



St Peter's Parish Newsletter March edition 2019

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Letter from the Vicar.

This month I am printing my Ash Wednesday sermon as the Vicar's Letter. With the beginning of Lent I thought it might offer helpful food for thought and an introduction to this year's Lent Programme, Encounters.

“When two or more are gathered in my name (Matthew 18.20) –
Jesus is in the encounter”

The church is infamous for having meetings. When I was a curate I really objected to them. They seemed to be talking shops with no real outcome – hot air factories I have heard them called.

One day, in a conversation with a colleague I was given a different view of meetings. As a psychotherapist she pointed out that to make progress in plans, hopes or dreams, to grow as a person we had to meet with others. It was in the meeting and engaging that achievement and growth happened. Now that still meant some meetings could be hot air factories but it also meant we had to make sure that these valuable times of gathering were creative, fulfilling and productive. Sometimes this showed itself in concrete outcomes. Sometimes the creativity was rooted in the fellowship shared and relationships built. In either case it was the encounter and its quality that mattered.

It has been suggested that Jesus blessed and sanctioned church meetings. By saying “When two or three are gathered in my name, I will be with them” (Matthew 18:20). Does this then mean PCCs are holy?

Because many of us have to engage through meetings at work or other secular settings we often unwittingly take that work attitude into church gatherings and then approach church life with some level of foreboding or resentment. Yet the Christian faith is built upon gathering and fellowship. It is in meeting that we express and explore God. YHWH God is a god of community, of people and initially at least of nation.

God then is met in the dynamic of encounter. We can interpret God through things too. To encounter God through a sunrise or a spring flower; a piece of prose or music; or through silence is to grapple with our understanding of our relationship with God.

It is this variety of possibilities and importance of encounter that has encouraged us to use this as our theme for Lent 2019. Too often we grumble about a meeting or say we are too busy to stop – yet if this is so what relationship and understanding of God can we have? One snatched on a Sunday morning, one filled with good intentions or unrealistic hopes?

To stop and see how often we do encounter God, to recognise and celebrate, to value our encounters is to see our faith grow and our relationship with God deepen.

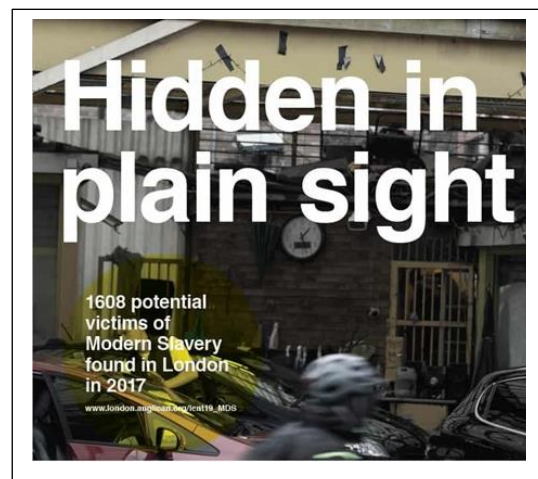
I encourage you to stop and encounter Jesus this Lenten season and deepen your relationship with he who gave his son to the tree of shame that we might know how deep, wide and high God's love for us is and for all creation. Come and see how you might encounter Jesus as fresh and find new ways to encounter Jesus in silence, in prayer, in journeying and in scripture. Encounter Jesus in the meeting with others and help others encounter Jesus through you.

And so I pray you a blessed and holy Lent.

Fr David

Bishop of London's Lent Appeal 2019 – Modern Slavery

This year's Diocesan Lent project is raising awareness and money for 5 projects working to eradicate modern slavery. Please make sure you take a collection box from church and do your part over the Lenten season to raise money to support this work. The Bishop of London along with the Archbishop of Canterbury calls for a community wide response to modern slavery and aims to work with Tamar, Ella's Home, Love 146, The Rise Project (The Children's Society), and Kalayaan who are already doing incredible work in this field. Bishop Sarah asks us to help play a part in bring about the words of Micah "he [God] has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Lets do what little we can to help the word of God be fruitful in this city we live and work in.



**Best Feet Forward:
A ramble from Acton Town to Kew and Hammersmith
Saturday 16th February**



On 16 February thirteen intrepid folk from St Peter's enjoyed a seven mile walk from Acton Town via Gunnersbury Park, Kew Bridge and the Thames Path to Hammersmith. We were joined by two very enthusiastic dogs - Monty and Toby - who had a terrific time running around Gunnersbury Park and firmly believed that they were the walk leaders!

We passed by the future site of Brentford football ground - still very much under construction, and then had a coffee break

before crossing Kew Bridge and taking the lessor known southern bank of the Thames path all the way to Hammersmith. The majority of the group, including dogs, then found a lovely river-side pub for a well deserved lunch.

Our March walk is to Burnham Beeches and is on Friday 15th March. Why not join us for exercise, good fellowship and an optional pub lunch!

**Admission to
Communion before
Confirmation – aka
first communion 2019**

It is the tradition at St Peter's to admit children to communion before confirmation, known in some



circles as first communion. There has been and continues to be a discussion in the Anglican tradition about when one is a fully fledged member of the church. We don't mean by that when someone fills in an electoral roll form (and if you've not done yours for this year's renewal please get a move on and do it) but when someone is considered a Christian. The immediate response to that question of course is at baptism. But here is a quirk in western Christianity. At

some point around the 12th or 13th century we separated out baptism and the reception of the sacrament of the eucharist developing the sacrament, for want of a better word, of confirmation; a point at which a baptized Christian confirms for themselves the promises made on their behalf at their (infant) baptism. In the orthodox tradition this was never done so even today as a baby is baptized so they receive the sacrament on a spoon and are immediately admitted to full communion.

Part of the argument in the western church is that, as a child, a young Christian cannot understand what they are doing when receiving the sacrament. The eucharist is such an important sacrament they should be made to wait until they have undergone instruction and are old enough to understand what receiving the sacrament of holy communion means. The counter to this is, who after years of reception really knows what they are doing and why should a central sacrament of the church be withheld from the faithful on the basis of age? Once a baptized Christian then surely the sacrament should be open to them.

In the 1980s this debate came up again in the Church of England. A group of parishes, including St Peter's, were selected to trial first communion. It was agreed we would allow children as young as five (dependent on parental agreement of course) to receive after some basic instruction; that they would be admitted to communion before confirmation or would make their first communion. The understanding was the church community would then reassure a programme of nurture, encouraging these young people along their life of faith and finally to bring them to confirmation where they could confess for themselves the faith into which they were baptized. This has now become Church of England policy and is encouraged in every parish, though not every parish does it.

At St Peter's we continue this programme, of which we have become quite proud. This year we are having classes leading up to Pentecost Sunday (9th June). They will begin on Thursday 2nd May, 3.45pm in the Lady Chapel. If this is something you or your child would be interested in please let Fr David know. He can add you to the list.

Encounters



'I invite you therefore, in the name of the church to observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word'. Words taken from the Ash Wednesday Service encourage us to enter into a holy and blessed Lent.

Our Lent programme has begun. Lists have been available at the baptistry and many of you have signed up. We are running two courses this year with an extra opportunity for prayer. On Tuesday evenings we will follow in the way of Jesus through the Stations of the Cross, encountering him and those with him on the way to Golgotha. Wednesday evening Mass will be replaced with a simple supper, Lectio Divina based on Gospel encounters with Jesus and Mass. The simple supper will begin at 6.30pm with the whole evening finishing by around 8pm. On Thursdays we have the pleasure of welcoming John O'Brien and Christiane Ghose from Contemplative Outreach UK (www.contemplativeoutreach.org.uk) who will spend five sessions on Thursday afternoons from 1.30pm beginning on 7th March, teaching and exploring the encounter with God through contemplative prayer. The sessions will last approximately an hour and will be held in the Lady Chapel.

There are still spaces available. If you've not yet had a chance to sign up do so or let Fr David know you'd like to attend and he can add you to the lists. There are more details about Lent, Holy Week and Easter in the pamphlet available at the information desk.

Fr David

Electoral Roll Revue 2019

It has been the policy of the Church of England, every six years, to tear up existing Electoral Rolls (ER) and start afresh. The Electoral Roll for those who are unsure is the Church membership list. It gives you ownership, if you like, of the church you attend and allows you to take a fuller and more active role in its life and work. You can vote in officers and influence local policy, you can stand for election and serve the community.

This year is one of those years and our Electoral Roll has been torn up. We are therefore encouraging everyone who attends St Peter's and considers themselves a part of this community to complete a form and make sure they are on the new ER in readiness for the Annual Parish Church Meeting to be held in April. If you have not completed a form or are unsure of your eligibility or have any questions relating to the ER at all, please contact our administrator Lesley at the parish office and she will be more than happy to help.

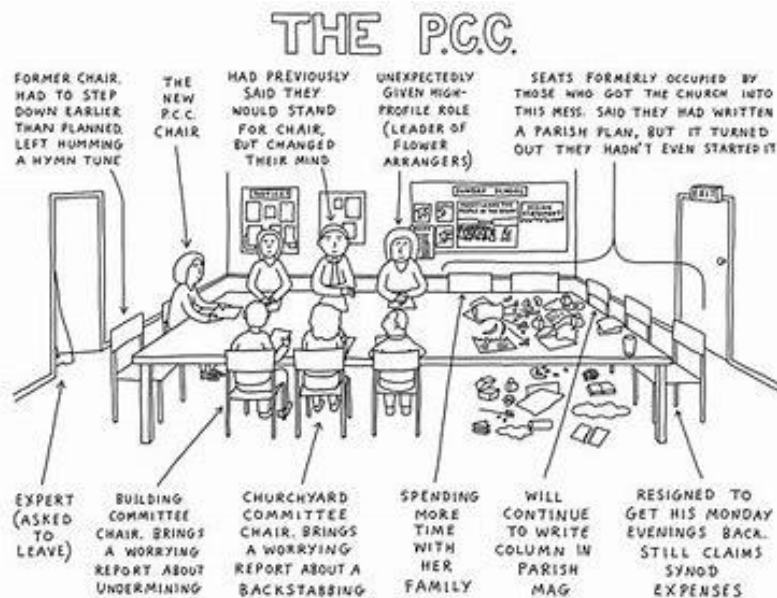
Annual Parish Church Meeting 2019

Aligned with the call to ensure you are on the ER is the notification of our up and coming Annual Parish Church Meeting on Sunday 7th April. It begins after the Parish Mass at 11.30am and is perhaps the most important meeting in the churches calendar. At this meeting we review the parish finances, the activities and work of the various officers and committees through the year and elect officers to help with the mission and ministry of the parish through the coming year.

This year we are to elect a new churchwarden. Moira Babary has come to the end of her four-year tenure and although a replacement would be impossible we now need to elect a new person to take over the reins. The position of churchwarden is important in the life of the parish. It is fulfilling. It is not easy. It is a role with responsibility and has to be taken seriously, as with any role. We are looking for a new officer and ask you to help by praying and reflecting on the role, maybe even to consider if you are the person to fill it.

We have Parochial Church Council vacancies to fill too. There are three officers standing down having completed their three-year term and we have a vacancy which was not filled last year. There is also a vacancy in the role of Deanery Synod Representative which lasts one year this time.

The APCM reports will be published soon. Please pray for this meeting that it will be a good a fruitful one. Please put this in your diary and come along. Please consider putting yourself forward as an officer for this coming year. Please pray for officers to serve our parish, our mission and ministry is all the less without them.



THE LADY CHAPEL Fundraiser: a quiz and tombola

As you will remember from last month's newsletter we are raising money to make repairs to the Lady Chapel. There is plaster work to repair, the reredos requires oiling, the carpet should be replaced and the Kempe windows need attention (we seem to have some small holes in the stained glass). On the whole we need to raise somewhere in the region of £15k. On the Coffee Cup fundraising you generously gave £5600, which when Gift Aided will realise £7000 which is a great start. We have begun to put in claims for grant funding, but our fundraising hasn't stopped. At the beginning of this month we held a quiz night and fish tombola entitled The Rock & Sole quiz: the Plaice to be (quite witty I thought. Ed.).

It was a lovely evening with friendly rivalry, loads of prizes and a fine supper of fish pie and mushy peas and a profiterole pudding. The fish from our 125th Anniversary installation were raffled off and the entire evening raised £303 for the Lady Chapel funds.

Please continue to keep this project in your prayers and if you would like to donate to this project please speak to Fr David or Linda Foster, the parish treasurer and we will be happy to help.

Lady Chapel Grant Team

Worship at St Peter's:

Sunday: 09.15 Pebbles (for 0-5s) 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month
10.00 Parish Mass
17.30 Evening Prayer
Monday – Friday: 08.30 Morning Prayer
17.00 Evening Prayer
Wednesday: 19.30 Mass

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:	Mrs Lesley Brooks St Peter's Parish Office St Peter's Parish Church Mount Park Road Ealing W5 2RU 020 8997 3655 admin@stpeterealing.org.uk
Curate:	Revd Michael Selby, 56B Mount Park Road, Ealing W5 2RU 020 8621 1326	Parish Reader	Mrs Susan Peatfield, c/o The Parish Office
Assistants	Revd Dr Margaret Joachim, The Parish Office, 020 8723 4514 Revd Harold Stringer, c/o The Parish Office		
Churchwardens	Mrs Moira Babary, c/o The Parish Office Mr Trevor Bates, c/o The Parish Office	Parish Treasurer	Ms Linda Foster c/o The Parish Office

March's Calendar

Date	Day	Event	Venue
Saturday 2 nd		18.00 Rock & Sole Quiz Night	Church Hall
Sunday 3rd	Sunday next before Lent	09.15 Pebbles 10.00 Parish Mass with Prayer Ministry 17.30 Evening Prayer	Lady Chapel Parish Church Lady Chapel
Wednesday 6 th	Ash Wednesday	07.30 Mass with ashing 08.00 Ashes to Go 15.00 Ivy Cafe 20.00 Ash Wednesday Mass with ashing	Lady Chapel Church Hall Parish Church
Thursday 7 th		13.30 Encounters: Contemplative Prayer Group	Lady Chapel
Sunday 10th	Lent 1	10.00 Parish Mass 17.30 Evening Prayer	Parish Church Lady Chapel
Monday 11 th		19.30 Finance Team Meeting	The Vicarage
Tuesday 12 th		19.30 Stations of the Cross	Parish Church
Wednesday 13 th		15.00 Ivy Cafe 18.30 Encounters: Study Mass	Church Hall Lady Chapel
Thursday 14 th		13.30 Encounters: Contemplative Prayer Group	Lady Chapel
Sunday 17th	Lent 2	09.15 Pebbles 10.00 Parish Mass with the interment of the ashes of Josephine Watkins 11.45 PCC Meeting 17.30 Evening Prayer	Lady Chapel Parish Church Lady Chapel Lady Chapel
Monday 18 th		19.30 Grant Team Meeting	Alex Pridgeon's Home
Tuesday 19 th		19.30 Stations of the Cross	Parish Church
Wednesday 20 th		15.00 Ivy Cafe 18.30 Encounters: Study Mass	Church Hall Lady Chapel
Thursday 21 st		13.30 Encounters: Contemplative Prayer Group	Lady Chapel
Sunday 24th	Lent 3	10.00 Parish Mass 17.30 Evening Prayer	Parish Church Lady Chapel
Monday 25 th		09.00 PCC Standing Committee Meeting	The Vicarage
Tuesday 26 th		19.30 Stations of the Cross	Parish Church
Wednesday 27 th		15.00 Ivy Cafe 18.30 Encounters: Study Mass	Church Hall Lady Chapel
Thursday 28 th		07.30 West London Leaders Prayer Breakfast 13.30 Encounters: Contemplative Prayer Group	Mayors Parlour, Ealing Town Hall Lady Chapel
Sunday 31 st	Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	10am Family Mass with distribution of posies 17.30 Evening Prayer	Parish Church Lady Chapel