

St Peter's Parish Chest November 2013

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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

We will remember

Last week I stood by a grave. Nothing unusual in that I suppose, bearing in mind my profession. I have stood at many gravesides in my time both in a professional and a personal capacity. As I stood at this graveside I shed silent tears. Again, in grief this is nothing unusual. I didn't know the person in the grave.

I was in the battle fields of Flanders, a grave in a war cemetery by a roadside in France. It was the grave of a 17 year old Private. When he died in that field World War 1 was three months old and he had barely learnt to live when shrapnel or a bullet took away his future; all hope and dreams and expectations taken in an instant. A tear quietly rolled down my face again that evening as I shared in the vigil at the Menin Gate in Iepers (Ypres) held each night at 8pm with the bugle call of the last post. Yet more silent tears the next day in The Somme at Thiepval and the Memorial to the 72,000 who died there between 1916 and 1918.

Why I was there doesn't matter, the important thing is that I was and only now am I beginning to realise this. I had gone with some friends who had an interest in history. I have come away reflecting on why I engaged so freely in a grief that in many ways is not mine. I didn't know that 17 year old boy of 1914. The lost soldiers of the Somme are but ghosts of history to me.

In each of us there is something that understands this grief. This time of year we do a lot of remembering. November begins with personal memorial in the All Souls Service and continues with national memorial in Remembrance Sunday. No one present will remember the First World War, those remembering the Second are getting fewer. As personal reflection passes why then should we remember? Because it is part of who we are.

Jesus understood this when he gave us the Eucharist. In breaking bread and sharing the common cup he gave a corporate nature to our individual faith lives. At the altar we come together in a real sense of belonging and all that that entails, sharing in faith and love. We gather in remembrance of his gift of God's love for us.

There are always discussions about remembrance, especially at this time of year and especially about national acts of remembrance. The discussions will only get louder as the centenary of the WW1 commencement gets nearer. When I was younger I turned away from them thinking such memorials triumphal and imperialistic. Perhaps now what we remember is the pain and sorrow, especially as we continue to bring our soldiers bodies back from foreign shores. In remembrance we begin to understand ourselves, what makes us who we are. In the cross we find God's place in remembrance.

Fr David

(Details of Remembrance Services on back page)



Harvest Home

At this year's Harvest event we were required to for exercise our brains answering quiz questions, but we were amply rewarded with a wonderful supper. It was clear that something very special was afoot as we arrived at the church hall to see a parade of brightly burning torches and a gazebo with very promising barbecue equipment awaiting us. The weather had clearly put our event in its diary as it was a glorious summery evening, allowing us to make the most of the church grounds. Inside, the hall had been transformed into a warm and welcoming a country-style venue for our supper. Small details, such as the handmade candle holders with salt dough hearts to tell us which table we were on, showed the loving thought that had gone into preparations for the evening. It was also wonderful to be entertained by our musicians for the evening – "Sam and Ella."



Keeping in tune with our "country" theme

Once sorted onto tables and into teams Fr David acted as very fine quizmaster whose "word was final!" Team names were suggestive of team members. They ranged from the "Infant Hyenas" the small but mighty table of Oliver McAllister and James and Leah Bradshaw) to "Choral Muesli" (the aptly

named choir and Traidcraft team) along with others including "Felines", "Lucky Seven", "The Mounties" (most of the team live on Mount Park Road), "AA" and "All Sorts." Victory in the end went to this last named table. This was most appropriate as they had answered all sorts of questions with impressively high scores in each round. It was a very well conceived quiz, so thanks to Clive Brand for providing the questions and Fr David for keeping us all in order.



The man with all the questions (and answers!)

The high point though was the wonderful supper prepared for us by Robert and Rebecca Weaver and team. We began with Rebecca's delicious Roasted Squash soup (we all want the recipe!) and then outside we collected a mouth-watering combination of grilled sausages, bacon and eggs. Good wholesome Harvest fare – many of us went back for seconds (thirds...). After a rest and the calling of the raffle, we enjoyed warm apple pies and cream. Those of us who could still move after this made our way home full of good things and happy memories.

Many thanks to all involved on the Events Team in preparing for the evening, and, for their vision and most of the hard work, we extend our thanks to Rebecca and Robert – a truly golden St Peter's occasion.



A master at work...

The warmth and good fellowship enjoyed on Saturday night flowed into our Harvest Service the following day. The church was gorgeously arrayed for Harvest (our thanks to Jane Campbell and her team for the wonders they work season by season).

Although this year our celebration coincided with Cub and Beaver Camp we were very pleased to see Dominic and Sharon Lunney (Cub leaders) and Elsa and Edmund Reid in uniform.

Our guest preacher Alison Wood spoke very simple but powerfully about the motivation behind the Ealing Churches Night Shelter whose work she chairs. She asked us all why when someone close to us comes to visit we give them lovely things to eat and drink. It is because we love them and show our love in this way. As we grow closer to Christ we want to share his love with the unloved people in our world. The Night Shelter is one way of showing this love. She invited the congregation to find out more during coffee after the service.

After the sermon the congregation came forward with their Harvest gifts. Soon the space before the nave altar was brimming with promising looking carrier bags and boxes. Fr David had offered a small prize for the best presented gift and there was a clear winner in Pedro Thompson-Peart. Well done Pedro!



Biscuits for Pedro, winner of "The Best Box"

During the time of receiving communion we were blessed by having Ruth Beckmann singing Faure's *In Paradisum* from his Requiem and then joining with the choir to sing the anthem. This along with the fine traditional Harvest hymns made us very thankful indeed for all God's good gifts to us, both material and spiritual.

Ealing Autumn Festival

One of the richest fruits of the Harvest season has been the Ealing Autumn Festival. St Peter's has been a venue for some great music events organised by the Festival this year. Alison Germany has written an excellent account of the concert held on Friday 11th October.

Many thanks to all who were involved in supporting this concert and the concert and workshops given by the Bridge Quartet on Sunday 20th October, especially those also able to offer their time and help with refreshments.

"Britten among friends from Russia"



From St Petersburg to St Peter's, Ealing

Alison Germany writes:

On Friday 11th October St Peter's hosted the opening event of the Ealing Autumn Festival. This year the Festival celebrated the work of composer Benjamin Britten, born 100 years ago; a great opportunity to celebrate his centenary locally with a variety of events and performances.

Our Friday evening event at St Peter's was billed as a 'Workshop and Open Rehearsal' with two choirs. 'Paying just to sit through a choir rehearsal?', I thought rather cynically when I saw the publicity; but as Gillian Spragg the Festival Director explained in the programme notes, there was more to it than that: "... to give some insight into how two choirs and two directors who have not worked together before and do not speak each other's language forge a working relationship and ultimately, friendships. These are the circumstances under which Britten, Peter Pears, Rostropovich, Shostakovich and Galina Vishnevskaya met, worked together and became close friends and musical collaborators."

At St Peter's our two choirs were the Addison Singers Chamber Choir based in Hammersmith, and the Voskreseniye Chamber Choir from St Petersburg. They rehearsed Rachmaninov, Shostakovich, and Britten, also Russian and English folksongs, each choir singing separately and for some pieces together.

Russian sacred music is less familiar to many people than that of Western European traditions. It was wonderful to hear this rich music resounding around St Peter's Ealing!

My personal highlights were: the Rachmaninov Vespers; hearing the Russian tenor soaring through the other voices, and the amazingly low basso profundo; a rich Russian mezzo singing a Gypsy Song; and the mysterious delight that is Benjamin Britten's Hymn to St Cecilia; singing together in Russian, the joint choir made a rich and impressive sound in the Kontakion for the Departed, and Rachmaninov's Vespers No 10 'Behold Christ is Risen'.

As the combined choirs rehearsed these pieces we saw the two Choir Directors working together: reading the music score and each other's conducting gestures often worked without language; where language was needed one of the younger Russian singers translated into English. One message came over as 'never mind those Russian words, just keep up with the beat!'

'Voskreseniye Khristovo videvshe' ('Behold Christ is Risen') the combined choirs sang in the Rachmaninov Vespers. The name of the St Petersburg Choir is also 'Voskreseniye' meaning 'Resurrection'. From the choir's website I learned that their name refers to the way Russian sacred music 'came back to life' in the 1990's after being banned for many decades under the Communist regimes. Now we rather take it for granted that we can hear musicians from Russia singing their sacred music and working with an English choir; very different from when Benjamin Britten was working with his Russian contemporaries back in the 1960s and 70s.

The Bridge Quartet



View of "The Bridge Quartet" at play

The Bridge Quartet and their *String-plicity* project for players of any age new to playing chamber music led three workshops and an informal concert culminating in their own String Quartet Concert at St Peter's on Sunday 20th October. This is a highly imaginative way to introduce ensemble playing which engages with visual art as well as music and much appreciated.

Let the Organ Thunder!

The music at St Peter's kept flowing as on **Friday 25th October** we welcomed David Davies, organist at Exeter Cathedral to play a concert of organ works. (Article to follow in the December Parish Chest.)

Feeding Ealing

As an update to the news of the Ealing Food bank in the October *Parish Chest* we are very grateful to Wendy Quill for sending this more detailed account of this very important work, and for Wendy's suggestions for how to become more involved.

Wendy Quill writes:

By the time you read this Ealing Foodbank will have been open for two weeks. The first distribution centre opened in Acton on October 18th and as I write this, on October 15th, there is much activity making sure that all is ready for Friday. We have decided to call our distribution points food bank cafes as we are keen that people can feel as comfortable as possible coming into them.

Susan asked me to write to let you know where things are and I know she has shared some of the article that appeared in The Gazette recently. So I have decided to share some personal reflections, rather than dry facts! If you would like to know more of the facts we have an excellent website at www.ealing.foodbank.org.uk. You can also email us at info@ealing.foodbank.org.uk.

I think, when I first spoke to you a few months ago, I shared my ambivalence about foodbanks. I am ashamed that one of the richest countries in the world is opening foodbanks at such a rate. To me this reflects a country whose values are upside down and where the ever increasing gap between the very rich and the poor is a subject of this or that political party is to blame, like the kind of argument 5 year olds have, rather than a cause of shame and a call to action. On the other hand there are needy people out there who need help now. Perhaps the words of the hymn have never been more potent in recent times: "I was poor I was hungry were you there, were you there?"

As a result of my feelings I have contacted the three MPs who represent Ealing borough. Two have failed to respond, even the MP for Acton. One has been the catalyst for moving us forward dramatically. During the summer we began to realize what a difficult task it was to find a large central store for the food. Acting on advice from a church meeting I attended, I emailed Steve Pound, one of Ealing's MPs. He quickly responded copying in the Head of Ealing Council asking about the basement of Hanwell Community Centre. This email was quickly passed to the three members of the council who have special responsibility for helping Ealing residents who are hit by cuts. The upshot of all this is that we have a store in Hanwell Community Centre that was cleared, cleaned and painted for us by the staff there. Thanks to some of our trustees, made up of local clergy, we have this for 6 months, rent free. We can continue to use the centre after that but will need to pay £200 a month, half the rent that the council could get for the space.

So my first reflection is that it is easy to become cynical about politicians but we also need to be very thankful that there are still politicians out there who know what it means to serve. I also found myself being proud to live in Ealing. I wonder how many other boroughs have a sub group of the council delegated to help residents in such difficulties?

My job has been to find, train and sign up voucher partners. These are statutory or charitable groups who work directly with people in crisis. They are given vouchers that can be given to people in food crisis. That is people who would go hungry before their next payment, wage or benefit, without a food bank voucher. I have met some great people but none stay with me more than the middle aged social worker, who has been doing the job for a long time and told me, that he had never seen things so bad. He met people who were so trapped by their situation caused by recent benefit cuts that he couldn't see how they would ever break free.

So my second reflection is yes, things are really this bad, we do need foodbanks in areas like Ealing. My reading of the Gospels, shaped by scholars and theologians is that Jesus was political, perhaps it's time the Church began to follow suit.

Finally a really heart -warming finding is that people are very generous. When you are standing in a supermarket, trying to tell a shopper about the foodbank, only to have them rush past trying not to meet your eye, it's difficult to resist angry thoughts. But; since the 20th September we have collected 4.5 metric tonnes of food. This is from a supermarket collection at Morrison's in Acton, many schools and churches who have donated their harvest and from some permanent collection sites. We also have all of the staff of West London mental Health Team poised to collect for us in December, we only have to open the store and let them in!



Keeping the shelves stocked takes time

How can people at St Peter's join in with this project? There are many ways;

Become a volunteer, there are lots of different roles and they do not all involve giving up regular amounts of time. To do this, go to the website and complete a form online. Someone will get back to you and be very grateful for your offer;

Donate money. Some people have asked why we need money. I have already said we have to pay rent from next year. We have to pay an annual fee to Trussell Trust, who are the national group who support us. We have had to furnish the warehouse and we know that very soon we will need to employ a part time administrator. You can give as an individual, electronically by emailing the foodbank and the bank details will be given to you. If you are a UK taxpayer you can claim gift aid by donating through the just giving site of Ray Wall who ran the Ealing Marathon for us. His site is www.justgiving.com/R-wall. If you would rather send a cheque please make it out to Ealing Foodbank and give it to Susan Peatfield who will pass it on. We have also asked churches to donate and with the bazaar coming up, perhaps we could be one of your local recipients. You don't get much more local then collecting food from local people who "have" to help local people who are "haven't."

Write to your M.P. and ask the question. Why does such a rich country need foodbanks?

By the end of the year we hope to have a food bank café open in Greenford and perhaps in Northolt. Early next year we hope to see Southall and Hanwell open. There's still plenty to do!

Remember to write!

Moira Babary asks us to remember that the next **Amnesty Group** meeting will be on **Wednesday 20 November** when we will be writing Christmas/New Year cards to prisoners to let them know that they are not forgotten. If you would like to join us we will be meeting at the vicarage at 8.15 pm and aim to finish at 9.15 pm.

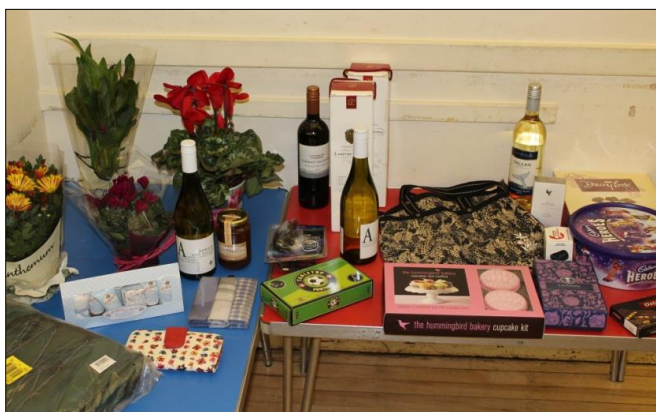
Remember to read!

St Peter's Book Club meets for a supper evening at 7.30pm at Linda Foster's on **Monday 11th November**. Please let Linda know as soon as possible if you intend coming so that she can plan refreshments or email Susan Peatfield on sjpeatfield@aol.com

We shall be discussing: *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn and *The Light Between Oceans* by ML Stedman.

Looking Forward...

Christmas Bazaar this month!



Raffle prizes always welcome

No doubt by now the date of the Christmas Bazaar, held this year from **10am until 2pm on Saturday 30th November** is firmly in your diaries. There are still lots of ways to be involved in this lovely event including helping to set up from 8pm on the evening of Friday 29th November. Please speak to Richard Peatfield for more information.

"Preparing for Christmas" Saturday 7th December



Deck your halls...

Another very important date for your diaries. On the morning of **Saturday 7th December** we are invited to come along to the church hall and learn how to create a beautiful floral Christmas decoration for our homes. Elizabeth Newton will be showing us how to make our own arrangement as well as suggesting some useful tips to take home too. Refreshments provided throughout the morning. *More details, including cost and timing to follow shortly.*



Music Notes

David Blumlein writes:

Not so well known in parish churches are the works of Sir William Harris (1883 – 1973). One of his smaller anthems, "Holy is the true light" was sung on the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels.

Harris is remembered in church music circles for his large-scale anthems such as the massive double choir "Faire is the heaven" and similar 8-part "Bring us, O Lord." His hymn-anthem "O what their joy" based on an old French tune "O quanta qualia" is also popular. I remember while at boarding school in the Fifties having the privileged opportunity to copy out carefully the full setting of an unpublished but magnificent descant he wrote for "Nun danket alle Gott", "Now thank we all our God" – no photocopiers in those days!

Harris was a chorister at Holy Trinity, Tulse Hill and became a pupil and assistant to H. C. Morris at St. David's Cathedral in South Wales. After assistant appointments at Lichfield Cathedral and the Temple Church, he became successively Organist at New College, Oxford (1919) and in 1933 St George's Chapel, Windsor where he held the position until 1961.

"Holy is the true light" is written for use on Saints' Days and is unusual in ending with a pianissimo "Alleluia."

Year's Mind

2 November	Julian Malpas (1958)
6 November	Winifred Ruston (1958)
13 November	John Cowdrey (1975)
15 November	John Kippen (1993)
16 November	Elizabeth Taylor (1960)
	Arthur Hodgson (1962)
17 November	John Burton (2004)
18 November	Dorothy Simpson (1986)
	Peggy Gibbs (2001)
22 November	Joan Sadd (2007)
23 November	Blanche Francis (1986)
24 November	John Sheldon (1996)
26 November	Sybil Pollard (1973)
27 November	Molly Shephard (2006)
30 November	Charles Staden (1960)
	Ada Bryant (1964)
	Peggy Craft (2008)

Dates of Remembrance Services

All Souls Memorial Service	3.00pm 3 rd November
Act of Remembrance	10.00am 10 th November
Remembrance Day Prayers	10.50am 11 th November

The deadline for copy for the December/Christmas issue of the Parish Chest is **Wednesday 20th November**. Festive articles especially welcome! Please send all contributions to sjpeatfield@aol.com.

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

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



Saturday 30 November 2013
10am to 2pm

*All profits to Christian Aid Syrian Crisis Appeal,
Ealing Street Pastors and a range of other Charities*

Stalls include:

*Crafts, gifts, jewellery, raffle, bottle tombola,
preserves, cakes, toys, games, flowers,
bric-a-brac, books, stamps, & Traidcraft.*