

St Peter's Parish Chest May 2015

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

Suggested Contribution 30p



Vicar's Report

This month instead of his customary letter Fr David is sharing with us his report that he gave at our Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 19th April 2015 (see article later in this issue). Fr David thanked all who had served St Peter's in the past year, with especial thanks to the churchwardens and the PCC, and then described the vision for the year ahead:

In last year's address I focused on evangelism and our, along with every other parish churches, need to keep this as a watch word in all our thinking and deliberations for the foreseeable future. I pointed out that the relationship or place for the church within the 21st Century community has changed and we need to discover how we can best change with it to continue to proclaim the good news of Jesus a fresh in every age. Evangelism is after all about looking outwards and effecting as well as being affected by the world around us. As Jesus preached and journeyed around Israel this was exactly how he encouraged his message to be encountered. The disciples, as they struggled to take the good news of Jesus out into the world found they too had to respond with the good news in a way that had meaning and understanding for the people to whom they went. Paul and Peter both looked to see what the Holy Spirit was saying to them and helping them proclaim Jesus a fresh in every community they encountered. So too for us today. Repeating what we have been doing in the past is not necessarily a way forward, often it becomes a way to entrenchment and obscurity.

We have been exploring new ways of doing things, of communicating with our parish and reaching out with news of events. We continue to welcome and offer hospitality. We open our doors daily to a great variety of people. This coming year will so more opportunities to share the love of God in Jesus with our parish and hope you will feel able to share in them. An example being the launch of Pebbles a monthly term time service for 0-5s.

Our programme for 2015 has been reviewed and circulated today is a diary of significant dates which will include some new ventures and some new approaches to tried and trusted events. We hope to open up opportunities to encourage the wider community to engage with the church and to develop fellowship between members through which we can strengthen and encourage church life.

Next month will see my third anniversary as vicar of St Peter's; where does the time go? This tends to be a good time to take stock and reflect on a few key elements in church life.

I am using 3D Coaching, a Diocesan recognised Professional Coaching Team to work on a project to do just this which will involve St Peter's in asking a few interesting and informative questions of our leadership and ourselves. The first part of the project is to explore, three years in, what do you want from, expect and wish to encourage in your vicar and team. A questionnaire is being prepared that will help us think constructively about this and help us look to the future development of ministry in our parish. The point in this being that often when working in parish ministry the leadership is left trying to second guess what the needs and expectations of the community might be. This project aims to clarify what you really want and expect and to looking to respond constructively and creatively in a more focused and managed way.

The second project which will follow on will be based of the work of Canon Dr Richard Impey, one time Bishops Advisor and Parish Development Officer of Sheffield Diocese to ask us about our self and how we see our life together now and in the coming years. How can we develop our life of faith together and become a growing and vibrant parish in this part of Ealing. This is still in formation and I plan to have a clearer vision for this in the next month or two.

The third project is to encourage the PCC to explore its method of governance and see how we might do this better; how we might become more proactive in our work for the parish, the sharing of the love of God and include more members in our work. It maybe what we are doing is right for us. It might be with a few tweaks we can do things better. This is to respond more openly to the changing nature of life in the 21st century and how we might more effectively and proactively carry out the work of God together.

These areas have come to mind in light of the work we have already completed in our Mission Action Plan, a revision of which you have had sight of today and the Diocesan project of Capital Vision 2020 where we as a parish are being encouraged along with the rest of the Diocese to see how we might be compassionate, creative and confident in our life of faith and our proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ.

All of which is great stuff. It does not negate our continuing responsibility to pray, study and give. A parish that does not pray is spiritually dead, for without God at the centre of what we do our words become hollow. There are opportunities for prayer through the provision of the daily office and mid-week mass as well as our gathered Sunday worship. As other opportunities arise do come and use these times to be with God. There are opportunities during the year to study. If we are going to be effective evangelists for Jesus we must have some idea what we are talking about. There are many Christians who never open their Bible let alone attend study programmes. I encourage you to take up opportunities that the leadership team offer for study so that you can be informed and effective Christians in a world that is ever more becoming secular and that you can come to know your faith and your God.

Above all else pray for Christ's ministry here, asking God how you might share in God's work.

Fr David

Easter Tidings!

As promised last month, here is a round-up of some of the events and services we saw and took part in over Holy Week and Easter.

Passion for Ealing



"Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?"

This year the Churches Together in Central Ealing made the decision to vary the usual Walk of Witness through Ealing Broadway and instead to present a Passion enactment. This began with worship songs on Haven Green at 10am on **Good Friday 3rd April**. The Reverend Steve Newbold, Vicar of St Stephen's, set the scene and encouraged us to follow Jesus as he carried his cross along the Broadway and to shout and harry him as he made his way to Christ the Saviour's where the crucifixion would take place. For all present it was an immensely powerful occasion. The juxtaposition of everyday Ealing and the violence of the cross brought home both the reality of public execution and the plight of Christians across the world today persecuted for their faith. Christine Neyman played the role of Mary very poignantly, and members of our choir supported the music group led by Neil Latchman of St Mary's. All involved in this new way of sharing the Good News on Good Friday deserve our thanks and hopes that it will continue to enrich our Holy Week journey in the future.

On another St Peter's note it was good to see that the stewarding of the event was in the capable hands of Angus McAvoy, our churchwarden, and many from St Peter's donned hi-vis tabards for the morning.



Ready for anything...

Bright and Early...

The tradition of the Church from earliest times has been to wake early on the morning of Easter Day to celebrate the resurrection by lighting the new fire of Easter and bringing the Light of Christ into the dark church, cold and empty since the liturgy of Good Friday.

This beautiful Dawn Vigil and service echoes the wonder of the women who went to the empty tomb that first Easter Day. In the lighting of the Easter candle and in the singing of ancient words of joy in the Exultet we connect ourselves to all Christendom across the centuries.

Margaret Joachim has kindly sent in a picture of a manuscript showing the musical notation of the Exultet as sung by Fr David here at St Peter's this Easter Day. Margaret has sent an account of this too, please speak to her if you would like to know more.



"Rejoice heavenly powers..."

This manuscript does not divulge whether a good breakfast follows this ancient early rising, but at St Peter's this is definitely the tradition. It was lovely to share an Easter meal together after our early start. A good number came into the church hall for that all important first coffee of Easter!

Financial contributions towards the breakfast were sent to the Bishop of London's Lent Appeal.



Festival breakfast

Easter Celebration

Following the Easter Dawn Vigil and breakfast we met again later for our main celebration at 10am on **Easter Day Sunday 5th April**.

St Peter's was full of life, light, colour, flowers, music and people! It was very clear that our Easter card (thanks again to Alex Pridgeon for organizing this, and to all "post-people") had prompted several families in the parish to join us on this great festival day.

The service showed St Peter's at its best as indeed did the freely flowing fizz and delicious Easter refreshments after the service.

Many, many thanks to all who played a part in this especially Mark James, our Director of Music, and our choir joined for the occasion by Ruth Beckmann, Jane Campbell and the flower team, Anne Reilly and all on the coffee rota, and Val Stephens and the serving team.



The splendour of the Season in white and gold.

While most of the grown-ups made a start on the fizz etc the Junior Church leaders led an Easter Egg Hunt in Montpellier Park.

It was wonderful to have so many children, some of them newcomers, in the service and to share some of the Easter fun afterwards.

Many thanks to Adam Grimley (shown giving helpful directions below) and all other leaders and parents involved in this, and thank you to Alex Pridgeon for the photograph.



Easter Egg-splanation

APCM



Parish in progress...

On **Sunday 19th April** we met after church and some delicious refreshments (many thanks to Val and Anne for organizing this) to hold our **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**. This is the time when we review the year just past and discuss plans for the year ahead.

Fr David began his presentation with some thank yous to all involved in keeping St Peter's in good order during the year. His words are reproduced here:

"I begin with offering my thanks to our churchwardens. To Angus for the sterling work he has done for the parish over the past year. His support of the Night shelter, work on the church hall and his ever watchful eye on all things building related, using his wealth of knowledge and expertise ensuring the life and worship of the parish continues. Thank you too to Moira who has stood for election this time around, offering her time and talents as part of the leadership Team at St Peters for the coming year.

Thank you to Roland and Susan for their services as treasurer and PCC Secretary. Vital jobs that go on in the back ground whilst parish life continues yet without which we would be in real dilemmas. Thanks also to Lesley whose help and support in the day to day running of the parish as administrator is vital not only to the promotion of the parish as a whole but also to my health and wellbeing (though I wonder sometimes if working with me may not have added a few grey hairs to her head!). Thanks also to the PCC members who are standing down this time around. Thank you for your time and effort in sharing in the work of the parish, fulfilling our tasks and helping to ensure that in many ways we continue to proclaim the good news of Jesus.

Thank you to the people of St Peter's for your continual generosity of time, talents and money sharing in the work of God in this parish. A special thank you this year for your generous response to our recent stewardship programme. We still have a way to go but we have been blessed with the generosity we have received so far and we have made a good start. Thank you.

Thank you to those who have delivered our Christmas and Easter Cards through the parish. This is very important evangelistic work and each year, each season it has borne fruit. Only this Easter several new families, resident in the parish, joined us for the great feast of Easter through receiving the Easter Cards.

Last but certainly not least thanks to our outgoing churchwarden Allison. Thank you for your care and attention, for your faithfulness and insight, for your love of St Peter's and your desire to promote the ministry of this community. Thank you for your time, talents, determination and wisdom. Thank you for being you. Allison has gone far and away beyond the realms of duty. She has lived through every churchwarden's nightmare, an interregnum. She has seen through very successfully our first two phases of restoration works and she has seen in and coped with a new vicar. Learning to live without her on the team will be difficult, but it will have to be done. Thank you Allison, and as I said at our final PCC meeting of this cycle 'thank you' is in many ways an insufficient word."



With all our love and thanks...

Lots of other thanks were offered to those helping us all to have a busy and enjoyable year. Not least to Lesley Brooks, our administrator extraordinaire and Electoral Roll Officer. With this "hat" on Lesley told us that we have 105 people on the roll.

Reports in the **APCM Booklet** cover all the very many ways the people of St Peter's show Christ's love in this place. There was also an updated version of our parish **Mission Action Plan** showing the way we have responded to the projects set two years ago.

If you have not had a chance to look at this material please do take a few minutes to read about all we are doing and being here at St Peter's.

Fr David thanked those standing down from the PCC this year for all their support and welcomed those joining the PCC having been duly elected.

Newly elected PCC members

Moir Babary Churchwarden
Linda Foster (second term)
Sarah Hare
Ann Lazarow
Helen Peatfield
David Rowe

From the PCC Alex Pridgeon will be joining the Mission Team and Helen Peatfield will be joining the Events Team.

Charity Matters

Readers may remember that one of the main beneficiaries this of profits from the Christmas Bazaar this year was **Riding for the Disabled at Wormwood Scrubs**. Marlene Sladen wrote a short piece for *The Parish Chest* thanking St Peter's for the donation and, along with explaining a little of what happens at the centre, invited us to the opening of the new classroom on **Thursday 9th April**.



Clare Balding at Wormwood Scrubs

Val Stephens, Madeleine and Richard Morse attended the opening of a new class room by Clare Balding at the Pony Club in Wormwood Scrubs. The new classroom has two notable features, a mechanical horse with TV monitoring to teach young, often disabled riders in a safe environment. The other feature is the presence of two donkeys which are also to be used in training. The club has a large indoor riding ring – where juice and sandwiches were served. There is also an open air circuit at the back of the stable block. We saw many of the horses, including two enormous police horses and it was interesting to talk to volunteers (including Marlene) and officials around the site.

(Many thanks to Madeleine and Richard Morse for this account and photograph.)

Breakfast Again!



On **Saturday 9th May** St Peter's is hosting a breakfast to launch **Christian Aid Week 2015**. The breakfast will be served from 9am – 11am in the church hall and should be a very good and tasty way to get involved with this vital work.

Christian Aid is marking its 70th year in 2015. Now more than ever funds are needed to respond to the desperate situations of people across the world – people of all faiths and none.

***Please put the date in your diary
and come along!***

Looking Forward...

A list of key dates of events and services was handed out at the APCM. Copies are still available at the back of the church if you were not able to pick one up on the day. Two dates to make sure you have a note of are:

St Peter's Day Patronal Festival Sunday 28th June

with the Festival service at 10am followed by a lunch and this year then followed by an organ recital by Peter Holder to complete the celebration.

Mark James writes:

Peter Holder, organist at St Paul's has just confirmed he can get the time off from the Cathedral that Sunday. He will give us an excellent, fun concert and likely draw a good audience as his fantastic playing is widely known. For more information about Peter and his work please look at details on the Royal Academy of Music's website www.ram.ac.uk.



Our St Peter's Day recitalist at St Paul's.

Harvest Fayre Saturday 3rd October 2015



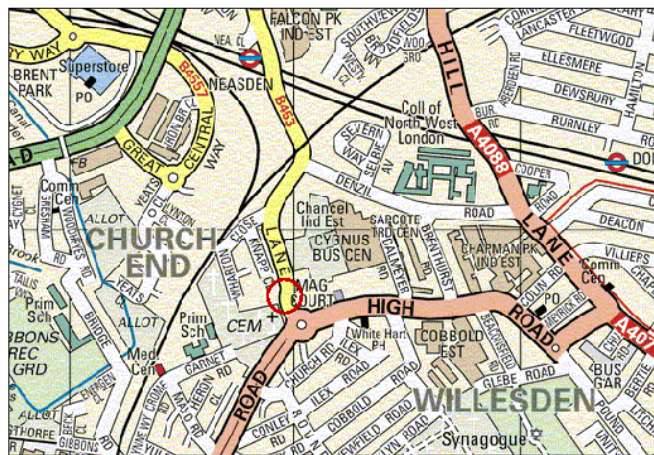
This is new venture for St Peter's to celebrate the season of harvest with an event open to all in the parish and beyond. The exact format is yet to be decided but the plan is to have harvest-themed stalls and events in the church hall and grounds and hopefully some demonstrations of local crafts and traditions.

Our first planning meeting is on **Sunday 10th May** after the service. Please do come along with any suggestions for the day, or if you would like to be involved but cannot make the meeting please speak to Susan Peatfield or email sipeatfield@aol.com.

Out and About

At the time of going to press our Iona pilgrims have safely returned home, deeply refreshed and, we hope, full of tales of all they saw and felt on their special journey. We hope to have an article and some pictures from Iona in the **May issue of The Parish Chest**. Please do send any articles, on any topic of interest to readers, to sipeatfield@aol.com by **Wednesday 20th May**. NB earlier date as Editor is away later next month.

If you were unable to go to Iona why not consider having a local pilgrimage? Just a few miles up the road you can go and discover the **Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden**.



From St Mary's, Willesden's website www.shrineofmary.org

History of the Shrine

(also from website)

The origins of devotion to Our Lady of Willesden are lost in depths of history; but there is evidence by the fifteenth century of a considerable pilgrimage tradition. Pilgrimage medals even now are occasionally found. St Thomas More visited only two weeks before his arrest. It would have been quite an undertaking to visit, as Willesden was just woodland, and bandit country too. But for those living in and around London, it was the perfect way to make a day pilgrimage to an acknowledged Marian shrine without taking the much more arduous route to Walsingham, 120 miles to the north.

In 1538 the axe fell. Along with images from Walsingham and Ipswich, the Willesden image was dragged to Chelsea and burnt in a bonfire.... The Vicar of St Mary's had an enormous fine imposed upon him in perpetuity, for idolatry and superstition. Then at the beginning of the 20th century a new Vicar (Fr James Dixon) decided to throw off this antiquated shackle (and was not punished); and he set about reviving the Shrine. He acquired an image, which was gilded, and made much of the tradition of holy water, which is captured as it rises from beneath the ground here.

70 years later... the then Bishop of Willesden, Graham Leonard, gave new impetus to it. Very well attended annual pilgrimages took place, and a new image was commissioned.

St Mary's, Willesden cares for the Shrine and holds regular services, or you can just take a 266 bus and make a quick visit – it is worth visiting their website for opening times.

May, the Month of Mary



The St Peter's Mary with the Infant Jesus, given by Richard Hayes, a previous vicar here, in thanks for his recovery from serious illness. Dedicated on 8th September 1983.

Regular readers of *The Parish Chest* will know that our "Monthly Martyrs" columnist **John Peatfield** is preoccupied with GCSEs this term. He should be back at his laptop for us in September. Instead this month we have a short piece on Mary (in continuity with the article on previous page) and why she is traditionally associated with the month of May:

The practice of dedicating the month of May to our Lady was popularized especially by Pope Leo XIII – beginning in 1883 and concluding in 1889. The reasoning behind it though is less clear.

Some have pointed to the fact that, in classic western culture (both Greek and Roman), May was recognized as the season of the beginning of new life. In the Greek world, May was dedicated to the goddess Artemis and associated with fecundity. Roman culture linked the month of May to Flora, the goddess of bloom and blossoms – this led to the custom of *ludi florales* (or floral games) which took place at the very end of April as a preparation for entering into the month of May.

It seems that this ancient tradition of connecting May with new life and fecundity, led to a realization that May is very much the month of motherhood – this may be the reason why Mother's Day is celebrated during May not only in the United States but in many countries and cultures of both the East and the West. In the month of May, the winter comes to an end and the spring season begins (this was the official beginning of spring in Roman culture). This new beginning and new birth is a testimony to the motherhood of Mother Earth.

The connection between motherhood and May led Christians eventually to adopt May as Mary Month. May is the Month of our Lady precisely as the Mother of God.

(From an article by Fr Ryan Erlenbush, newtheologicalmovement.co.uk)

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)



We will remember them...

Lance-Sergeant Alfred Winyard of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry died at Ypres on 21st May 1915 aged 26.

Editor's Note

Dear *Parish Chest* readers,

I do hope that your Eastertide and the coming summer are going to be full of good things for you and yours, and indeed that some of these make it onto our pages here.

This summer will mark three years since I took over the editorship from the very capable hands of Trevor and Christine Bates. I have very much enjoyed the opportunity to share "all that is achieved" at St Peter's in this time, but I feel the time has come for a new voice to be heard.

Please think and pray about whether that new voice is yours. If you think it might be then please have a word with me or with Fr David.

With all good wishes, *Susan Peatfield*

And finally...

Many thanks to Lou Grimley for sending this lovely photograph of St Peter's Junior Church at work

