



# St Peter's Parish Newsletter July edition 2019

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## Letter from the Vicar.

There are lots of reflections and discussions about the effects of modern technology on us and our society. Initially we might think these discussions are becoming a bit old hat, thinking screens to have been around for quite a while, then consider how very recent screens entered our lives, and how much they have become part of daily existence and we begin to realise the pertinence of such a discussion. It really wasn't that long ago we didn't have mobile phones at all and a computer was definitely confined to the specialists computer room rather than our lap or desktop.

Screen technology is brilliant. Only this morning I organised a house contents insurance on my mobile phone whilst having breakfast. I didn't need to go down to a broker or speak to a human being on a phone or even sit in front of my desktop and tap and click away with my keyboard. On my little phone it was all done. Then the other day while out walking the dogs the fencing people rang to arrange a visit to quote for a new fence between St Peter's Way and the Church Hall. Whilst walking along I could check my diary and have a chat and plan the visit, all from the little screen I carry in my pocket.

Then suggestions are made that the little screen is separating us from each other. It is a great game, coming home on the tube, counting how many screens are being used in the carriage. One rush hour I counted over a hundred screens in use; some people using more than one screen. I thought it a shame, they could have been a hundred conversations...and then I remembered this is London.

Screens are a two-edged sword. The key to their positive contribution seems to be how we use them. Like everything else really. We can control them or we can let them control us, or at least we can develop habits, allowing screens to usurp the place of other things, such as face to face conversation, unless of course you use Facetime. There are a few families who actively develop screen free time among themselves, time to be and share, to tell each other's stories and to value each other.

Then isn't that true of most things? If they are important, or if we see them as important we make time and space for them. Time for us, time for others and as people of faith time for God. That's why as a church we have worship time set aside and as members of the body of Christ we are encouraged to make daily time to be with God in our personal prayer. If we don't make time for, or to use another term, prioritise God then what place does God have in our lives? It is an important question, especially as religion is now classed under surveys as a hobby rather than a way of life.

You will note in this month's newsletter a meeting to discuss forming a contemplative prayer group. One way in making time to be with God, along with Sunday Mass, daily prayer and seasonal celebrations. I encourage you to think about how you prioritise God, how you can put quality time in with God, maybe by having less screen time, unless I suppose your prayers are on the iPad.

**Fr David**

## **Contemplative Outreach**

As part of our Lent Study Programme 'Encounter' this year we hosted a Contemplative Outreach Prayer Course, run by John O'Brien and Christiana.... who were working through Contemplative Outreach, an international contemplative prayer organization. Of themselves they say

"Many great Christian saints have cultivated contemplative prayer throughout the centuries: the Desert Fathers, John of the Cross, Teresa of Avila, Meister Eckhart and Thomas Merton.

Firmly rooted in ancient Christian tradition, inspired by a centuries-old Christian text, *The Cloud of Unknowing*, Centering Prayer was developed in the 1970s at St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts by three Trappist Monks: Fr Thomas Keating, Fr William Meninger and Fr Basil Pennington. The Contemplative Outreach movement has been growing ever since. People from all races, nations and faith traditions are discovering a way to develop a life-changing way of connecting with God by the power of the Holy Spirit."

The group got a lot from this study and at the time we idly discussed the possibility of establishing a prayer group here at St Peter's. Now the dust of Easter has settled it maybe time to have a serious discussion about the possibility of such a group. You don't need to have attended the study group, just want to explore this creative way of prayer. To that end there will be a

meeting on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June, 10am in The Lady Chapel. Come along if you are interested.



### **Best Feet Forward go a jumping in Ruislip**

“On Saturday 11 May ten Best Feet Forward walkers and two dogs enjoyed a really lovely day at Ruislip Woods. We walked 10 kilometers in beautiful sunshine and through a dappled canopy of new leaves. But this bunch can be a little unruly and at one point mutinied when our intrepid leader suggested a diversion to get to the café. The walk was spaced out with a coffee break beside the Ruislip Lido lake (thanks to our rebellion) and lunch at the Waterside Inn, before returning to our cars. We didn’t get too lost; Ruislip wood offers several trails and whilst we have walked here before we had not walked all of this particular route. Everyone enjoyed fellowship and good company. Many thanks to Richard Morse who lead us.” At the time of going to press the next walk takes place on Saturday 13th July, KENTON – HENDON, 3 hours approx./5.5 miles. Meet 10.00am at Ealing Broadway station. Leaders: Richard and Rosanna Fullerton. Contact No. on the day: 07599 789866. We will travel by bus and Tube via Wembley Park to Preston Road where we pick up section 10 of the Capital Ring. The walk includes the Fryent Country Park and the Welsh Harp lake. Optional pub lunch in Hendon. Return home by bus.



### **Your Parish Church Needs You!**

You may have noticed over the past few months serving teams have not been complete. We are short of servers and need people to join the team and help run our worship. We also need counters to record the collection after Mass. There is space for Welcomers and Flower arrangers. These are not arduous

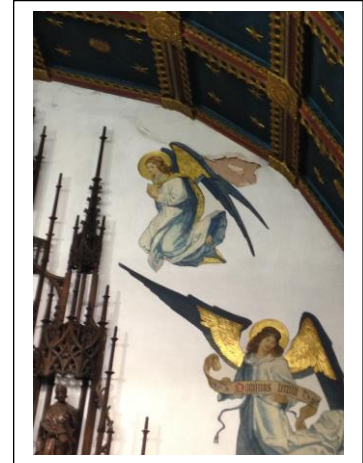
tasks and they help the parish function. So please, let Fr David or one of the Churchwardens know if you can help. We do need you to make St Peters function well.

## **Fundraising for the Lady Chapel works – An update**

Jon Loxton's picture, kindly donated by the artist was won by Vix Sherliker and raised over £500 towards the Lady Chapel restoration fund. A very big thank you to those who bought a ticket. Better luck next time. If you would like a painting of your house or any other project Jon is available for commissions.

We have now prepared the works schedule for the Lady Chapel Project which will include the repairing of the plaster work, oiling and cleaning the Reredos, repairing the Kemp Windows, re-carpeting and cleaning the ceiling as well as repainting the chapel. As you can imagine this project isn't cheap. Roderick McLennan, our architect suggests a bill in the region of £40k wouldn't be far from the mark. We are using the schedule of works to raise tenders for the work and then to make funding applications. If you haven't had a chance as yet to make a contribution to the restoration fund it is not too late. All gifts can be directed to Linda Foster, our church treasurer, and if gift aided will raise that little bit more.

Thank you to all who have supported this project, please keep it and those involved with the work in your prayers.



## **Revd Margaret speaking at St Paul's and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first women ordained to the priesthood.**

Some of you will know that on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June St Paul's cathedral hosted the Diocesan 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Celebration of the ordination of women to the priesthood. Some of you may not know that our very own Revd Dr Margaret Joachim gave one of the offerings. It was the last of the evening and brought a levelling tone to the joyous celebrations. This is what she said:

"I was ordained in 1995, and since 1997 I've been a curate at St Peter's, Ealing. I've covered seven interregna (two at St Peter's and five elsewhere), as well as taking more than eighty services for absent clergy in other parishes. We self-supporting ministers are sometimes described as 'ecclesiastical Polyfilla' – we fill in the gaps.

But I've always had an ordinary full-time job – organising computer geeks in big IT outsourcing companies. Some people knew I was a priest; others

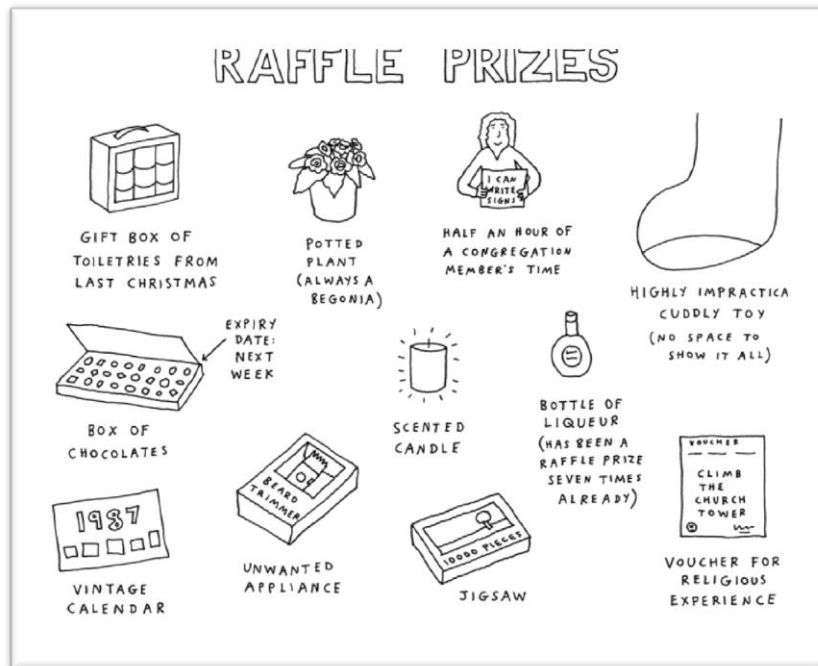
didn't. It didn't matter – I had to do my day job just as well as anyone else. Gradually I found that people trusted me – and then expected me – to speak up for them. I helped to set up a European Works Council. Then we established some local discussion forums – and then I was sacked! Perhaps I had stuck my head too far above the parapet?

In my next job I was elected onto a team which wrote the rules for a staff consultation forum – and then I was elected co-chair. 'Why me?' I asked. 'Because you're not in anyone's pocket', said one staunch trade-unionist. One year, we persuaded all the managers to forego a pay rise so the money could go to lower-paid staff. Then we got the company to pay the Living Wage, years before it became compulsory. When I retired, one person stapled a screen-wipe to my leaving card. Underneath she wrote: 'Keep shining'. This is my ministry: God in the Mass on Sunday; God in the mess on Monday."



## Eco-Church

You may remember from a previous Newsletter Fr Michael's work on getting us involved in Eco-Church, an AROCHA initiative to encourage a more ecological friendly approach to our worship life. AROCHA is a Christian ecology group with bases all over the world. Some of you will remember I stayed at the AROCHA Centre in Vancouver as part of my study leave. I was wondering if there were people at St Peter's who might be interested in picking up this project again and perhaps taking it further. It should be part of our Christian life to ask questions about how we support rather than simply use the creation that God has placed in our hands; how can we make St Peter's more ecologically responsible. It may also be a forum in which we can explore theologically how we as Christian individuals as well as a Christian community can take our responsibility for creation more seriously. If you might be interested in being part of such a group I shall be hosting a meeting at the Vicarage on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 12 noon. You will be very welcome.



The work of Ealing Food Bank continues. As many of you will know a new distribution center has been opened at Ealing Green Church. Far from alleviating the pressures on the other distribution centers it itself has become a very busy and important center for helping care for those who are struggling to feed themselves and their families. Remember these are often hard working people who are struggling to make ends meet and they need our help. The work of St Peter's in providing a collection point is just as important as it has ever been, but the amount we are collecting has dropped off of late. Please do consider the food bank when out doing your shop. It doesn't cost us much to provide a pack of tea bags or some porridge oats, yet as always if we all contribute a little and encourage our friends and neighbours we can help make a big difference to the needs of the less well off in our community.



**This months shopping list is:** Tinned Meat & Fish, Tinned Soup, Tinned Fruit, Long life fruit juice & squash - 1 litre, Jam & Peanut Butter, Rice - 0.5kg/1kg, Tinned Kidney beans & Chick peas, Tinned Custard & Rice Pudding, Potatoes - Instant & Tinned, Shaving Foam & Razors, Nappies - Size 3

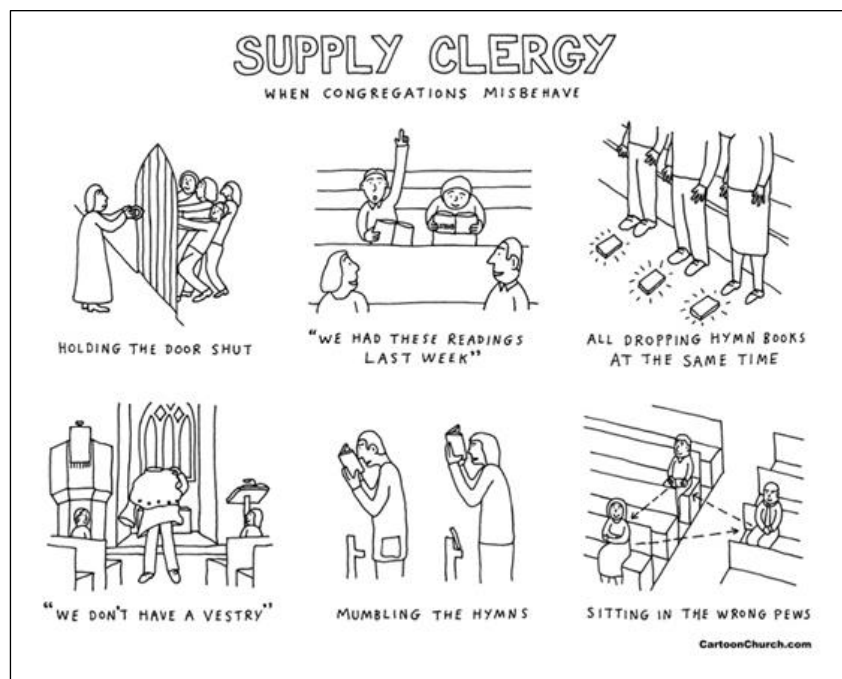
Please remember, no perishable items and please no baked beans or tinned tomatoes. We have a lot of those already. Thank you for all your support.

## Parish Contact Details:

Vicar:	Revd David Neno St Peter's Vicarage 56 Mount Park Road Ealing W5 2RU 020 8997 1620 david.neno@london.anglican.org	Parish Administrator:	Lesley Brooks St Peter's Parish Office St Peter's Parish Church Mount Park Road Ealing W5 2RU 020 8997 3655 admin@stpeterrealg.org.uk
Assistants	Revd Dr Margaret Joachim, The Parish Office, 020 8723 4514 Revd Harold Stringer, c/o The Parish Office	Parish Reader	Mrs Susan Peatfield, c/o The Parish Office
Churchwardens	Mr Trevor Bates, Mrs Jane Campbell c/o The Parish Office	Parish Treasurer	Ms Linda Foster c/o The Parish Office

## Worship at St Peter's:

Sunday	9.15am Pebbles (for 0-5s) 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month
	10.00am Parish Mass with Stepping Stones in term time
	5.30pm Evening Prayer
Monday - Thursday	8.30am Morning Prayer 5.00pm Evening Prayer
Wednesday	7.30pm Holy Communion
For seasonal celebrations please check the weekly bulletin sheet	



## June & July's Calendar

Date	Day	Event	Venue
<b>June</b>			
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Trinity 1	10am Parish Mass 17.30 Evening Prayer	Parish Church Lady Chapel
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>		15.00 Ivy Cafe	Church Hall
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup>	St Peters Day	10.00 Contemplative Prayer Group 19.30 Patronal Mass followed by celebratory drinks in the vicarage garden	Lady Chapel
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Petertide Sunday	10.00 Patronal Mass with Parish Lunch	Parish Church & Church Hall
<b>July</b>			
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>		09.00 PCC Standing Committee Meeting	Vicarage
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>		19.30 Deanery Synod Meeting	
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>		15.00 Ivy Café – celebrating its first birthday today! 19.30 Mass	Church Hall Lady Chapel
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>		14.00 Bishop of Willesden to Bless the Ada Lovelace School site	
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 3	09.15 Pebbles 10.00 Parish Mass 12.15 Mission Team Meeting 17.30 Evening Prayer	Lady Chapel Parish Church Vicarage Lady Chapel
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>		15.00 Ivy Café 19.30 Mass 20.00 Amnesty Letter Writing Group	Church Hall Lady Chapel Vicarage
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>		19.00 Men's Beer & Curry 20.15 Zeera's Restaurant	The Greystoke Pub
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>		10.00 Best Feet Forward (Fryent Country Park & Welsh Harp Reservoir)	Ealing Broadway Tube Stations
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Dedication Sunday	10.00 Parish Mass 12.00 Eco Church Group Meeting 17.30 Evening Prayer	Church Vicarage Lady Chapel
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>		19.30 PCC Meeting	Vicarage
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>		15.00 Ivy Café 19.30 Mass	Church Hall Lady Chapel
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Trinity 5	09.15 Pebbles 10.00 Parish Mass 17.30 Evening Prayer	Lady Chapel Parish Church Lady Chapel
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>		15.00 Ivy Café 19.30 Mass	Church Hall Lady Chapel
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 6	10.00 Parish Mass 17.30 Evening Prayer	Church Lady Chapel
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup>		15.00 Ivy Cafe	Church Hall