



# **St Peter's Parish Newsletter May edition 2019**

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## **Letter from the Vicar.**

This month I thought I'd publish my address to this years APCM delivered on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April, not because I think it a masterpiece of pros but because I hope it sets a tone for the coming year, and many of you were not able to be at the meeting to hear it. So...

In many churches today the APCM report is boiled down to the absolute minimum and often turned into a glossy brochure celebrating in pictures and text boxes the glories that are at work in the parish. The old style APCM report of reports and accounts being seen as unattractive and often not read. I can see an attraction for that approach. However, one of the strengths in producing what some may see as an unwieldy document is that it tells a story. For the life of a parish is a story that stretches far beyond the existing membership. What we get in our APCM report is a snap shot of what is happening now. Put together with all the other reports produced year by year down the ages it provides a valuable insight into the life and times of a parish.

Something I suppose in many ways I have been reflecting on over the past year or so. In 2017, to celebrate the completion of the biggest restoration programme we have had to carry out to date, we held the brilliant Heritage weekend. On the back of that we were able to build the 125th anniversary celebrations of 2018 at which we were able to be the first parish in the Ealing Deanery to welcome the new Bishop of London, Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally. We are trustees and as such have a responsibility to pass on what has been placed in our hands to those who are to come after us.

A parish church is not just the building. Through this APCM report we can celebrate the very full and active life of this parish. We can recognise the changing nature of parish life where, no longer is the parish church the centre of everything and where we can no longer take for granted attendance and membership. We maybe an active bunch but we, like most parish churches, have to work hard just to keep still; to move forward requires new insights and understandings.

New insights we can celebrate. We have for example seen the impact of Pebbles on our church life. New families coming to St Peter's and finding a welcome and spiritual home they can call their own. Now Stepping Stones is building on this new venture. Ivy Café is offering a safe, open and friendly place for fellowship during the week for those who are at home.

We continue to support the work of ECWNS, hosting 14 guests though December supported by an able team of volunteers mainly made up of people from St Peter's. We

have collected several hundred kilogrammes of food for Ealing Food Bank over the past year, it is amazing how that tots up. St Peter's continues to support Street Pastors. Church attendance figures have grown and continue to buck the trend. Parish life continues.

There are issues. We may have completed the stoneworks restoration but now the Lady Chapel needs our attention. We are short on servers, counters, flower arrangers and welcomers. We are short on PCC members and sadly we were unable to find a second churchwarden. These are not problems singular to St Peter's. They are issues to deal with which may require a re-evaluation of what we do and how we do it; this shortage is not due to a lack of will but available time as life is busy.

Somehow we have to find ways to continue to shine as a light in the world if only because of what projects like Pebbles and Ivy Café show us; people want to belong and be helped to find God. There are plenty of people out there looking for meaning to life and an understanding of existence, something we can help with. We just need to find ways to open up, to make pathways in, if only because that is what Jesus wants of us, to share the good news.

In past APCM addresses (and this is my seventh) I have emphasised the place of evangelism in church life, to find new ways to say to the community in which we live and work, 'God loves you'. This should be our continuing mantra, one I hope that will come out as we present the new Mission Action Plan presently under review. For if we lose sight of this charge from Jesus and pootle along in our own little way, that way lies the end. Jesus calls us to be renewed, to be changed in the power of the spirit, something we should pray for daily.

That renewal shows itself in many ways. Our Lent groups this year have been well attended and I hope, after the Easter holidays, we might establish a contemplative prayer group. The Mission Action Plan suggests we re-look at the groups in the church community and see how they might help build up our life, offering fellowship in many and varied ways that would help others find a place here in this community

As I say each year there is much to celebrate at St Peter's. Yet it is important not to rest on our laurels. That would be contrary to the gospel message we claim to live by. We must embrace the youth in our church and encourage the more mature. We need to find time to support this community we think important which will require sacrifice, but it is sacrifice for the good news of Jesus. It is our duty, coming from our love of God. Let's listen to God and answer his call.

It is always a pleasure to be able to say publicly thank you and there are many, as always, to thank. I would like to thank our PCC members, our serving team headed by Val Stephens, our flower team headed by Jane Campbell, our coffee team headed by Ann Reilly, our team of welcomers headed by Jina Kiram, our choir, choir leader David Blumlein and Director of Music Mark James. Thank you to Lesley our administrator; to Linda our treasurer and Christine our Stewardship recorder. Thank you to Adam Grimley and the Safeguarding Team; to Alex Pridgeon and the leaders of our Stepping Stones programme and to Robina Baker who helps with the Pebbles programme. Thank you to the staff team, Fr Harold, Margaret and Susan. It is with sadness we will, next week formally say good bye to Fr Michael and Neil as they head for St Paul's, Ruislip Manor but we always knew the time would come. Curates come, bless our lives, and leave, it is their nature. We can only hope St Paul's knows what a gift they will be getting. Thank you to our churchwardens, to Trevor who will be fulfilling that role this coming year and Moira, who after four years as a

churchwarden is stepping down. Thank you to you all. There are so many to thank I hope you will forgive me if I have not mentioned you by name; but I think we'd all like to get on with our afternoon. St Peter's runs on its volunteers. Without you there would be no church. Thank you.

**Fr David**

## Modern Day Slavery – The Bishop of London's Lent Appeal 2019



“We are asking all our parishes to prayerfully consider how we as a Diocese can join together and raise awareness of an issue that is ‘Hidden in plain sight.’”

It is now time to return your lent boxes. It would be so helpful if you would count the money you have raised at home, pay it into your bank and write a cheque to St Peter's PCC writing on the back of your cheque ‘Bishop of London's Lent Appeal 2019’. Would save Linda our treasurer an awfully big job.

There were a couple of reports that arrived at the office just after the cut off date. So that we don't miss them here they are:

### **Amnesty International Letter Writing Group Annual Report 2018-19**



Between February 2018 and January 2019 we wrote 51 letters and cards in support of 23 individual prisoners or groups whose cases had been taken up by Amnesty International. We also responded individually with emails and messages in response to Urgent Action Requests from Amnesty. While Father David was on sabbatical in the autumn we missed his enthusiasm and participation in the Group.

This year we have written in support of people in many countries, including: Egypt, Israel, Slovakia, Vietnam, India and China.

In December and January we are joining Amnesty's 'Write for Rights' campaign in support of women around the world who have suffered because of their work for human rights.

If you want to find out more about Amnesty International's work, see [www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk) for information about current actions, campaigns, and Good News of prisoners released.

If you are interested in human rights internationally, please consider joining us.

We aim to meet once a month, usually on the second Wednesday. Details are published in the Sunday Notices and in church near the Amnesty Candle.

**Alison Germany on behalf of the Group**

## Flower Report 2018

Thank you to those who have supported the flower team during the past year. We have arranged flowers for a wedding in May and also created several floral displays for all our church festivals and for St Peter's dedication festival in July.

There are six of us who regularly attend to the flowers. Dorothy has now become an occasional helper after many years of arranging flowers at St Peter's. We do miss her expertise and company at our flower festivals.

If you would like to be involved with flower arranging at St Peter's our Easter flowers would be a good time to start. Please join us if can and we will give you the foliage and flowers to get started.



Jane Campbell

## What's on at Pebbles



Pebbles, our fortnightly service for 0-5 year olds continues to be very well attended. We have a 'core' of 16 families (with up to 30 children) who regularly attend Pebbles worship (with 20 families on the database). The Pebbles children themselves have created a strong friendship circle which is very endearing to see at this young age. The children have also developed an understanding of the importance of prayer and take joy in the hymns, which has hopefully been evident during their attendance (and performances!) during Family Mass.

This past year has seen Simon Baker lead the worship on several occasions (notably during Father David's sabbatical) and provide more support and assistance to Father David and Father Michael.

Pebbles hosted their annual Sparklers Party to mark Bonfire Night, extending the invitation to Stepping Stones children. This was held in the Church Hall with age appropriate firework themed activities inside and Sparklers and glow sticks outside. It was very well attended. Huge thanks to Father Michael, Neil and the Pebbles parents for their support with this. Pebbles children know that there is more to Church life than Pebbles and they continue to contribute to other church activities (125th anniversary celebrations, Harvest, Christingle service).

For this, and generally, a huge thank you to the Pebbles parents for their enthusiasm and commitment - and for always managing to make the 9.15am start with the whole family dressed and ready (not always an easy feat with little ones!)



## Confirmation 2019.

Thinking about confirmation? If you would like to consider confirmation as the next step in your journey of faith Fr David would be delighted to talk to you about it. There are a number at St Peter's who have not yet formally confirmed their faith for themselves; joining a confirmation group doesn't mean you are immediately committed either. The group would be a chance to talk about faith in Jesus Christ and how we felt about it, what God meant to us and how we might engage more fully in the faith. It is also an opportunity to find out more about Christianity. Come and see.

## Ivy Café



Ivy café has now been going for almost a year and is much appreciated by our regular supporters.

It was started by Fr. Michael who has been setting up and serving tea with a few helpers over the past year and we've also enjoyed

the luxury of Neil's cakes which, of course, will be missed.

It's a very relaxed and informal time, sitting together around a large table for an hour, from 3 – 4 pm every Wednesday and we now have quite a few regulars who really value the opportunity to meet up for a chat and other people drop in from time to time.

We would like to ensure that the Ivy café continues so a few more helpers would be great and also offers of either homemade or bought cakes would be much appreciated.

Two people setting up and serving tea is ideal and there are often other people who help with clearing up afterwards.

There is a rota at the back of the church on the churchwardens' table for helping to set up and serve tea and also to provide a cake now and then so if you can sign up it would be most appreciated. Rosanna or Moira will be happy to give you more details.

Even if you're unable to sign up on the rota, just come along and join with us and we'll be delighted to see you.

Rosanna Fullerton & Moira Babary

# THE CHURCH HALL

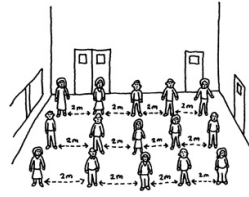
CONDITIONS OF HIRE



FILL IN THE PAPERWORK



ARRIVE AND LEAVE QUIETLY



DON'T CRAM TOO MANY PEOPLE IN



DON'T STICK ANYTHING ON THE WALLS



STACK THE CHAIRS AS YOU FOUND THEM



CLEAN EVERYTHING UP

Cartoonchurch.com

## 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 don't need to be arduous and, in most cases, mean a commitment of maybe once a month. So please, let Fr David or one of the Churchwardens know if you can help. We do need you to make St Peter's function well.

## Fundraising for the Lady Chapel works – a picture in the offing!

Local artist, Jon Loxton, has generously donated a painting he has recently completed of St Peter's to raise funds for the Lady Chapel Appeal. The painting is to be raffled and tickets are on sale during coffee after Mass on Sunday, £5 per ticket, £20 a strip. Interested? Come and see the picture at coffee after Mass on Sunday.

## Goodgym

On a Tuesday just prior to Easter 19 GoodGym runners appeared through the church door all ready to get the dusters, brooms, mops and Henrys out to spring clean our church.

GoodGym Ealing meets weekly on a Tuesday evening to run and do good deeds for people, charities and community organisations in the local area. They had run from Ealing Broadway and cheerfully and energetically set about the task, taking



different areas of the church, with the necessary cleaning utensils, and within about an hour had done an excellent job for us. A few of them also went out to deliver some of our Easter cards, detailing our Easter services, around the Parish.

Hopefully, you noticed how spick and span the church was for our Easter services and we are most grateful for their help. So many thanks to the GoodGym.

Some additional cleaning also took place on the Saturday, polishing the brass and getting everything ready for Sunday so thanks are due to Fr. David and Val, our Sacristan, for this as well.

We will still need willing volunteers to help with cleaning occasionally but it's great to have the GoodGym helping us out for special occasions!

GoodGym are always looking for more places to help and more runners and volunteers to join so do look them up and get involved!

Moira Babary

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
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, c/o The Parish Office	Parish Treasurer	Ms Linda Foster c/o The Parish Office
Worship at St Peter's:			
Sunday	09.15 Pebbles (for 0-5s) 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month		
	10am Parish Mass with Stepping Stones in term time		
	5.30pm Evening Prayer		
Monday - Friday	8.30am Morning Prayer 5.00pm Evening Prayer		
Wednesday	7.30pm Holy Communion		
For seasonal celebrations please check the weekly bulletin sheet			



## May's Calendar

Date	Day	Event	Venue
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>		15.00 Ivy Café 19.30 Mass	Church Hall Lady Chapel
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>		15.45 First Communion Classes begin today	Lady Chapel
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Easter 3	09.15 Pebbles 10.00 Parish Mass 12.15 Finance Team Meeting 17.30 Evening Prayer	Lady Chapel Parish Church Vicarage Lady Chapel
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>		May Bank Holiday	
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>		09.00 PCC Standing Committee Meeting 19.30 Mass 20.00 Amnesty International Letter Writing Group	Vicarage Lady Chapel Vicarage
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>		15.45 First Communion Class 19.00 Men's Beer & Curry Group	Lady Chapel Wheatsheaf Pub Haven Lane/ Monty's Restaurant The Mall
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>		10.00 Best Feet Forward Walk – RUISLIP WOODS	Meet in Church Car Park
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Easter 4	10.00 Parish Family Mass 12.15 Events Team Meeting 17.30 Evening Prayer	Parish Church Vicarage Lady Chapel
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>		20.00 Induction and Collation of Fr Michael Selby as Vicar of St Paul's, Ruislip Manor	St Paul's, Thurlstone Road, Ruislip Manor, HA4 0BP
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>		15.00 Ivy Café 19.30 Mass 20.00 Christians Together in Central Ealing	Church Hall Lady Chapel All Saints, Elmgrove Road
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>		15.45 First Communion Classes 19.30 Archdeacon's Visitation and swearing in of Churchwardens	Lady Chapel St Mary's, South Ealing Road
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Easter 5	09.15 Pebbles 10.00 Parish Mass with the baptism of Mylo & Floyd Forster-Landon 17.30 Evening Prayer	Lady Chapel Parish Church  Lady Chapel
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>		15.00 Ivy Café 19.30 Mass 20.00 PCC Meeting	Church Hall Lady Chapel Vicarage
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>		15.45 First Communion Class	Lady Chapel
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Easter 6	10am Parish Mass 17.30 Evening Prayer	Parish Church Lady Chapel
<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> School Half Term</b>			
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>		15.00 Ivy Cafe	Church Hall
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Ascension Day	20.00 Ascension Day Mass	Parish Church