

St Peter's Parish Chest August 2014

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

Suggested Contribution 30p

Summertime at St Peter's!



Many of us have swapped a pew for a deckchair!

As we enter August we continue to enjoy the sunshine but hope for cooler days too. July was a month of blisteringly hot weather, a few thunderstorms and many reasons to celebrate and give thanks at St Peter's:

Silver Service



Twenty five years a priest...*

On **Thursday 3rd July**, the Feast of St Thomas, Fr David celebrated 25 years since his ordination as priest. To mark the occasion friends from that time as well as supporters from the parishes David has served in came to join him at St Peter's.

It was a very lovely occasion to mark an important milestone and to give thanks for Fr David's ministry – and to enjoy a very welcome glass of fizz and a very wonderful cake!

**Many thanks to Sarah Hare for the pictures in this issue*

Dedication

On **Sunday 13th July** we celebrated 121 years since the first dedication of St Peter's Church in 1893. This year, as in all those that went before, we took the opportunity to pause and give thanks for our beautiful building and for the faithful service of all those who have worshipped here over the years. Although the exterior of the church is rather hidden at the moment by "works" necessary to repair our stonework, the inside looked very glorious indeed. Thinking about this, it is appropriate to thank all who have dedicated their time and energies to these things. From the raising of funds for repairs, to the wonderful flower arrangements we enjoy Sunday by Sunday - to all involved, our thanks!



Thank you for the music....

Thank yous and farewells were also the order of the day on **Sunday 6th July** as we wished Susan Gould and Malcolm Lauder all the best for the future as they leave us for pastures new on the other side of London. Susan and Malcolm have shared the gifts of their beautiful voices with us in our choir, and the great pleasure of their company and hospitality in parish life. Mark James, our Director of Music, and David Blumlein spoke very warmly about all they have contributed to music at St Peter's. Mark also organised a lovely card for us all to sign to register our personal thanks. Susan and Malcolm will be very much missed by us all here and we wish them every joy in their new home – and choir!

When it gets colder...

While we have been feeling the summer heat it is easy to forget that as the year progresses the winter's cold will be upon us again. For those of us with homes of our own we will react to the shorter days and the chilly nights by turning up the central heating. For those living on the streets things are less simple and less kind. Jane Bradshaw shares with us in this article her experiences of helping at the **Ealing Winter Night Shelter.**

Jane Bradshaw writes:

Ealing churches winter night shelter first opened its doors in January 2011. It provides a bed, evening meal and breakfast for 14 homeless guests each night during the coldest months of the year (December to March), and requires the support of around 200 volunteers from the local area.

Last autumn I tentatively attended the night shelter recruitment meeting at Christ the Saviour Church unsure of what I could offer. The meeting was abuzz with enthusiasm both from Alison Wood, the Project Coordinator, who discussed the outline of what was expected from the volunteers, and from the people sat around me, from many different walks of life, most of who had volunteered in previous years. I was contacted a few weeks later to help with an evening shift at St Mellitus in Hanwell.

It is a freezing cold December evening. Arriving at 6pm the first job was to set up the foldout camp beds and make up 16 beds, fourteen for guest and two for overnight volunteers. Tables were laid out and set for dinner, and tea and coffee urns were filled up ready for the evening shift; this was not an onerous job given that it provided a nice relaxed opportunity to chat to the other volunteers and get to know each other whilst putting on quilt covers, and laying out cutlery. Some of the volunteers had connections to the particular church, some were from other churches, and others had no church connection. There are eight volunteers on an evening shift including two in the kitchen, so the workload is well spread. As the hall was ready for the guests it looks warm and inviting. The volunteers all then gather for a sit down, a hot drink, a briefing on who is attending that night and a prayer for the evening ahead. The spirit of warmth and compassion in the room is quite humbling.



The guests vary in age from mid 20s to around 60. They are from many different backgrounds and nationalities. Mostly men but occasionally there are female guests who have a separate room to sleep in. Guests are referred by homeless agencies around Ealing, and are vetted to ensure their suitability for a

shelter such as this. They are picked from those sleeping 'rough' locally, at immediate risk of 'rough' sleeping or the hidden homeless; they are often estranged or separated from family and friends and can be lonely and isolated.

A few of the first guests enter together and have been waiting outside for the doors to be open. As they come into the room, choose a free bed and put down their things you can see them visually unload from the day, just as I do when I arrive home. Many are well turned out, well spoken, intelligent, and could be anyone you see on the street. First on offer to the guests is a warm drink; I have been asked to be one of the volunteers to man the tea/coffee urn, and it's a nice easy way to strike up a conversation. Most have a smile despite their predicament, some tell you what they have been doing that day or sometimes their life story; others don't really want to chat, but I found them all polite and respectful. English is not always well understood but you find a way to communicate.

Everyone eats together at the dinner tables. Some of the guests prefer to sit with their friends within the shelter, some are less social within the group; the volunteers sit amongst the guests. A two-course meal is served which is tasty and filling supplied by two volunteers for the evening. After dinner and clearing away the plates some of the guest chose to relax on their bed, others play cards, board games and a particular favourite, Jenga, both with other guests or volunteers.

As the time reaches 9.45pm the end of the shift, the evening has passed quickly. The night shift arrives; four volunteers working in a two on two off pattern to allow 4hrs sleep each, and I leave for home. A home and family I feel more privileged this evening to be returning to. My head is still buzzing; a lot of the conversations stay with me, some positive, some I will keep in my prayers, but we are there to provide a bed and a meal, with the knowledge that the guest have access to organizations which provide the needed support and counselling.

I help at St Mellitus for three more evenings over the next few months, and at St Georges in Southall serving breakfasts; I am now pretty adept at cooking multiple fried eggs at once while keeping a further eye on the toaster.

The shelter aims, through its Project Coordinator and other agencies, to help the guests out of their current predicament, into a hostel or permanent housing, training or employment. Those who have decided to return to their home country are helped to do so and those with medical needs are supported in their access to healthcare. As such, over the course of the four months the shelter is open, it helps many guests, often over fifty. I found working at the shelter an extremely positive and enjoyable but grounding experience and one I am keen to repeat this winter.

Recent statistics quote that one in fifty one households have financial difficulties and are close to homelessness; made worse by problems such as redundancy and relationship break up. This is a problem that affects many people not just those on the fringes of our society. As I was taught as a child; "There, but for the grace of God, go I".

Thank you for sharing this with us, Jane. Please do speak to Jane for more details, if this is something you feel you can play your part in this year.



Music Notes

David Blumlein writes:

For their final appearance in the choir (they are moving shortly to Kent) Malcolm Lauder and Susan Gould selected some of the day's music and one piece was the anthem "Like as the hart" by Herbert Howells – they chose well!

The words come from the first three verses of Psalm 42: "Like as the hart desireth the water-brookes: so longeth my soul after thee O God..." in the translation by Bishop Miles Coverdale as found in the Book of Common Prayer. They are exquisite moving words and constitute a part of England's rich literary heritage.

Howells was more than conscious of their beauty and, snowed up in Cheltenham in January 1941, he began a series of anthems which he described as being "In Time of War", each being written in a single day. Actually, this one was completed on 8th January at a single sitting!

It is a tiny masterpiece and we can see that this was where Howells began his pilgrimage in church music. The opening section for tenors and basses must surely rank among the most wonderfully lyrical in church music.

Howells himself did not hear it until 1951, at St John's, Cambridge but all who sing it today are transfixed by its magical harmonic beauty.

Malcolm and Susan did indeed choose well!



Saying a fond farewell to Susan and Malcolm*

*Thank you to Mark James for this picture

Year's Mind

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|-----------|-------------------------|
| 7 August | Joan Dewey (1995) |
| 8 August | Florence Cowdrey (1993) |
| 22 August | Lilian Shawley (2006) |
| 23 August | Gladys Gibbs (1975) |
| 29 August | Doris Ives (2000) |

Please send all articles for the September issue of *The Parish Chest* to sjpeatfield@aol.com by **Wednesday 27th August 2014.**

Looking Forward...

Tomorrow marks the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. As a powerful act of remembrance churches across Britain will gather to mark the time when in the words of Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Secretary in 1914, "The lamps are going out all over Europe." If you are able, please join Fr David in this **Memorial Vigil at 10pm on Monday 4th August 2014.**

Heritage of London Ride and Stride on Saturday 20th September. Please see the sign up sheet at the back of the church for more details.

Ealing Half-Marathon on Sunday 28th September. Some of you will know that Tom Kelsey is in training to compete in this in aid of the Holly Lodge Centre, Richmond Park (working with children with special needs). This project was run by Pat Ealey, a good friend of St Peter's and if anyone feels able to sponsor Tom this would be much appreciated. Please speak to Tom or visit

<https://hollylodgefundraising.everydayhero.com/uk/two-half-maratons>

NB The marathon will affect the time of the service, which will also be the occasion when the Revd Harold Stringer will be celebrating 50 years in ordained ministry. Please look out for details of time of service soon.

Confirmation Service will be held at St Peter's on **Sunday 23rd November.** If you are interested in being confirmed please speak to Fr David. An information meeting will be held on **Sunday 14th September at 11.30am** for all interested in attending an inquirers course – open to all including those who have been confirmed but would like to refresh their understanding of the faith.

St Peter's Book Club meets again on **Tuesday 16th September** at the home of Wendy Quill. For further details please speak to Susan Peatfield or email sjpeatfield@aol.com

In the news!



Many thanks to Sarah Hare for sending in this picture taken from a live broadcast by the BBC of the moments following the York meeting of the General Synod's decision to allow the consecration of women bishops. Our very own Revd Margaret Joachim is among the first to celebrate!

PARISH RETREAT 2015 TO IONA, Sunday 19th – Friday 24th April 2015

This is an advance notice of the next Parish retreat. We have booked Bishops House on Iona (www.island-retreats.org/iona.html) for the week. Costs aren't completely clear yet but it will be about £260 for four night's full board.

We will travel up to Glasgow on the Caledonian Sleeper on the Sunday. Monday will be train to Oban. Then a ferry from Oban to Craignure, a bus from Craignure to Fionnphort and then a short crossing to Iona, a walk of about 5 minutes will see us arrive at Bishop's House. The transport costs have yet to be calculated (schedules etc. are not yet available) but it should be in the region of £200 return.

The accommodation has 23 beds based on 7 single rooms and 8 doubles. We will be looking to fill all the places (that will make it a bit cheaper).

The programme of the week has yet to be planned but it will be light and based upon the spirituality of Iona, using Celtic reflection. The real aim of the week is to give participants space to be with God. There will be opportunity to engage with the Iona Community (www.iona.org.uk), take a day pilgrimage across the island, and whilst we will have our own programme of worship it will be linked to that of the community.

To book:

Please complete this form and return to Fr David with your deposit as soon as possible.

Name:	
Address:	
Postcode:	
Tel No:	
Email:	
Deposit paid (£50)	
Balance paid	

Return with deposit to:

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