paced time of preparation makes for a good holiday, a good celebration. A real sense of arrival and achievement can only truly be felt if that achievement has been prepared for, if we have put our self out for the event. A good cook will tell you the secret to a good meal is all in the preparation. Gathering the ingredients, preparing them properly and making sure everything is ready before you actually start putting the dish together.

Christmas is the expression of the hope offered in Advent. In Advent we exist in the dawn between the darkness of sin and death and the light of redemption and love; in that dawn where everything is fresh and new and full of expectation but not quite there. The time when we can't quite focus, yet we can smell the freshly brewed coffee, the early morning dew on fresh mown grass, metaphorically speaking.

In Christmas hope is born, not in a great blast of trumpets and angelic voices but the quiet of a young, excited, frightened family, far from home. Hope has come into the world. Dawn has broken. The question is what are you going to do with what now spreads out before us, the good news of Jesus that calls us to God's service and offers us God's love? I'm not sure this anything to do with delays on the London Underground. It should make us feel more expectant and alive and less frustrated with life. It should also challenge us to share the same good news we have been given in the Christ child.

New Year continues this message. The Magi visit the King of the Universe, not in the palace of gold and marble, but the humble dwelling of a carpenter. Their proclamation echoes the message the gospel responsibility gives to us, to proclaim the good news of Jesus. The Christmas hope given us in a manger in Bethlehem, that hope we have silently, patiently waited for through Advent is now to be shared with all the world. Merry Christmas, happy New Year and praise the Lord we have arrived!

**Fr David**

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"They came from W5...." Epiphany Greetings!

## Catching up with Christmas...

The publication deadline for the December issue of the *Parish Chest* meant that many Advent events and all the Christmas services happened after it had gone to press. So we shall start this month with a "catch up" of a very busy and happy festive season. I am very grateful in this issue to Linda Foster, Sarah Hare, Richard Peatfield and Val Stephens for their photographs of the various events that follow.

### Christmas Bazaar



Tombola triumph? Adam helping Fr David try his luck

On **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November** we flung wide the gates of St Peter's to invite as many as possible to support our Christmas Bazaar. As always proceeds from the bazaar are distributed to a number of charities. For 2013 money raised went to help the crisis in Syria, the Ealing Street Pastors, Persona Dolls in Africa and Ealing Mencap.

An enormous amount of work goes into each bazaar, some of it over the course of the whole year, some of it on the evening before and on the day. The spirit of the day is one of cooperation and good fellowship, joining together to raise funds and encouraging newcomers to St Peter's to hopefully return to one of our Christmas services.

The feedback we receive each year is that the quality of what we offer is appreciated as indeed is the range of charities we support.

Very well done to all involved in raising over £2,100 and especial thanks to Richard Peatfield, who is taking a step back from his role of organiser which he has held for fifteen years. He has promised (threatened?) to keep making jam....



The glory that is Bric-a-Brac...

## Advent Carol Service

Following the very enjoyable service last year when we were joined by St Barnabas and Pitshanger Methodists this was repeated on the evening of the second Sunday of Advent this year **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December**. (A week later than usual to avoid coinciding with Pitshanger's "Light up the Lane".) It was a lovely occasion and the combined choirs and readers lit up Mount Park Road and beyond very beautifully for the Advent season.

## Deck the Halls...and the Dining Rooms!



St Peter's flower and foliage friends at work

We were fortunate this year to be invited to "be creative for Christmas" by the very talented Elizabeth Newton. Alongside her many professional commitments Elizabeth has also been studying Floral Design at Covent Garden. She kindly offered to share some of her know-how with us here at St Peter's. So it was that 18 of us arrived at the church hall on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December** armed only with kitchen scissors, foliage and a willing spirit, to make a floral table centre for our homes this Christmas.

Elizabeth organised a very enjoyable and instructive morning where we learnt about the wonderful world of oasis and other delights. Elizabeth had prepared everything including an early morning visit to Nine Elms for the best flowers and berries.



Elizabeth and Katie with holly and ivy



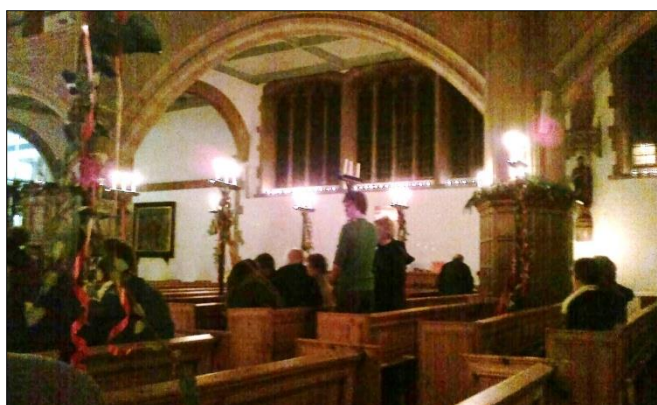
Everyone present went home with a warm glow of achievement and a very beautiful and individual arrangement. Many, many thanks Elizabeth for a lovely morning and to Katie and Tom for all their help setting up and clearing up afterwards. Thanks too to Jane Bradshaw for the gorgeous cakes which sustained us in our creative labours.

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## Christmas Services

It was not of course only our homes that looked their best for Christmas. Jane Campbell and her team of flower arrangers ensured that as ever St Peter's was beautifully and elegantly adorned for the Christmas festival. The church, with its candles lit for the carol service and for Midnight Mass, with the crib figures in place and the choir singing Christmas music, offered to all who walked through its doors a true glimpse of glory.

## Nine Lessons and Carols



On **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** the candles were indeed lit as we remembered the Christmas story in Nine Lesson and Carols. It is the time when we hear again the words of Isaiah, Matthew, Luke and John telling of the wonder of the incarnation. The readers of the nine lessons included those in many roles at St Peter's and it was good to hear a range of lovely voices including the younger ones of Leah Bradshaw and William and Isobel Stumpf.

Musically it was a very glorious occasion with Mark James our Director of Music leading the choir in many favourite traditional carols and some more modern settings. Many thanks to Mark and to the choir, and to our visiting singers Jess Eccleston and Ruth Beckmann (whose beautiful voice led us into "Once in Royal David's City").

After such a banquet it was appropriate to continue the feast in the church hall with a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie (or three!). Thanks again to Val Stephens for organising this and to the McAllister family for stepping in to "man" it on the night.

## Christingle

Val Stephens and the McAllister family were also out in force on the morning of Christmas Eve wrestling with oranges, cocktail sticks and jelly babies. This year the production line, which started with Richard Peatfield, two crates of oranges and a sharp knife, assembled 150 Christingles in a record two hours.

Comments about the smallness of the raisins and the shortness of the cocktail sticks were part of the merry banter that accompanies this happy gathering each year. (If you feel this is something your Christmas Eve needs please join us in 2014!)



The Christingle team in action

The **Christingle service** at 3.30pm on Christmas Eve was a lovely family occasion with over 160 attending and with the youngest present helping to build the crib scene of the Holy Family and then joining the circle to sing "Away in a Manger" by candlelight. For many people attending, this is the Christmas touchstone and places Jesus at the heart of all that is celebrated and enjoyed.



"Sing Christingle, it's the light of Christ!"

## Midnight and Morning

Fr David reminded those present at the Midnight Mass of Christ's Nativity that the message of Christmas is not just for children. Margaret Joachim spoke on Christmas morning of the "presence" of Christ amidst the "presents" under the tree. At St Peter's this year there has been much to make us all rejoice and to look forward in hope for 2014.

## New Year's Day

Several of us did just that as we met on New Year's Day to celebrate the first Eucharist of 2014 and then afterwards at the vicarage where Fr David and Sarah offered us a sparkling toast to the year ahead. A splendid start to what we hope will prove a vintage year!

## St Peter's People

### Cornelius Harding

In the October issue of the *Parish Chest* **Trevor Bates** wrote about this distinguished member of St Peter's congregation, but we were unable at that time to include a photograph. This has now been rectified and it with great pleasure that we reprint a section of Trevor's original article along with a recent photograph of Cornelius Harding.



Cornelius Harding at St Peter's

In October Trevor explained two recent awards made to Cornelius Harding and concluded with the following:

"In his citation, the University Public Orator described Cornelius as a 'modest, unassuming and dignified individual' who was 'an outstanding and accomplished man of substance and principles'. He said that between 1952 and 1991 'he was like a colossus in the Judiciary, serving on various legal committees and commissions ... his versatility led to postings in every District in Sierra Leone. Little wonder that he received the National Premier Order – Officer of the Order of the Republic of Sierra Leone even while he was still advancing in maturity'. The Harding family has been connected with our church in Ealing for over twenty years and we are sure that everyone at St Peter's will wish to extend our congratulations to Cornelius on these well-deserved honours."

We do indeed!

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### The Dobson Family

Anyone who has spent any time in our Lady Chapel will of course have noticed and marvelled at the beautiful wall and ceiling paintings. How many have also noticed the lovely copy of Raphael's Sistine Madonna that hangs on the north wall of the Lady Chapel?



The picture has a strong family connection with St Peter's. The painting in the Lady Chapel is in memory of Katharine (Kitty) Jean Dobson 1886 -1936. Her husband's name was Alban, her son's Christopher and her daughter's Jean. It is from Jean that **Ann Lazarow** has found out about the story of the picture and the family.

#### Ann Lazarow writes:

The family purchased the painting, and it was hung in the Lady Chapel in 1937. A few years ago the frame was damaged by water and the painting was removed for a while. Jean Dobson paid for a new frame and the painting has returned to its place in the chapel. Unfortunately the plaque which was below the painting went missing, and Jean cannot remember the wording.

Jean Dobson was born in February 1923 at 25 Mount Park Road. She was only 13 years old when her mother died (her brother was six years older). Joan was blessed with a wonderful singing voice and she went to study at the Royal academy of Music. Later, (in 1967) she began teaching at the Academy and remained there until her retirement.

The family moved away from Ealing after the Second World War.

Jean has lived for the past 41 years in Hampton and every Sunday attends her local Anglican church where she is very happy and has many good friends. Jean will soon be celebrating her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Incidentally, Alban Dobson's father was a poet and biographer. (Alban was the youngest of his ten children.) His name was Austin Dobson and he and his wife lived for many years in Eaton Rise. He apparently wrote biographies of Hogarth and of Horace Walpole. According to Jean, his name was put forward to become Poet Laureate after Tennyson, but he did not get the job!

The title of one of his poems is "The Ballad of Beau Brocade."

*(Perhaps someone reading this can tell us more of this fascinating parish connection. Many thanks to Ann and to Miss Dobson for bringing all of this to our notice.)*



## Charities for 2014

The Mission Team will be meeting soon to discuss outside giving projects for the year ahead. Amongst the congregation at St Peter's are those who regularly support a wide range of extremely worthwhile causes. Please give some thought this month to any specific events or causes that you think St Peter's might become involved with, and have a word with a member of the Mission Team- Fr David, Madeleine Morse and Susan Peatfield – ideally with some written details or material for them to consider.

Do please also keep in mind the ongoing projects and long-term charities supported by St Peter's.

**The Stonework Appeal** – investing in our building at the heart of the Parish community. (Contact Allison McAllister for more details.)

**Christian Aid** – collecting door-to-door and at Ealing Broadway station in Christian Aid Week 11 -17 May 2014. (Contact Angus McAvoy for more details.)

**Amnesty International** – writing letters on behalf of prisoners of conscience. (Contact Moira Babary for more details.)

**Traidcraft** – supporting small producers of fairly traded goods across the developing world. (Contact Sarah Hare or Angus McAvoy for more details.)



Fair Trade honey harvest in Kenya changes lives

## SOS South Sudan

Over Christmas the crisis in South Sudan has become increasingly violent and the new country looks increasingly unstable. Aid agencies find it hard to operate here but Oxfam does maintain a valuable presence as explained below:

"Fighting erupted in South Sudan's capital Juba on 15 December and has spread to other parts of the country. Mass killings have been reported in the media, and so far more than 200,000 people have fled their homes. 75,000 people have sought refuge at various UN compounds across the country, where they are camped in makeshift and congested conditions, putting them at serious risk of disease outbreak.

Oxfam's team in Juba are working to improve conditions at two sites (known as Juba 3 and TongPing) where over 20,000 people have gathered. We are reaching more than 20,000 people with safe drinking water, more than 250 latrines, and bathing cabins. We are running hygiene promotion activities to prevent the outbreak of disease, and helping people to keep the facilities clean.

We have also worked with the World Food Programme to help distribute food supplies.

A plane load of water and sanitation equipment (including pipes, pumps, tapstands, water testing kits, chlorine, and latrine slabs) is being prepared at our warehouse in Oxfordshire for imminent delivery. We are looking at how we can expand our response over the coming weeks. However South Sudan is a difficult place to work, with logistical challenges and the security situation hampering access to many places."



St Peter's maintains its connection to the South Sudan through Jina and her family. We shall see how best to be of help as the situation becomes clearer. For now we hold in our prayers all Jina's family and friends during this very dangerous time.

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## Looking Forward...

New Parish Diary Dates for January and February are available at the back of the church.

## St Peter's Book Club

The Book Club meets to start a happy year's reading on **Monday 10th February at 8pm at Madeleine's home**. This is a discussion evening but please do email Madeleine if you are intending to come - [morse@pantiles.plus.com](mailto:morse@pantiles.plus.com)

Main books to be discussed are:

*The Summer Bird-Cage* by Margaret Drabble and  
*The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce.

If one of your New Year Resolutions was to read more then do please consider joining the St Peter's Book Club. Details of forthcoming dates and titles will be published soon.



## Music Notes

### David Blumlein writes:

Two superb carols – how difficult I always found it to select from the vast treasure-trove of good quality carols the ones for a particular Carol Service. There are so many attractive gems that the task was always to decide just what to leave out! Here are two obvious favourites:

"Jesus Christ the Apple-tree" appeared in the first edition of the Cambridge Hymnal in 1967. The words come from New Hampshire, America, written by settlers in 1784; they have a powerful originality, very, very beautiful and are set to music by the English composer Elizabeth Poston (1905 – 1987). Her music is equally beautiful, set for unaccompanied S S A A T B. It is in C major and is unusual in having no accidentals (sharps and flats) yet retains a magic attraction that all choirs and audiences seem to love. "Bethlehem Down" is deservedly popular too, one of several original carols by Peter Warlock – others that spring to mind are his "Benedicamus Domino" and his mysterious "Balulalow". His real name was Philip Heseltine and he was a very talented young musician. Legend has it that Warlock was with his friend, the poet Bruce Blunt, contemplating how they could drink their way into Christmas cheer in 1927 but were at the time rather penniless. They thought of the idea of writing a Christmas carol and sending it to the "Daily Telegraph" for publication. The scheme worked and we are blessed by the exquisite fruit of their abilities.

Warlock was a troubled soul and took his own life at the age of 36 in 1930, robbing mankind no doubt of so much more beautiful music, but what he left was very special.

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### Richard Hills Organ Recital

Very special too was the wonderful and wide-ranging afternoon of organ music shared with us by the gifted organ recitalist Richard Hills on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2014**. Once again the experience was greatly enhanced by having a large screen giving a close-up view of the masterful foot and finger work of the organist.



### Richard Peatfield writes:

Most of the pieces played were by British composers, including a selection from "The Mikado" by Sir Arthur Sullivan and three dances by Edward German.

Mr Hills is renowned for being both a church service organist and a recitalist playing more popular music; his programme reached both ends of this spectrum, from César Franck's Prelude Fugue and Variation to his final piece, a spectacular fantasy on nursery rhymes by Roger Quilter.

The audience included a number of organ enthusiasts, some travelling considerable distances, who greatly appreciated his mastery of our instrument.

Over seventy people attended the concert and enjoyed the refreshments provided afterwards. Our thanks go to Richard Hills, and to Mark James for organising this event and to those providing the refreshments. St Peter's is blessed with its organ and it is wonderful to feel that it is gaining a larger audience and following.

**NB** An important date for your diary is our next recital on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014** to be given by Richard Pinel, organist of St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. Further details to follow.

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### Year's Mind

1 January	Dorothy Rumboll (1965)
4 January	Percy Clover (1958)
	Robert Dobson (1961)
5 January	Lee Jones (2006)
9 January	Lindsey Pullin (2010)
10 January	Tara Crisp (2011)
	Jennifer Higgins (2012)
12 January	Raymond Endersby (1991)
18 January	George Dewey (1958)
21 January	Eleanor McAvoy (2002)
24 January	Peggy Allen (2006)
27 January	Doris Gray (1997)
29 January	Betty Hodgson (1987)

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A wet start to 2014 – thanks to Val Stephens for capturing this seasonal moment! Let us hope by the time of our next issue we shall have dried out. All copy please to [sjpeatfield@aol.com](mailto:sjpeatfield@aol.com) by 22<sup>nd</sup> January.