

St Peter's Parish Chest July 2014

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A monthly bulletin of all that is accomplished by and within our church's community

Suggested Contribution 30p

A Portrait of St Peter's!

Sunday 29th July was the Feast Day of our patron St Peter. This year the sun shone brightly on us as we celebrated in fine St Peter's style. The following pictures capture some of this very happy celebration:



Our preacher the Dean of St Paul's, the Very Reverend Dr David Ison with Fr David.



Friends Reunited! Jane Wallace and Carolyn Davage joined us. Shown here with Malcolm Lauder in festival voice and dress.



Three members of the Holt family visiting from Hanwell and (the sunnier climes of) Highcliffe.



Two younger St Peter's people enjoying a party moment. The hall was also in fine festival mode with a wonderful spread of food, checked tablecloths and vases of summer flowers - thank you to all concerned!



Tom Kelsey and Helen Peatfield - Helen returning to Ealing after three years at university in York.



Matthew McAllister with Angie Bray MP - "Wonderful" was our MP's response to the service, the music and the lunch! (We were also joined by the Mayor of Ealing, Councillor Bagha, and other councillors but they managed to evade the Parish Chest photographer!)



Jenny Hall welcoming our preacher and showing the warmth of St Peter to the Dean of St Paul's.



Our Director of Music, Mark James, enjoying a well-deserved refreshment break after leading the choir through glorious festival music. (We were delighted to have been joined again by visiting singers including Ruth Beckmann.)

Peter, Role Model and Rock

As a part of his sermon on St Peter's Day the Very Reverend Dr David Ison asked us to consider how our patron saint can help us as we try to be followers of Christ. David painted a picture of Peter that displayed his courage and his faith as well as his failings and his flaws. He ended with Peter's words as recorded in St John's Gospel, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." Thoughts echoed in this poem on **St Peter by Malcolm Guite**:

Impulsive master of misunderstanding
 You comfort me with all your big mistakes;
 Jumping the ship before you make the landing,
 Placing the bet before you know the stakes.
 I love the way you step out without knowing,
 The way you sometimes speak before you think,
 The way your broken faith is always growing,
 The way he holds you even when you sink.
 Born to a world that always tried to shame you,
 Your shaky ego vulnerable to shame,
 I love the way that Jesus chose to name you,
 Before you knew how to deserve that name.
 And in the end your Saviour let you prove
 That each denial is undone by love.

Parish Pilgrimage to Wantage

This year there was an opportunity to prepare for this festival time or just to pause in the busyness of daily life and to go with Fr David for a few days to the Community of St Mary the Virgin at Wantage. Mike Tiley has kindly written an account of the very enjoyable time that the group from St Peter's spent there this June.

Mike Tiley writes:

Six of us joined Fr David for a 'DIY' retreat based loosely around the suggested theme of Peace & Reflection at the Community of St Mary the Virgin (CSMV) on the edge of Wantage in South Oxfordshire. CSMV was founded in 1848 by Revd John Butler when he was Vicar of Wantage and it was one of the first religious communities to be founded since the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII between 1536 and 1541. He also founded St Mary's School Wantage in 1873 which became a very well known independent girls boarding school attended by daughters of the aristocracy and upper-middle classes. It merged moved and merged with Heathfield School in 2007. CSMV now has about 17 sisters after the 'defection' of 11 of its sisters at the beginning of the year to the Ordinariate in order to become Roman Catholics. There were as many as 350 sisters in the past. CSMV now plan to sell its beautiful convent and grounds with its two fine chapels by William Butterfield (St Mary Magdalene Chapel 1860) and by J.L. Pearson (St Mary the Virgin 1889) and to buy a hotel or nursing home in an industrial city with opportunities for the sisters to work in local parishes and to work with local inter-faith groups. I was delighted to talk with Sr Phoebe Margaret about the community's small house in Smethwick in the 'Black Country' as I was born and brought up there when my late Father was Vicar of St Paul's West Smethwick from 1944-1951.

It was very helpful for us to keep silence during the daytime and to be able to attend the daily services with the able-bodied sisters in the Mary Magdalene Chapel as a framework for our retreat. The services were Lauds (7am- a bit early for some of us!) followed by breakfast, Terce (8.15), Sext (12.30pm) followed by lunch, Vespers (5pm) followed by supper and finally Compline (8.15pm). The food was excellent and the extensive gardens were well kept.



A beautiful place to rest and ponder.

Our second floor rooms were comfortable though not ensuite and unlike most other convents there was a handy lift to take us between the floors. The sisters are ecologically minded and have solar panels to provide for most of the lighting and cooking needs and a biomass log burning boiler to provide the hot water.

I chose to use the time to listen to some of the newly discovered series of talks given by the late Thomas Merton at Gethsemani Monastery in Kentucky between 1963 and 1965 with profound teachings on prayer and contemplation. Thomas Merton lived in Ealing as a boy in Carlton Road and later moved to New York and became a Roman Catholic and later a Trappist monk. It was very moving for me to actually hear his voice and his relaxed delivery and to sense his good rapport with his students. You can find his mini biography in the St Peter's leaflet 'Five journeys via Ealing' which I originally wrote for our church and it can usually be found on the sloping shelves to the right of the doors to our Hall. I also listened to David Suchet's recent CD of him reading the whole Bible in the New International version using his normal deep voice and thankfully not his high pitch Poirot voice!

Some of us took the opportunity to walk in and around the beautiful market town of Wantage using the unusual network of traffic free pedestrian pathways between many of the homes and the fine 11th century parish church of SS Peter & Paul.

Most of us (Fr David, Angus McAvoy, Linda Foster, Sarah Hare and me with Jane Robinson from St Barnabas and Stephen Chamberlain from David's former parish felt very refreshed after our quiet and reflective days at St Mary's. We hope that there will be another opportunity to visit this beautiful and holy place with its supportive community and we pray that the sisters will find a suitable new smaller home for their needs and that they will find a suitable buyer for the Convent who will respect its special qualities and features.

Please see back page of this issue for details of a special pilgrimage planned for 2015.

First Steps on the Way



Taking their place at the table...

The practice of admitting children to communion before confirmation was pioneered at St Peter's during the time of the Reverend William Taylor and his curate the Reverend Chris Eyden in the 1990s. Many now in their twenties at St Peter's were a part of this "early adoption" phase.

It was then with great joy that on **Sunday 15th June, Trinity Sunday**, we welcomed Sebastian Brewin and Angus Macallister as they were admitted to communion following a period of instruction over the past months by Fr David. Sebastian ("Buffy") and Angus came up to the front of the church to be formally admitted and given Bibles, before being very warmly greeted by us all including family and friends in the congregation. It was also very good to hear Buffy and Angus lead our intercessions and take their places at the communion table. Good things in store!

Trinity Reflections



The Rublev Icon

The Reverend Harold Stringer preached on Trinity Sunday and referred to this beautiful and very powerful icon by the fifteenth century Russian artist Andrey Rublev. It depicts the episode in Genesis 18 where Abraham finds himself "entertaining angels unawares". In this icon we see the Trinity in perfect loving relationship with each other, yet still able to open the invitation to the table to all of us.

Richard and Susan Peatfield recently had the great privilege of seeing this icon in Moscow. If you would like to know more about their trip please have a word with them – though be warned the slideshow of their photographs lasts 45 minutes – on "fast"!

Majesty in Mainz

Some other travellers with something to share are the Stumpf family who recently had a very good stay in the glorious German city of Mainz.

Roland Stumpf writes:

On a trip to see friends and relatives in Germany during Summer half term we took the opportunity to see the St Stephan's Church in Mainz which is famous for its blue windows designed by famous Russian artist Marc Chagall.

Mainz is the capital of the state of Rhineland-Palatinate in Germany, and was the capital of the Electorate of Mainz at the time of the Holy Roman Empire. In antiquity Mainz was a Roman fort city which commanded the west bank of the Rhine and

formed part of the northernmost frontier of the Roman Empire. The city is famous as the home of the invention of the movable-type printing press, as the first books printed using movable type were manufactured in Mainz by Johannes Gutenberg in the early 1450s

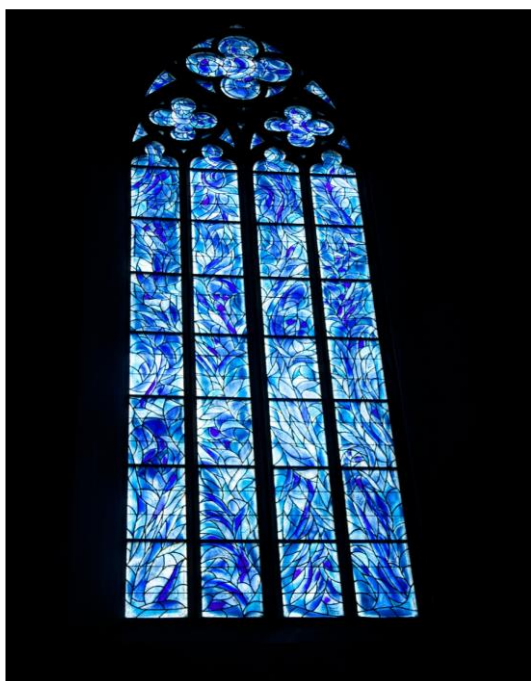
St Stephan zu Mainz was originally built in 990 at the order of Archbishop Willigis, who also initiated the building of Mainz Cathedral. The church was founded on top of the highest hill in the town, most likely on behalf of Theophanu, the widow of Otto II, Holy Roman Emperor

The current church building dates from the late medieval era; construction of the main area of the church began in about 1267 and was completed in 1340. The successional building kept the guidelines of the floor plan of the original Willigis building and with it the design as a double choir church. St Stephan is the oldest Gothic hall church in the Upper Rhine district, and is (besides Mainz Cathedral) the most important church in the city of Mainz.

St Stephan was heavily damaged during World War II. The cloister was heavily damaged and was rebuilt between 1968 and 1971; the restoration of the huge western belfry was also completed at that time, albeit with some difficulty.

The Chagall choir windows in St Stephan are unique in Germany. Between 1978 and his death in 1985, Russian Jewish artist Marc Chagall created nine stained-glass windows of scriptural figures in luminous blue. The figures depict scenes from the Old Testament, demonstrating the commonalities across Christian and Jewish traditions. Chagall intended his work to be a contribution to Jewish-German reconciliation, made all the more poignant by the fact that Chagall himself fled France under Nazi occupation.

In September 2013 a new organ was inaugurated designed and built by Orgelbau Klais Bonn of Germany, for St Stephans, which is specifically intended to reflect and complement the Chagall windows. We were very moved by the church which is spectacular, being bathed in a sea of blue – if you get the chance we recommend a visit!



A wonderful vision in blue.

Charity Matters



Christian Aid Week 2014

Angus McAvoy writes:

£2,404 including £198 from Gift Aid was collected by St Peter's during Christian Aid Week this year; this is slightly up on last year's total of £2,187. The economic climate is still having an effect and we have not returned to better times in the first decade of the 2000s.

The total breaks down (including Gift Aid) into; street collections of £1,825 (up by £103 on 2013) and donations of £578 (up by £114 on 2013) from church members.

Thanks goes to my colleagues on the street collection team of Keith Stephenson, Anne Reilly, Matthew McAllister, and Christine Hodges for their hard work doing a difficult task.

In addition the team consisting of Mike Tiley, Angus McAvoy, Wendy Quill and Sue Charlton (St Stephen's) collected £556 over three days at Ealing Broadway Station; a decrease of 35% on the £859 collected in 2013 but that was over six days. There was another charity collecting on the Tuesday and Wednesday and nobody was available on the Saturday as some of us had to complete our door to door collections.

Finally we are always short of collectors, so please consider helping out next year from May 10th to 16th 2015. Churches Together in Central Ealing will hopefully be providing more people to join the collection team at the Station for 2015.

Traidcraft Campaign



Harold Stringer writes:

It's Everywhere, and it's an Eco-Disaster

From toothpaste to bread and beverages – it seems to be in almost everything! It's one of the world's most traded commodities, but its cheap production comes at the cost of vast areas of destroyed rain forest – whole complex ecosystems replaced by intensive monoculture.

Palm oil is an amazingly versatile oil. It's in cookies, candies, cleaners, Kit Kat, ketchup, cosmetics and ice cream – an estimated 50% of all consumable products used in western countries. But it's usually hidden as 'vegetable oil' on the ingredients list. A century ago it was a main export from West African countries where the palm originally grew. But as demand outstripped supply, huge plantations were created in the Far East. The UN estimates that by 2022, 98% of Indonesia's rainforests may have vanished, the orangutan with them.

Several projects are trying to redress the balance back towards sustainable production, but the one being pioneered by Traidcraft is unique. It works with partners in Ghana where the palm grows naturally. Over 600 farmers in local associations of grow the palms on their small plots (average only three acres) among other basic crops. The soft palm fruits, grown organically, are separated by hand from the spiky bundles by local women, who are glad of this seasonal work and get paid well above the usual local rate. The whole process already fulfils fair trade conditions, including the FT Premium for community projects decided locally, and the application for official Fairtrade Certification is in train.

Traidcraft already sells products with ingredients made from this oil – handwash, washing up liquid, laundry liquid, multi-surface cleaner, and now also bars of soap – under the brand name Clean & Fair. The first two also contain a coconut oil derivative from India, already Fairtrade certified, so these two carry the Fairtrade symbol. I am using these and can recommend them – I particularly like the handwash in its big, no-nonsense 500ml container (though you don't need much at a time). If readers are interested, we could ask our Traidcraft reps to put in an order to try them.

Of course this is only a drop in the ocean of non-green, exploitative, mass produced oil. But it is a beginning, to show how else it can be done. And in the meantime we can buy a few more everyday products knowing that, even if they are not the cheapest, they are benefiting both the environment and also the people who grow the raw material.

Ealing Food Bank Gives Thanks!



There will be a service and celebration of the Ealing Food Bank on **Thursday 10th July** at 7.30pm at Oaktree Christian Fellowship, 216 High Street, Acton W3. This is a very valuable work, which many at St Peter's have supported.

NB!

*If you have not yet done so, please speak to a member of the Mission Team if there is a particular charity you would like St Peter's to support. Mission Team members are Fr David, Madeleine Morse and Susan Peatfield. The next Mission meeting will be held on **Wednesday 24th September 2014.***

Music Matters



Paul Ayres enjoying being back with us.

This spring and summer has seen a true festival of organ music here at St Peter's. From Richard Pinel to Sverre Estestøl and from the Swedish Nacka Youth Choir to our very own Paul Ayres the church has resounded to expert hands (and feet!) and voices. The work Mark James has put into this is very greatly appreciated, as indeed is the time and generosity of those providing refreshments for these events. Mark will soon be even busier as he is to take up postgraduate study at the very prestigious Royal College of Music, on the MSc Performance Science.

Mark James writes:

It was good to welcome back former Director of Music, Paul Ayres on **Saturday 14th June**. Paul played a concert of two distinct halves. The first featured early Italian and English music, while the second showcased Paul's ability as an arranger and composer, culminating with a rousing toccata based on the Beatles song, 'All you need is love'.

The concerts in this series have proved popular, being both well supported by St. Peter's people, in various ways, while attracting new people, and raising funds for the music budget.

The new concert series starts on **Saturday 20th September**, and is to be given by American virtuoso, Dr. Stephen Hamilton.



Young Swedish singers at St Peter's in May.

Letter from the Vicar

I have recently had my study decorated. It was quite a bit over due and I didn't really get on with the dark green walls. It had all given good service and now needed attention. The study was also one of the last rooms in the vicarage that needed some consideration. So after a few hiccups along the way and the trauma of selecting colours (I'm never any good at that) work started. I cleared out the office (22 boxes of books and stuff!); took down the shelving; relocated the filing cabinet and my computer to the dining room and work got underway...a week late but never mind. When the decorator got going...he found some damp so had to strip a wall and repaper, that slowed us down a bit. Eventually he finished and the walls looked all nice and fresh and clean. Then the carpet looked like it needed replacing. That was straightforward, I just chose the stuff we already had elsewhere and it was down the next week. Having set the scene with new decorations and flooring the next question was what to put back in the office?

Anyone who had been in my study before will remember how cluttered it was. I try not to be a hoarder but I do get attached to things. I remember where I got things, who gave them to me, why I have them. For example, I have a stone, an ordinary looking stone (no doubt Margaret Joachim could tell me more about it). It has a nice grey/blue colour but otherwise is unassuming. But it is important to me; I picked it up on a beach in the Isle of Whithorn on our honeymoon on the 4th April 1988. But then there's lots of other stuff that has less importance, and frankly some that needs to see the inside of a bin (I discovered a newsletter in a file from my days in Leeds dated 1989. I think that can go).

So, what goes back in the study and how? It is nice and clean and fresh and uncluttered, how do I keep it that way? How do I stop myself just filling it with more of my rubbish?

When we commit ourselves afresh to God life can feel like this; all swept out and clean, fresh with new light, aims and hopes. In repenting and renewing our relationship with God we clear the decks. We tell God we are sorry for the many times we have walked away from God, the times we have not given glory to God, even denied God. As we renew our relationship with God we are determined not to make the same mistakes and our desire, our aim is not to put back the old rubbish, though we are tempted when it reminds us of times past or gives us comfort.

St Paul often talks about this when he refers to our need to die to sin, to reject the ways of the world, to put God back at the centre of our lives. For example in Romans 6 St Paul writes about the effects of Jesus' death and resurrection on us; that we should consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Jesus Christ (v11). In meeting with Nicodemus in John's Gospel (John 3.1-21) Jesus talks about being born again; a symbolic statement of renewal in the life of faith. Nicodemus was a faithful and righteous Jew. Jesus wasn't undervaluing his faithfulness but was saying we all require refreshment in faith. As we give our lives over to God, as we make God the centre of our lives we clean out the old, we are born again, we can start over.

As we make our confession Sunday by Sunday in the Mass this is the desired outcome; that we are

renewed in the spirit, reborn and refreshed in the life of faith as we come to the sacrament of communion. It doesn't always feel like that. We come with all sorts of stuff on our minds, our hearts cluttered with concerns and cares of the day. We can be distracted from why we are gathering at God's table. Jesus understands this but still wants us to come to him with an open heart ready to receive him in our refreshed and renewed state of grace. Jesus wants to help us de-clutter and put a right emphasis on our life with God at the centre.

Today, as I write this it is the feast day of the birth of John the Baptist. John called the people of Israel to renewal and when asked what does this repentance mean he said change your life to that of justice and charity (Luke 3.1-17), to living a life centered on God. This is our call today and every day. To be constantly renewed in the power of the spirit of God. To be refreshed in God's love, to live by Jesus' command to love (John 13.34,35), "love one another as I have loved you."

Fr David

Parish Retreat 2015 ~ Iona Sunday 19th – Friday 24th April 2015

This is an advance notice of the next Parish retreat. We have booked Bishops House on Iona (www.island-retreats.org/iona.html) for the week. Costs aren't completely clear yet but it will be about £260 for four night's full board.

We will travel up to Glasgow on the Caledonian Sleeper on the Sunday. Monday will be train to Oban. Then a ferry from Oban to Craignure, a bus from Craignure to Fionnphort and then a short crossing to Iona, a walk of about 5 minutes will see us arrive at Bishop's House. The transport costs have yet to be calculated (schedules etc. are not yet available) but it should be in the region of £200 return.

The accommodation has 23 beds based on 7 single rooms and 8 doubles. We will be looking to fill all the places (that will make it a bit cheaper).

The programme of the week has yet to be planned but it will be light and based upon the spirituality of Iona, using Celtic reflection. The real aim of the week is to give participants space to be with God. There will be opportunity to engage with the Iona Community (www.iona.org.uk), take a day pilgrimage across the island, and whilst we will have our own programme of worship it will be linked to that of the community.

Booking forms will be out soon. For now put this date in your diary, ask Fr David if you have any questions and keep an eye out for the forms.

Year's Mind

8 July	Ethel Kippen (2002)
14 July	Joan Jones (2005)
21 July	Herbert Collinson, <i>Priest</i> (1973) Gordon Maufe (2003)
26 July	Amy Millicent Swaish (1972)
27 July	Annie Marsh (1968)
31 July	Christina Stringer (2013)

All copy for August Parish Chest please to sipeatfield@aol.com by Wednesday 23rd July.