

St Peter's Parish Chest May 2014

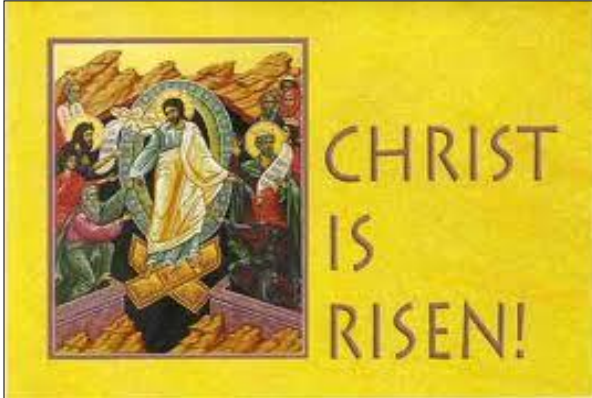
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A monthly bulletin of all that is accomplished by and within our church's community

Suggested Contribution 30p

Letter from the Vicar



In last month's Parish Chest I wrote about sharing story. Story is really important to the human condition and how we understand ourselves. We don't talk in abstracts, and it is often difficult to trust those who will not share their story. Sharing story is sharing a part of who we are; obviously not everything but that which we feel able and capable of sharing.

As we hear each other's story, maybe over that cuppa I referred to, there can be a new step to our developing relationship and that is invitation. Invitation is important because it enables us to cross boundaries and helps us deepen our relationships with each other. To be invited to coffee is to be allowed that bit closer into someone's life, to come to a better understanding of that person. The invitation to dinner is perhaps one of the most intimate invitations that can be offered.

A meal table is a very personal space. Placing food on a table and sharing this relatively intimate act of eating is personal and makes you a little vulnerable. Etiquette may not be so strict these days but how to behave at table is still important. We don't want to embarrass ourselves or commit a faux pas. The welcome to the table is important too; how we are received as guests and how we receive our guests. What we are offered to eat and drink says much about our hosts. Have they checked what we like? Have they provided enough food for the guests? Guests too are revealed in what they eat, how much and what they drink? We give a lot of ourselves as we invite or accept an invitation.

Invitation is an important element of evangelism. We might think of evangelism in the vein of a Billy Graham type rallies; a mass gathering of worshipers being invited to the altar, committing themselves to the Lord. Evangelism can be much more subtle than that.

There have been a plethora of studies lately looking at the health and well-being of the church and the spiritual life of our nation. In much of the research the most effective form of evangelism by far is invitation; personal invitations from one friend, neighbour, family member to another to join them in

a visit to church. The personal invitation encourages people to cross boundaries and thresholds that may seem monumental when approached on their own. The whole event is less intimidating and frightening when shared with someone who knows what to do, who can explain what is happening and who can demystify the event. Invitation also helps because the inviter is sharing something of themselves. They are saying this is important to me I'd like to share this with you.

In this season of Easter we will hear from scripture how many were invited to hear the good news of Jesus. The invitation may have come from the Apostles or even Jesus himself, "Come, follow me". The ultimate invitation from Jesus came as he invited his friends to share at his table. As he broke the bread and shared the cup his invitation came down through history to us. The invitation is to receive Jesus Christ, the risen Lord as our saviour, acknowledging through him that our sins are forgiven and God's love is showered upon us. This is our Easter invitation which we are encouraged to share with our neighbours and friends and family. Let's invite others to the Lord's Table, to hear the good news of Jesus and share in that meal which reveals God's love for us and for the world. **Fr David**

Sharing the Good News of Easter

Alexandra Pridgeon, who along with her husband Alexander, has been very generously using her time and skills to create our new website and social media writes:

"Thanks to all those of you who delivered the new look Easter cards to the parish. As Fr David says, this is such an important part of our evangelism and mission, and is one of the most important ways of letting all those who live in our parish know that St Peter's is here. We hope that we will have more volunteers signing up and putting on their walking shoes for the Christmas card delivery!"



Bertie Pridgeon 'helping' his mum deliver Easter cards.

Lent is over! Alleluia!



The paschal candle shining brightly.

Easter was late this year, but wonderful when it came. Here at St Peter's the journey through Lent towards Easter has offered many opportunities to reflect on the meaning of this great festival in our own lives.

The Prayer Breakfasts held each Tuesday in Lent proved to those who attended not just a very good (if rather early) start to the day, but a chance to see the parish through the eyes of those early commuters, whose everyday routine begins before many of us are up, and who walk past our church doors before they are open. It felt very fitting to pray for all those in our parish starting these long and often demanding days in the city and beyond. We wondered how many come home after our doors are shut too?

Two Lent groups ran this year, both with the theme of "Pilgrimage in Daily Life", inspired by Sally Welch's book *Every Place is Holy Ground*. One group, led by Fr David, met each Monday afternoon in the vicarage and used director Emilio Estevez's film *The Way* as a starting point for discussion each week. A second group met at Susan Peatfield's home on Thursday evenings and explored ways of seeing our homes and communities as places where we can find God at work in our lives. The group was encouraged to pause and to notice what God is showing us in the everyday places of our lives. The final session was a journey around St Peter's looking at the place we know and love so well with pilgrim eyes.

Also during Lent there was the invitation each Wednesday to walk the Stations of the Cross, and Sunday by Sunday sermons also followed the theme of pilgrimage. With Easter we both reach our destination and are given new strength and encouragement for the journey onwards.

Holy Week and Easter Day 13th -20th April 2014

Palm Sunday saw us gathering on a sunny Haven Green to remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. We did not have a donkey but we did have palm crosses and branches very enthusiastically waved by younger members of the procession. Once in church we heard the dramatized Gospel according to St Matthew powerfully read to us by David Blumlein, Susan Gould and Val Stephens.



All Glory, Laud and Honour on Haven Green.

On **Maundy Thursday** we met to remember the night before Jesus was crucified, where he shared supper with his friends and gave them a new commandment "Love one another as I have loved you." (We get our word Maundy from the Latin for "to command", *mandare*.) We also remember Jesus washing his disciples' feet, preparing them for servanthood in the world by his own service to them. In his sermon, the Reverend Harold Stringer, noted that it is sometimes much harder - requires more humility - to let others care for you than to care for others. He encouraged us to take the opportunity offered later in the service to let our hands or feet be washed in recognition of Christ's care for us and our care for each other.

At the end of the service the altar was stripped and we processed to the Lady Chapel, decked as the Garden of Gethsemane, to watch and pray.

On **Good Friday** morning the Churches Together in Ealing Walk of Witness was held. We began at St Peter's by the painting of the Judgement Hall of Pilate. We were joined by friends from St. Andrew's and the Quakers. By the time the procession reached Christ the Saviour many hundreds had joined us to hear the Reverend Steve Morris share a simple but heartfelt testimony of his own inspiring journey to faith.

From twelve noon until 3pm Fr David led a series of reflections with music, concluding with the Veneration of the Cross and the Good Friday liturgy.



Waiting to Walk in the Way of the Cross

From then all was quiet until the **Easter Vigil**, this year beginning at 5am on **Easter Day**. The service begins with readings from the Old Testament and after the lighting of the new fire continues with the singing of the "Gloria" and the celebration of the first Eucharist of Easter.

Those attending the Vigil then shared a simple breakfast, while others in the congregation prepared to attend the 10 am Parish Eucharist.

It was wonderful to see the church so full for this service and especially good to welcome those living in the parish who joined us on this special day. Some clearly prompted by receiving an Easter card detailing our services this year.

The church was also filled with beautiful flowers, the Easter Garden looking glorious in its new position in the north aisle. Musically the fare was equally gorgeous with the choir in good voice and joined by Ruth Beckmann once again. Ruth sang "I know that my Redeemer Liveth" from Handel's Messiah. Many thanks as ever to Jane Campbell and her team for the flowers and to Mark James and the choir for the music we have enjoyed this season.

After the service younger members of the congregation enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt, and older members a glass of something sparkling. Thanks to the Junior Church leaders and to Fr David for these delights!

APCM

This year the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** was held on **Sunday 6th April**. The meeting was an opportunity to say thank you and to ask questions, as well as for Fr David to share his strong vision for the future: one based on evangelisation and prayer. Amongst the many thank yous were those to our churchwardens Allison McAllister and Duncan Reid-Thomas for all they have contributed to our life together here at St Peter's over the past year.

Special thanks were extended to Duncan, who is standing down from the role this year, for his time and much valued legal expertise. It has been greatly appreciated. Greatly appreciated too is the news that Angus McAvoy will be succeeding Duncan as churchwarden. This will stand alongside Angus's dedication to the maintenance of our buildings and his commitment to the work of Traidcraft and Christian Aid as a very generous contribution of his time and talents.

There were other changes to the PCC, including Richard Peatfield completing his last term as member "for a while." Richard has been a PCC member for over fifteen years, including a stint as churchwarden. Thanks were extended to him and to all who have served on the PCC over the past year.

PCC Office Bearers 2014 -2015

Chair: Fr David

Vice Chair: Allison McAllister

Churchwardens: Allison McAllister and Angus McAvoy

Secretary: Susan Brewin

Treasurer: Roland Stumpf

Stewardship Recorder: Ellena Jamie

Electoral Roll: Lesley Brooks

During the APCM office holders were thanked for all their hard work, especially this year our treasurer, Roland Stumpf, for giving so much of his time to effect the diocesan changes to how we order and present our accounts.

We are also very grateful to Val Stephens for all the time and care she gives in her role as sacristan and in continuing to represent the parish on the Deanery Synod – and for the sandwiches!



Angus and Allison will be licensed as our churchwardens on **Monday 12 May, 7.30pm** at Christ the Saviour, Ealing Broadway – why not come along and support them?

Get involved this Eastertide...

Amnesty Group



Moira Babary writes:

At our last meeting we wrote to the Chinese President regarding Liu Xia, a poet, artist and human rights defender, who has been under illegal house arrest in Beijing since 2010, when her husband, prominent scholar Dr Liu Xiaobo, was awarded the Nobel Peace prize. He is currently serving an 11 year sentence for 'inciting subversion of state power' based on articles calling for reform in China, published in 2008.

Liu Xia was prevented from attending her husband's trial and was repeatedly denied contact with him after his arrest. She is not even allowed to read the letters he writes her. She cannot leave the house as security guards stand outside and is not allowed visitors or access to the telephone or internet.

Our letters of appeal urged the authorities to stop restricting Liu Xia's freedom, to allow her to work to earn an income, to receive independent medical treatment and to allow Liu Xia and Liu Xiaobo to read the letters they write to each other.

The letters we wrote (and that many more Amnesty members will be writing) will, at the least, make the authorities aware that Liu Xia and Liu Xiaobo who were only acting peacefully are not forgotten.

We would welcome more people joining the group – we meet once a month for an hour on the 3rd Wednesday of the month – next meeting

8.15 pm Wednesday 21 May.

Please speak to Fr David or to Moira for more details.

Christian Aid Week coming soon!

11th – 17th May 2014



If you have not already spoken to Angus McAvoy about getting involved in collecting for Christian Aid week please do let him know how you can help in this really important work.

Reading Matters

Fr David recommends some good Eastertide food for thought:

***Being Christian* by Rowan Williams**

Published by SPCK 2014 pp.82 £7.99

The ordinary person in any church pew is often reticent when it is suggested they read some theology. It seems such a technical term, dry and unapproachable, not really Jo Bloggs kind of bed time reading. Here is theology from one of the best theological thinkers of our time that is approachable, digestible, informative and useful.

Rowan Williams identifies four core elements to the Christian life: baptism, bible, eucharist and prayer; some might say the four main pillars of our faith and not in themselves light subjects. Yet here Rowan Williams, in his characteristically poetic and engaging way explores these four key elements of the Christian faith in a way that is intelligent, informative and digestible.

He does not seek to unravel centuries of debate on each subject. Using his vast knowledge and his ability to communicate in a clear and straight forward way Rowan takes the reader through each subject helping them to see how bible and baptism, eucharist and prayer are key elements in a Christians life of faith and how they each speak to us and help us come closer to God. Rowan shows us how each element aides us in our faith journey. He handles them in a way that takes away any apprehension and

engages the reader almost as if in a private conversation. There is an intimacy that helps us engage and share in his insights. As Rowan himself says in his introduction, "In this book we shall be looking at what those activities (meaning prayer, bible, baptism, eucharist) tell us about the essence of the Christian faith, and what kind of people we might hope to become in a community where those things are done."

I enjoyed this short book. I learnt many new things and saw key elements of my faith in a new light. I hope you do too.

St Peter's Book Club

If you enjoy reading and would value sharing some of your thoughts with other readers here at St Peter's then do consider joining the St Peter's Book Club.

Members of the club spent a lovely evening on **Thursday 24th April** discussing *Stoner* by John Williams, *A Possible Life* by Sebastian Faulks and *The Power of One* by Bryce Courtenay. We were delighted to be joined by the writer Tom Kelsey, who shared some of his insights into the first of these books. In the discussion that followed we also shared some of our own favourite books and the importance reading had played and continues to play in our lives. An extract from Tom's presentation* on *Stoner* follows.

Tom Kelsey writes:

When John Williams, the author of *Stoner*, was asked if literature was written to be entertaining he replied in quite a forthright manner. He said, "[a]bsolutely. My God, to read without joy is stupid." This assertion is central to our understanding *Stoner* as a piece of fiction, but also it can help us appreciate how its lead character presents himself as an essential hero for our times. Many people have seen William Stoner, the eponymous protagonist of the novel, as a rather tragic figure as they argue that his life is offered to us as a particularly sad one. An existence spent full of mistakes and inaction. This is not a particularly insightful way of looking at the book. Stoner, through the pen of Williams, is a man who looks at the world with a brutal honesty, remains satisfied, even grateful, and at least in a small part does exactly what he loves to do, which is often to read....There is a wonderful part in *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis when he is recounting the descent of a character into meaninglessness. He described how this person need not be distracted from his life through a good book any more, but merely a column of advertisements from yesterday's paper would suffice. This process continued until the unfortunate person reached his deathbed and at this point the man in question could say to himself, "I now see that I spent most my life in doing neither what I ought nor what I liked. " Rather than use his time, it seemed that all that had happened was he had lived "staring at a dead fire in a cold room." To place this in some form of context Lewis was writing as a devil talking to another devil about how to corrupt people, which I feel could go some way to explain how depressing all of this is. Anyhow, the reason I mention all of this is because I think it can help us understand Stoner a little more. Although his life is hard, Stoner's fire never goes out. He clings onto to everything that comes his way.

Our next meeting is a supper evening at Susan Peatfield's home on **Wednesday 25th June** where we shall continue our discussion of *The Power of One*, and try to have read Emily Brönte's *Wuthering Heights*. New members are always very welcome. Please speak to Susan for more details or email sjpeatfield@aol.com

*To read more please visit www.tlrb.org

Easter Celebrations

The feast of Easter does not end on Easter Day; Eastertide is with us until Ascension Day on Thursday 29th May. Why not vary the chocolate diet with the following recipe for a delicious early summer treat?

White Chocolate and Berry Cheesecake*



Ingredients

2 x 150g bars white chocolate
2 x 300g tubs soft cheese
50g caster sugar
170g punnet raspberries
5 tbsp raspberry jam
85g amaretti biscuits
200g small strawberries
a few blueberries (optional)

Method

Break the chocolate into a glass bowl, then put it over a pan of just simmering water to melt, making sure the bottom of the bowl doesn't touch the water. Line a lightly oiled 900g loaf tin with cling film.

Whisk the cheese, cream and sugar together, preferably with electric beaters, then stir into the almost-cool melted white chocolate until well combined.

Stir 50g raspberries with 2 tbsp of the jam. Spoon half the cheese mixture into the loaf tin, then spoon the jammy raspberries down the centre. Top with the rest of the cheese mixture, level the top, then press in the biscuits. Cover and chill for 6 hrs or overnight. Set aside about 6 strawberries. Halve the rest, then warm in a pan with the remaining jam until soft. Whizz in a food processor or with a hand blender, then rub through a sieve to remove the seeds and make a sauce. Add a drop of water if the sauce is too thick.

To serve, carefully turn the tin onto a plate, lift it away and strip off the cling film. Halve the remaining strawberries, then arrange on top of the cake with the remaining raspberries and blueberries (if using). Pour over a little sauce and serve the rest separately for drizzling over.

*BBC Good Food recipe

Spring Posy Posers

What familiar springtime flowers are being described here?

1. From the vineyard of a Greek youth?
2. Cattle falling over?
3. Foolish duck served with unhealthy herb?
4. Look in your eyes for this one!
5. And under your nose for these!



See if you can work out what is in this spring posy and you can win what is in this lovely spring scene (for yourself or a younger friend)!

Please give your entries to the editor or send them to sjpeatfield@aol.com by Wednesday 21 May 2014

Photograph Competition

We are always looking for photographs for the Parish Chest and now for our new website and social media sites. Why not send in a photograph for inclusion in next month's issue? The theme for the June edition is "Summertime". There will be a prize for the best entry and Alexander and Alexandra Pridgeon will put together an album on our facebook page. All entries to sjpeatfield@aol.com by **Wednesday 21 May**.

This is also the deadline for all other articles for the June issue.

Looking Forward...

Men's Beer and Curry Society Meeting Thursday 15th May 2014

7.30pm at The Wheatsheaf

Ascension Day Service Thursday 29th May 2014

8pm Mass followed by wine and firework!

Nacka Youth Choir Concert Friday 30th May 2014

7pm at St Peter's

A delightfully varied programme will be given by these young singers aged 16-21, from pop to gospel and British choral music.

Paul Ayres Organ Concert Saturday 14th June 2014

5pm at St Peter's.

Paul is a former St Peter's Director of Music and will be presenting a lively mix of major organ works and pop tunes – not to be missed!

More Music!



Norwegian composer, organist and pianist,
Sverre Eftestøl

By the time you will have picked up this copy of *The Parish Chest* two more very important musical events will have taken place at St Peter's. It will be too late to include reviews in this issue but a full account will be given in the June edition.

The first is an organ recital given by Richard Pinel, Organist of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, on **Tuesday 29th April 2014**.

The second is the concert given by Sverre Eftestøl, on **Friday 2nd May 2014**.

A wonderful Eastertide feast! Thank you again to our Director of Music, Mark James, for arranging this concert series.

St Peter's People

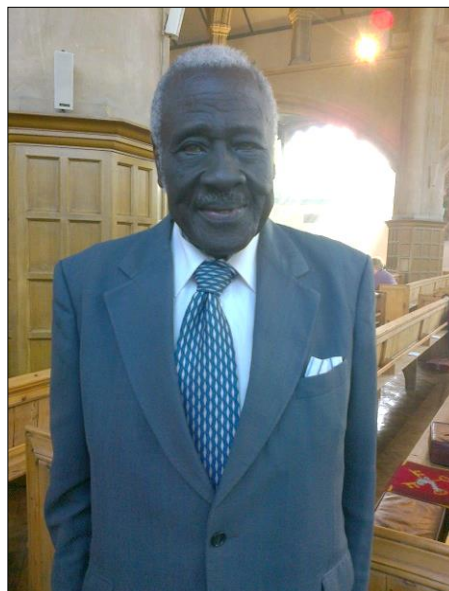
Welcome home!



Something to celebrate – seeing Julie, Simon and Tashi back at St Peter's (also Simon and Julie's 23rd Wedding Anniversary)

It was with great joy that we welcomed home the Chadwick family here on a flying visit from Singapore. They are much missed by all of us at St Peter's but it was lovely to hear their news and to see how much they are enjoying their new life on the other side of the world. Come again soon!

Hon. Justice Cornelius Harding



Cornelius Harding at St Peter's

With great regret we learned that Cornelius Harding died just before Easter while in his native Sierra Leone. He was a very faithful member of St Peter's, a distinguished judge and a great benefactor to many charities. The Sierra Leone News website reported:

"A famous Sierra Leonean philanthropist, the 87 years old retired Supreme Court Judge, Hon. Justice Cornelius Harding has peacefully passed on from time to eternity. The late Hon. Harding who died in Freetown on Tuesday 8th April 2014, is remembered for many good deeds but most of all, for being the remarkable Sierra Leonean citizen who donated over a billion leones of his personal fortune to various needy institutions."

He will be greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Year's Mind

4 May	Doris Anderson (1988)
6 May	George Rogers (1979)
8 May	Janice Knight (2005)
9 May	Leonard Sprunt (1991)
14 May	Dorothy Bartlett (1963)
21 May	Bertha Chappell (1993)
24 May	Stanley Dyke (1978)
27 May	William Brown (1987)



On the Road to Emmaus...