

St Peter's Parish Chest March 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



Remember you are dust

On Ash Wednesday we gather in church to begin the penitential season of Lent. As a sign of our atoning for sin and our desire to follow in the way of Jesus we receive the mark of Christ, not as at our baptism in blessed oil, not as we enter church in holy water but in the ash of burnt palm crosses. This is a dramatic gesture resonant of the Old Testament tradition that indicated contrition and mourning by the rending of clothes and the sitting, dressed in sack cloth, in ash (e.g. the posture of Job in chapter 1).

This may seem too negative and contrary to the joy we are encouraged to live by in the knowledge of God's love for us that brings healing and salvation to our lives. I would rather suggest this is complimentary rather than contrary. To only live life fully in the knowledge of God's love for all people, in the certainty of the salvation proclaimed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ would be to live with only half the picture; for in the midst of salvation is our humanity which, though open to the healing power of God, is still fragile and vulnerable to the temptations and wiles of the darker side of creation. Within the promise of salvation and the forgiveness of our sins we should acknowledge first that we are not perfect, that in the way of the world we are broken. Our brokenness stems not just from our disregard for the ways of God in ourselves but in the state in which we allow our world to exist; the sins of greed, inhumanity and injustice; the sins of hunger, death and isolation. These less identifiable transgressions of God's law are ours as well, though we may not see ourselves as directly involved. They are ours because they come about due to the actions of our society and we say or do little or nothing to stop them.

Recognising this we stand before God and hear God's words, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return; turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ" as the ash is placed on our forehead. If you hadn't been feeling totally depressed about the human condition and our place in it by now then having received those words at the imposition of ash surely would have pushed you over the brink. But if we listen carefully to the words and understand how this whole picture of salvation and sin is worked out then we can receive hope.

Remembering we are dust is to put us back in our place; to remind us of our frailty and fragility in the face of the trials of life. It reminds us of the transient nature of life; that we are born, live and die in the blink of creation's eye. We are reminded of our call to serve God daily, to live in the sacrament of the present moment, to seek God here and now and live life fully in God's presence. The palm ash says to us this is tough and we will fail. It is in our failure though we know we can turn to God in Christ Jesus in faithfulness and love and if our hearts are open and true he will heal us, Jesus Christ will receive us and makes us whole again...and again...and again.

This is the hope of the penitential season. This is what we are reminded of. This is how we are called back to the Gospel message of God that led Jesus to the cross of Golgotha and the empty tomb of the Easter Garden. This is the promise of God's love for you made real in Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection. Make this promise yours this Lent; acknowledge your need of God's love in your Lenten fast and prepare to receive God's healing love and power into your life on that glorious Easter day.

Fr David



"Lenten Roses" Hellebores gracing our gardens in the dark time of the Church year

Candlemas Revisited



Before Ash Wednesday has us embarking on the penitential season and our journey to Lent we at *The Parish Chest* are keen to hang on to the jollity of Christmas and Epiphany to the last gasp. It certainly was the nearly the last gasp for the less nimble of us as the music got faster and faster at our lovely Candlemas Barn dance on **Saturday 1st February**.

The hall was filled with balloons which added to a fine atmosphere of festivity suitable for our celebration of the end of the Christmas season. The events team put together a lovely evening for us all to enjoy. Especial thanks to Rebecca Weaver for planning and overseeing the event and to Christine Macallister and her team for the delicious meal of chilli-filled baked potatoes followed by a choice of pavlova, trifle or apple pie - very hard choice!

The dancers were a little heavier after the supper interval but we were kept going by our excellent caller and band. We "stripped the willow" and "promenaded our partners" as well enjoying the mandatory "dozee does" with our "corners" until we had so sit down for a bit.

The evening represented a lovely combination of younger and older members of the St Peter's family and it is a great occasion to invite other friends and neighbours to join us.

Renewed thanks to all responsible for such a happy and successful event.



St Peter's church families demonstrating the wonderful variety of barn dancing styles and hand/arm/waist holding techniques...

Making a Difference... with Ealing Street Pastors

Last year's Christmas Bazaar's main "home" charity was Ealing Street Pastors. In this article Trevor Bates explains more about Street Pastors and his own involvement in this very valuable work.

Trevor Bates writes:

Let me tell you about Mohammed. I met him last November on the Uxbridge Road while I was on patrol with the 'Street Pastors.' Mohammed (a Somali) was hungry, homeless and despite the cold night he wasn't wearing warm clothes. He was upset as he said he had been mugged earlier that evening. We were with him for around twenty minutes, comforted him, made sure he had the means to get something to eat and gave him directions to the nearest police station (Central Ealing station was closed) as well as details of a homeless charity for him to contact next morning.

Half an hour after we left him I saw him getting on a bus some food in his hand. No we couldn't fix the problem, but we could help someone in need to feel a little bit better and by providing practical support.

That's what 'Street Pastors' is all about. The charitable organisation, set up in 2003 by Rev Les Isaacs, engages with people on the streets to care, listen and help where it can.

Since its foundation, over 9,000 volunteers have been trained in Britain and there are some 250 street pastor teams around the country.

The Ealing Street Pastors was founded in October 2009 and is coordinated by Ann Clifford. She is supported by a committee, which is chaired by Rev Andrew Corsie who many members of St Peter's will remember fondly as our Area Dean.

A typical shift for a Street Pastor goes from 10.30pm on a Friday evening to 3.30am on Saturday morning. We patrol in groups of four and are based at a local church or church hall. We are supported by a prayer team who remain at this base throughout the night. We keep in regular touch with them by phone, asking for prayers in difficult situations and receiving a welcome cup of tea during our breaks.

We also let the police know when we are about to go out on patrol and pop in to the local police station as we pass, and we are in touch by radio with the local authority who monitor our progress from the network of street cameras.

The Ealing team covers four areas within the borough: Acton, Central Ealing, West Ealing and Southall. Each area has its own character and issues. Acton has one large pub and a couple of nightclubs which are active to 3 am. Central Ealing has several pubs and clubs open 'till the early hours. It can be heaving with young teenagers before midnight and very busy with noisy clubbers after midnight. In Southall, street prostitution is the main issue.

As the night progresses most people can be the worse for drink and trouble can easily arise. Our very presence can help diffuse a tense situation. We are careful not act in a way that can be seen as religious harassment, indeed it is against our own rules to do so, but if people want to talk about spiritual matters - and often they do - we can try and answer their questions. We are not there to preach but to care.

We carry a variety of things with us including a first aid box, space blankets, bottled water, flip-flops (for girls who have removed their high heels), spikies (a device you put on a bottle to stop it being spiked) and lollipops (an odd but good way to stop a fight!)



"Ted, Rose, Trevor, Ann and Sylvia patrolling in Southall. Note the lollipops!"

During an average night we remove several glass bottles from the pavement and doorways so that they cannot be used as offensive weapons and to discourage violence and vandalism.

We have built up a friendly relationship with shopkeepers, security personnel, pub and club managers and door staff. Indeed, I have been invited several times into clubs by the managers and enjoyed a (non-alcoholic) drink while talking over the music with scantily clad 'clubbers'.

The training is excellent and involves twelve full-day sessions over a six month period. It is based at Brixton and is tremendous, not only for the scope of the subject matter and the expertise of the facilitators, but through the opportunity to meet a whole crowd of other trainees from all over London.

The subjects included in the training are roles and responsibilities, listening skills, knowing your community, children's services, youth culture, safeguarding the vulnerable, mental health, mentoring skills, sociology, drug awareness, probation and policing. Once a volunteer has attended the first few sessions of the training course they can get the uniform and start patrolling. The cost of the training and uniform for each volunteer is £300 which, in my view, is excellent value.

Recently I was asked to become a team leader and attended another excellent course at the Ascension Trust headquarters where we looked at leadership styles, characteristics of good team leaders and managing personalities.

I have now had the opportunity to meet most of the volunteers in the Ealing group and they are a great bunch of people ranging in age from eighteen to eighty. They come from just about every Christian tradition and there are several nationalities represented including South Korean and Spanish.

The most exciting thing, though, is meeting so many people each time you go out on patrol. It's amazing what a smile and a 'good evening' greeting will do and where it will lead in terms of conversation. And, of course, there are the inevitable situations where you are called on to use all your skills and training to deal with people who are homeless and hungry, or

who have had far too much to drink and need to be looked after and seen to a night bus or cab to get them safely home.

Like most charitable organisations, Ealing Street Pastors needs financial support to help it do its work and meet its objectives. St Peter's church was particularly generous when it was decided that some of the money raised at our Christmas Bazaar would go to this charity. For this we are very, very grateful.

For more information about Street Pastors visit www.streetpastors.co.uk

Making a Difference... With Fair Trade Fortnight



This year Fair Trade Fortnight runs from **Monday 24th February until Sunday 9th March** with various local events including our own Fair Trade event here at St Peter's **today Sunday 2nd March**.

Please speak to Angus McAvoy or to Harold Stringer about for more details about what is going on and/or becoming more involved with the campaign to allow workers and farmers in developing countries the dignity of a fair price for their goods and labour.

Making a Difference... With our Lent Appeal



Please do take your Lent Box today and begin supporting the Bishop of London's charities working here in London's most deprived parishes and with our sister diocese in Angola and Mozambique. Below is an update on this work from the **Bishop of London**:

Dear Friends,

I wrote towards the end of last year of the enormous debt of gratitude we owe to Bishop Michael Colclough who was tireless in promoting ALMA and keeping it firmly on the agenda from the time he took over as Chair in 2000 until his retirement last summer.

We have undertaken a degree of re-organization since then and I am most grateful to Sheenagh Burrell and the team for helping to move things forward.

Bishop Paul Williams has agreed to become the London 'Bishop for ALMA' with particular responsibility for training across the partnership. This will include exploring some new partnerships and opportunities especially with relation to training.

The Archdeacon of Hackney, The Venerable Rachel Treweek, has agreed to Chair the London ALMA Strategy Group as well as the Finance and Projects Group.

Bishop Dinis of Lebombo has announced that he will be retiring on March 25th this year and there will be an opportunity nearer the time to pay tribute to him. So please pray for the ALMA team in London and for our ALMA partners in Mozambique and Angola as we move through a period of change.

We will observe **ALMA Sunday this year on 13th July when there will be a celebration of our partnership in the Cathedral at 6pm.** I hope that many of you will try to be there as a way of stimulating interest and prayer.

With thanks for our partnership in the Gospel.

Looking forward...

Lent Programme 2014

Wednesday 5th March - Ash Wednesday

Lent begins with the Mass of Ashing at 8pm.

Lent Groups:

We are then offering two Lent Groups entitled, '**Pilgrimage in Daily Life**'.

The first begins on **Thursday 6th March**, 7.30pm at 23 Mount Park Road.

The second begins **Monday 10th March**, 2pm at the Vicarage.

Both these groups are taking as their starting point Sally Welch's book *Every Place is Holy Ground*.

Here is an excerpt from a recent review:

Whether in the home, in a church building or around familiar landmarks in a local community, a pilgrim journey can be made that will bring a new level of understanding and appreciation of daily life and the holy spaces it inhabits. Linking in with the traditional experiences of pilgrimage - Beginning, Discovering, Struggling, Resting, Remembering and more, this book provides guided meditations for prayer journeys inspired by everyday sights. Appropriate prayers and reflections are provided throughout and photographs encourage us to see familiar objects afresh. The book helps us create our own 'waymarks' out of the basic stuff of our lives that will remind us every day that wherever we go, we walk on holy ground.

We are also offering a chance for prayer before the working day with a **prayer breakfast** at 7.00am every Tuesday through Lent beginning on **Tuesday 11th March**, in the Lady Chapel

Starting on **12th March the Wednesday Mass** through Lent will begin with Stations of the Cross and will provide a meditative walk with Jesus. All of which will lead us up to Holy Week and the glorious celebrations of Easter.

A list is now available in church for you to sign up so that we can gauge interest and numbers in good time.

St Peter's Book Club

A very enjoyable meeting was held on **Monday 10th February** hosted by Madeleine Morse and started what we hope will be a very happy year of reading and sharing our thoughts on a wide range of books.

Our next meeting will be a **Supper Meeting** at 7.30pm on **Thursday 24th April** 23 Mount Park Road W5 2RS.

Books to be discussed:

A Possible Life by Sebastian Faulks

The Power of One by Bryce Courtenay

Stoner by John Williams

Please do join us! For all further details please speak to Susan Peatfield (Telephone 0208 997 8376 or email sjpeatfield@aol.com).

St Peter's People



Colin and Jacquie at one of their "farewells"!

Readers of *The Parish Chest* will be delighted to know that on **Thursday 6th February** after many vicissitudes Jacquie and Colin Holt finally moved into their new home in Dorset. Jacquie reports that although it has not stopped raining since they arrived and half the local beach huts are now on their way to Cherbourg they are settling in well. We look forward to a full report soon...followed by a Parish Outing!

Do you remember...?

We have had a lovely email from **Peter Straw**, now in Australia, who attended St Peter's during the Second World War and was married here in 1945. He wonders if anyone still at St Peter's remembers him? If the name rings a bell you will be pleased to know that we hope to publish his letter in the April edition of *The Parish Chest* along with, hopefully, a photograph and email contact details.

Deadline for all articles for the April edition is **Wednesday 19th March**. Please do think about what you might be able to contribute. It is always so good to hear your news and interests. Please send by email to sjpeatfield@aol.com. Handwritten pieces also very welcome!



Music Notes

David Blumlein writes:

No Candlemas service can be considered musically complete without the singing of the motet "When to the Temple Mary went." It is the work of Johannes Eccard, a German composer who lived from 1553 to 1611; he held several court posts and finally became the Kapellmeister to the Kurfürst of Brandenburg in Berlin.

He wrote many motets and chorales and this one has been adapted with English words by the Rev. J. Troutbeck. It is a measure of the quality of a piece of music whenever the choir members really warm to it and such was the case with this exquisite short unaccompanied work. It is written for six parts, incorporating two soprano/treble lines which interweave attractively at times and two bass parts. It is not difficult to sing and I would suggest that its beauty lies in its comparative simplicity.

The anthem "Blessed be the God and Father", sung on Sunday 16th February, has become one of S.S. Wesley's most famous and popular works. It has an unusual provenance. Wesley had become the Organist of Hereford Cathedral in 1832 at the age of only twenty-two and he found the musical conditions far from satisfactory.

For the Easter service in 1834 he had as his choir some boy trebles and one bass singer – the Dean's butler! For them he composed "Blessed be the God and Father" which has recitative passages for the bass and some solo treble sections, the "Love one another" being particularly well loved.

Looking back on it Wesley said, "I assure you I view it merely as a sort of showy sketch, or a little thing just made to stop a gap, and never meant for publication." It has since been used for four parts in the opening and closing sections and we are well pleased that it has been published!

Words of "Love one another" reproduced here as very suitable for the Lent season too.

Love one another with a pure heart fervently.
See that ye love one another.

Love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Being born again,
not of corruptible seed,
but of incorruptible,
by the word of God.

For all flesh is as grass,
and all the glory of man
as the flower of grass.

The grass withereth,
and the flower thereof falleth away.

But the word of the Lord endureth for ever.

Amen.

Please see back of this issue for all details of forthcoming concerts at St Peter's.

Year's Mind

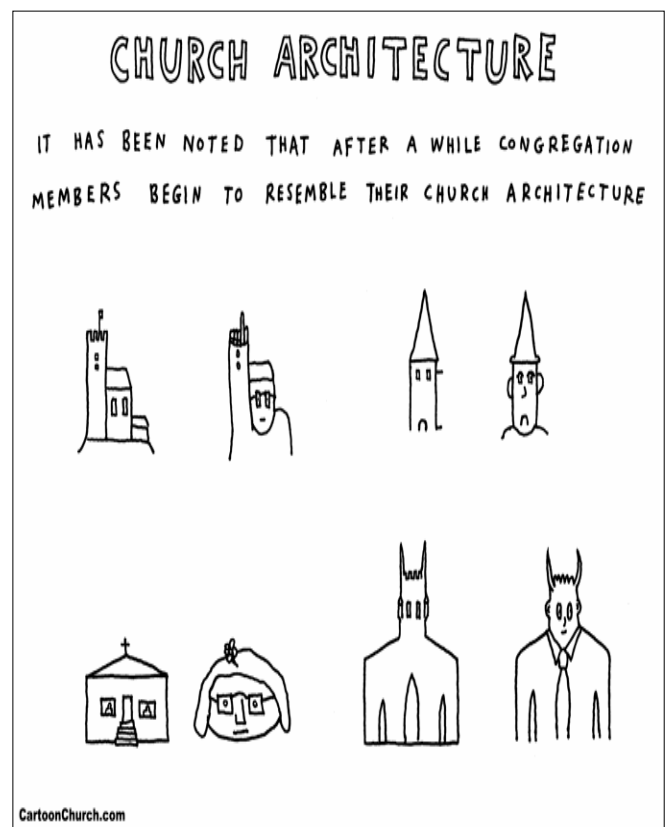
1 March
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Albert Caterer (1973)
Denis Craft (1983)
Margaret Britton (1961)
Rodney Burke (1985)
Lucie Beedell (1958)
Frederick Ruston (1962)
Hilda Malpas (1965)
Michael Hewitt (2013)
Willa Dufty (1964)
Bertha Dawkins (1984)
Rowland Clay (1981)
Rosamund Rowe (2013)
Ivy Dawkins (1977)
Margaret Boucher (2006)
John Bould (2003)
Lena Watson (1960)
Madeline Montague (1958)
Cecelia Williams (2012)
Paul Joachim (2011)
Iris Hall (1999)
Gwen Sheldon (2003)

And finally...

The Stonework Appeal has reached £18,365.75 with £26,600 still to be raised. Many thanks to all who have contributed, and to Allison McAllister for her faithful co ordination of both the works and the appeal. More contributions and grants are still much needed though to prevent us all crumbling at the top, as this recent cartoon in *The Church Times* warns....



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Concerts at St. Peter's, Ealing



Tuesday 29th April 7pm

Richard Pinel *St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. A solo recital of virtuoso organ concert favourites. **With lighting and big screen projection.***



Friday 2nd May 7.30pm

Sverre Eftestøl *Composer, organist, and pianist - shares his Norwegian musical heritage through his own compositions- plus a World Premiere performance of John Playford's English Dances. Scores available to buy.*



Friday 30th May 7pm

Nacka Ungdomskör (Nacka Youth Choir)-Sweden- *founded in 2010 the 46 strong Swedish youth choir with singers aged 16-21, sing pop, spirituals, and gospel music by Bäck, Rehnqvist and Alfvén, plus British choral music.*



Saturday 14th June 5pm

Paul Ayres *Director of Music St. Peter's, Ealing 1992-1998 - A lively mix of major organ works and pop tunes crafted for the organ in Paul's inimitable style.*

FREE admission - buffet refreshments and off road parking.

St Peter's Church Mount Park Road Ealing London W5 2RU.

Ealing Broadway tube.



www.stpeterealing.org.uk/pages/concertdetail

www.organrecitals.com