

St Peter's Parish Chest June 2014

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

Suggested Contribution 30p

Letter from the Vicar



We are the body of Christ

It could be said that in the medium of advertising we have a window to the soul. We are presented with images of hopes and expectations sometimes fears and concerns; the shining, coherent family unit that lives in permanent sunshine; the lost teenager who is warmed by the glow of a mother's smile when they come in from the rain and are given a cup of steaming soup; the disaster caused by a flood averted by sound insurance policies; a blemished skin made perfect by cosmetic elixirs. We know they are images used to sell products but they do sometimes intentionally or not reflect something of the world we really live in.

There is one that always brings sadness to my heart. It isn't meant to I am sure but it does. We see it on TV, on billboards and in colour supplements. This cartoon image being offered is of a caring secure nuclear family of mother, father, two children and a dog living in a nice house with a well-kept front garden. This family are protected by a sort of insurance policy that provides them with gas engineers, plumbers or electricians in their time of need. The said engineers themselves being portrayed as sort of super heroes, accompanied by 'The A Team' theme tune. It is a well-executed advert and gives a sense that if we are with this company our problems will always be solved. Nothing wrong in that; for me the sadness comes when you realise this family are present as being a self-contained universe. The first picture we have is of this family and their home perched on its own planet, separated by vast voids from its neighbours. There seems to be no connection with or sense of community, support or sharing.

I am sure this is not the intention of the advertisers. I think though they have reflected something of the world in which we now live. With the pressures of work, school and domestic life we have little time to spend building up or sharing in community. And yet this is one of the very causes cited for the breakdown of traditional society; seen in increasing loneliness and isolation, particularly felt by those who have moved into areas without traditional family networks as well as those who have become house bound either through age, frailty or illness.

It is no wonder too, when we understand how life patterns have changed in such a way, to see that societies, interest groups and voluntary organisations are struggling to gather membership. It's not that people are not interested; it is that they are increasingly time poor which has a knock on effect. If we are time poor the time we have available to build community becomes even less as we try to fit in domestic demands and valuable time for ourselves.

In this Christianity is counter cultural. Christianity relies on a sense of community and belonging. Jesus' teachings are based upon community. He commands us to love one another as God loves us (John 13.31-35). This isn't a contained love within the family unit. It is an unconditional love that crosses boundaries and reaches out to our

spiritual brothers and sisters throughout the community. In his letter to the Christians in Ephesus Paul expresses the sense of unity and belonging within the faith, not as small independent units but as the body of Christ (Ephesians 4.1-16) using the gifts we have to build each other up. Jesus' ministry is conducted not within the closed confines of a select few but within the communities through which he travelled.

As such then, Christians are called by God through the Spirit of God to share the word of God in His Son. We are called to be in community and to be part of our community. It is no accident we as the Anglican Church are called to serve our parish, an entity larger than the church community. It is also no accident we are referred to and refer to ourselves as the body of Christ. A body has many parts, some seemingly unrelated but without which we are less. The ministry to which we are all called is not to serve a select few, but to draw the world to membership of the kingdom of God.

I don't believe this is as counter cultural as we initially think. I firmly believe the people amongst whom we work and live are keen to be part of something bigger than themselves. They are keen to be part of the community. They are not heartless or uncaring; indeed they are not unfaithful (why else would 55% of the population of our parish declare themselves Christian in the recent census). They either just lack opportunity or connection. Our task is to be the body of Christ in the community and to open up the doors of church so others are welcomed in, to help them make the connection to God. We have to look outward, as Jesus did and respond to the needs we see around us. That may be offering to do shopping, offering to pray, offering our time in a creative way for others. Offering through our own prayer life to share in Christ ministry in our community, whatever that ministry might be that God is calling us to.

This may seem a huge and impossible thing to do; but if we listen to God's word for us in our prayer life, if we continue to live as Christians in our community, then by being the body of Christ we claim to be others will know God's love through us. It won't be our doing but God's. Maybe we will then help others to come off their own private planet and know the joy of being part of the body Christ and receiving the love of God into their own lives.

Fr David

Keys to St Peter's



The new PCC at their commissioning last month.

The APCM on **Sunday 6 April** saw newly elected members of the PCC meeting for the first time. It is not though until the licensing of the churchwardens that a new year can fully begin. (See Allison McAllister's account of this service below.) So it was that on **Sunday 18 May** PCC members were invited to come up to the front and to accept their commission "to seek to guide the Church and the Parish into the plan and purpose of God the Father for us at this time."

Also at this service the formal end to Duncan Reid-Thomas's term as churchwarden was marked by his handing the keys of St Peter's to his successor Angus McAvoy.

This part of the service ended with a very enthusiastic round of applause as we were invited to show our thanks to those how have pledged to offer their time and considerable skills to St Peter's.

NB We are delighted that we now have two members of the Deanery Synod in post. Jane Bradshaw has joined Val Stephens in this role, thus ensuring that we take up both places available to us. Renewed thanks to Val and Jane.



From one good pair of hands to another.

Archdeacon's Visitation and Celebration Service in Ealing 2014

Allison McAllister writes:

This year, the Archdeacon of Northolt, Duncan Green, held the visitation service at Christ the Saviour, Ealing on **Monday 12th May** at 8pm. This service had 3 main parts to it; a celebration of things happening across the Ealing Deanery that reflect the main themes of Capital Vision 2020, a presentation on the Common Fund and the admission of the Churchwardens.

You may remember that Capital 2020 can be summarised by the three words; Confident, Compassionate and Creative. The Diocese of London are encouraging the members and leaders of the Church of England in London to share a vision of a church in 2020 that is Christ centred and outward looking and to do this by being more **confident** in speaking and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ, more **compassionate** in serving communities with the love of God the Father and more **creative** in reaching new people and places with the Good News in the power of the Spirit.

There were interviews from across the Ealing Deanery on these themes:

Confident - Ms Anita Kapila, a secondary science teacher talked about conversations with a work colleague who was interested in finding out more about church and approached Anita who was known to be a churchgoer.

Compassionate - Some of the first Year 7 students from William Perkin High School talked positively of their experiences of attending this new school which is open to all in its community and has the same Christian ethos and values as Twyford. A joint choir from William Perkin and Twyford schools sang some songs from Joseph.

Creative - Revd Mark Melliush of St Paul's, Ealing and Mrs Janet Fletcher, a member of St Mellitus, Hanwell talked about how the new church graft between these churches is developing and the hopes for its growth.

There was a short presentation on the Common Fund; how it works, how we all give and we all receive, the importance of this to ensure every part of London has a Church serving their community. The treasurers were given a pack of information for their parishes. There was also much thanks and appreciation to the Ealing parishes who faithfully give their quota to the Common Fund.

The latter part of the service had the litany for the admission of the churchwardens. At this point, all the churchwardens present, including Angus McAvoy and Allison McAllister from St Peter's, stood up and, after collectively answering questions put to them by the Archdeacon and making their declaration they were formally admitted to serve in their respective parishes for the coming year.

Appropriately, the service ended with the Wesleyan hymn,

'Forth in thy name, O Lord, we go,
Our daily labour to pursue;
Thee, only thee, resolved to know
In all we think or speak or do.

Many including, Fr David, the churchwardens and the St Peter's Deanery Synod representatives, Val Stephens and Jane Bradshaw, enjoyed wine and savoury nibbles in the hall afterwards. A good opportunity to catch up with some familiar faces from other churches in Ealing!

To find out more about the great things happening as a part of Capital Vision 2020 visit www.london.anglican.org/mission/capital-vision-2020



The Bishop of London at a Capital Vision event.

Twenty Years On!



Celebrating 20 years of women's celebration.

As London looks forward to 2020, we also look back twenty years to the first ordinations of women in the Church of England back in 1994. Margaret Joachim attended one of the celebrations to mark this important milestone and also provided the link to the photograph above.

Margaret Joachim writes:

I wasn't one of 'the first' (wasn't ordained priest until a year later), so I didn't automatically qualify for a ticket for the service in St. Paul's. But several of my friends and colleagues did, and in any case 20 years of women priests is definitely something to celebrate. So I arrived at Dean's Yard (next to Westminster Abbey) on a sunny Saturday afternoon. There were hundreds of us. Men and women, children of various sizes, friends and supporters, a considerable assortment of bishops, monks in habits, several reverend sisters, and priests everywhere you looked. Canons in cassocks (the Westminster scarlet ones were particularly fetching), a biretta or three, and every conceivable variety of clerical shirt and collar. If anyone had been selling 'I Spy the Church of England' they would have done a roaring trade.

After a message from Archbishop Desmond Tutu ('Women priests for 20 years. Yippee!') and a brief reminder of the time many of us had gathered in the same place, but that time on a cold November evening in 1993 to await the result of the Synod vote which finally allowed women to become priests, we set off for the cathedral. Led by a sprightly girls' marching band we streamed out under the archway, across Parliament Square and onto the Embankment. Friends walked together, people who hadn't seen each other for years reminisced, taxis hooted at us and the tourists on the open-topped buses waved and brandished phones and cameras. We cheered and waved back. Goodness knows who they thought we were, or what we were doing. Occasional people on the pavement asked what we were all there for, and we told them. People on the bridges clapped, and a huge overloaded scrap-metal lorry drove slowly past, the driver making thumbs-up signs as he went by. One very elderly lady, determined to get as far as she could on foot, hung onto her wheelchair with one hand and the arm of her companion with the other, smiling at everyone who overtook her.

Two policemen on horses held up the traffic at the Temple, and our stewards marched alongside us, holding on to a very long tape which was supposed to prevent us escaping into the middle of the road. After almost an hour we walked up Ludgate Hill and arrived outside St Paul's, at which point there was time for a cup of tea.

At about 4pm, women started to come out onto the front steps of the cathedral. More and more appeared, until the steps were full from top to bottom and side to side with hundreds of women priests in white cassocks and stoles. It was an extraordinary sight – and a huge cheer went up as a single purple-clad figure inserted himself in their midst – the Archbishop of Canterbury.

There was then a significant lull while everyone got themselves into the right places for the cathedral service. Those of us without tickets had been promised that the service would be relayed to a big screen in Paternoster Square, and a couple of hundred people gathered around it. We had a splendid view – much better than we would have had if we'd been in the cathedral – and everyone started singing as the words of the first hymn came up on the screen. Philippa Boardman, the Canon Treasurer of the cathedral and one of those very first women priests, presided at the service, with the Archbishop as her deacon. 'Alleluia, Christ is risen!' she proclaimed, and hundreds of people in the cathedral and all of us outside responded. She was beaming with joy, and the entire service was one of joyful affirmation. Archbishop Welby preached, making it absolutely clear that there was no doubt that women priests were an integral and important part of the Church of England, and acknowledging the hurt and the difficulties that so many of them had encountered both before and after ordination. The choir was the girl choristers from Salisbury Cathedral, the offertory hymn was enthusiastically signed by a deaf choir lined up in front of the altar, and the communion hymns finished long before the distribution did. We lined up for communion in Paternoster Square and the sacrament was brought out by a dozen clergy, including our own Bishop of Willesden and Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons. Everyone was smiling, including a number of bemused tourists who had been walking across the square and lined up with us to see what was going on.

Finally, after a blessing and another 'Alleluia, Christ is risen!' pronounced by a beaming Philippa, the Archbishop sent us out in the peace of Christ and with more alleluias, and the long procession out of the cathedral reunited with the Paternoster Square contingent on the steps. There were more hugs and cheers and photographs, and gradually the crowd dispersed to coaches and tube stations. It had been an extraordinary celebration of the determination, commitment, faithfulness and service of an extraordinary group of women who could, finally and unreservedly, rejoice together in their priesthood.



Mission Matters

Now is the time when the Mission Team start to plan for **St Peter's outside giving**. This includes the recipients of money raised at the bazaar and also other occasional donations to specific charities – for example the harvest gifts.

Please be a part of this decision making this year and speak to a member of the Mission Team (Fr David, Madeleine Morse and Susan Peatfield) with your suggestions, ideally with details for them to discuss at the next Mission Team meeting in September.

*Or why not write a short piece about your chosen charity for the Parish Chest? All copy to sjpeatfield@aol.com by **Wednesday 25 June**.*

Music Matters



Music lovers at Richard Pinel's recital in April

We have not forgotten about the wonderful concerts held at the end of April and the beginning of May but we shall put together a full article for a later issue. For now make sure the following dates are in your diaries:

Saturday 14 June 2014 at 5pm

Paul Ayres Director of Music at St Peter's 1992 – 1998 will give a lively mix of major organ works and pop tunes. Not to be missed!

St Peter's Day Sunday 29 June at 10am

Festival service with a feast of music followed by bring and share lunch.

Update on Stonework Project and the Figures!

Allison McAllister writes:

The Cost of Stage 2 of the Southside Stonework is £290 000

We are hugely grateful for the grants and donations received:

Heritage Lottery Fund & English Heritage	148 000
Listed Churches VAT Scheme	48 000
National Churches Trust	20 000
Allchurches Trust	2 750
Garfield Weston Foundation	5 000
Diocesan Fund (Grant)	20 000
St Peter's Stone Fund donations	24 000

TOTAL 267 750

We have also secured a loan of £20 000 from the Diocesan Fund. This is interest free and repayable over 5 years. With the loan we are only £2250 short of the £290 000 needed for the work. This is an amazing result considering the £70 000 gap in funding we had in January.

Thankfully we have the funds to cover the cost of the much needed work and our revised target for fund raising is £22 750.

The scaffolding will be going up in June and the work is scheduled to be completed by the beginning of November.

Thank you for all your hard work in this, Allison!

Year's Mind

2 June	Edmund Wilson (1988)
4 June	Gladys Gibbs (1980)
	Leonard Tubb (2000)
5 June	Joan Corden (1998)
15 June	Christiana Gordon (1961)
22 June	Sydney Baker (1961)

Food for thought...

Margaret Joachim has also sent in this rather lovely prayer that she thinks we might appreciate. It was written by Thomas Harry Basil Webb 2nd Lieutenant in the Welsh Guards who was killed in action in the First World War.

A Prayer

*Give me a good digestion, Lord,
And also something to digest;
But when or how that something comes
I leave to thee, Who knowest best.*

*Give me a healthy body, Lord;
Give me the sense to keep it so;
Also a heart that is not bored
Whatever work I have to do.*

*Give me a healthy mind, good Lord,
That finds the good that that dodges right,
And seeing sin, is not appalled,
But seeks a way to put it right.*

*Give me a point of view, good Lord,
Let me know what it is and why;
Don't let me worry overmuch
About the thing that's known as "I".*

*Give me a sense of humour, Lord,
Give me the power to see the joke;
To get some happiness from life,
And pass it on to other folk.*
