

St Peter's Parish Chest September 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

We are the Body of Christ

Ah those lazy summer days! Holidays and sitting back. No boss, no paperwork. And all too quickly it's all over and we're back at the grindstone working away. September arrives with a bang and it is all go with talk of Christmas and the faint memory of summer holidays melting into the past. What a joyous way to begin a September letter I hear you say; and I am writing this just before I go on mine. I suppose I am just thinking a bit about what happens after one returns from holiday. There will be a lot going on in church with the Ride and Stride fund raiser (don't forget to sponsor me and join me if you can), an organ recital by Stephen Hamilton, servers evening out, Men's Beer and Curry Society. And that's just the beginning of autumn. Not to mention the events in the family, parties, domestic responsibilities and pressured time and the work that pays for everything. There is a lot on and a lot to do.

St Paul describes the church as being the body of Christ. He uses this image on many occasions, seeing the body in its many forms as a creative symbol of our understanding of the people of God. We are all different. We all bring different gifts and needs and expectations. The body needs to be fed and exercised, Paul points out that it is dependent on its many parts. In this body we need each other. The body is various and varied.

One of the key things the body requires is fellowship. Church life does require of us study and prayer as we grow in faith but it also requires fun and fellowship. Sharing and being together helps us to grow together. Getting to know each other strengthens us and dispels doubt and uncertainty. As families, it is the time spent with each other, that quality time that strengthens the bonds between us. And as these many events unfold this autumn, as we prepare for the Christmas celebrations I hope we will take some time to reflect on how these events help us grow together in fun and fellowship, building up the body of Christ at St Peter's and therefore become tasks that we celebrate in rather than become heavy hearted about. For as we say most Sundays "We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life."

That is not just the Sunday Mass but the Ride and Stride, Men's Beer and Curry Society, Servers Team, Bazaar Team indeed everything we aim to do together in the fellowship that is blessed by God who is our Father and our salvation.

Fr David

Back to "normal"...?



Apologies for a photograph of autumn leaves when many of us are trying to hold onto the last rays of summer! This time of year though, the beginning of September, is when we tend to pack away the sun cream and begin looking forward to the start of a new season. For some of us this will mean a new year at school or college and this is a good opportunity for us to congratulate all the young people at St Peter's who sat and passed exams this summer. Well done!

Even for those of us past school years, there is the promising scent in the air of new beginnings. For those of us who find the summer break rather long there is relief when the old pattern of meetings and activities resumes again, not least here at St Peter's where the regular rhythm of services, the welcome reappearance of the choir, and the return of Junior Church allow us to look forward in very good spirits to what the autumn has in store.

Our thanks to all those who "held the fort" over the summer at St Peter's and extra thanks to Angus McAvoy who spent most of his summer redecorating the church hall with a varying team of helpers. Thanks too to the Bradshaw family for so generously providing the paint and to all those who wielded a paintbrush, roller or scraper this summer.



St Peter's Progress



Hugh and Jo and their happy visitors.

This summer we had a very good time catching up with some friends in the West Country who are familiar faces to many at St Peter's.

We were first of all guests of Hugh and Jo Watkins for a performance of Beethoven's *Fidelio* by Dorset Opera at Bryanston School (some 45 minutes drive from Hugh and Jo's lovely home in Sherborne). The performance itself was a masterclass of wonderful orchestral playing, fine singing and excellent staging – and all with only a fortnight's rehearsal!

It will come as no surprise to those who know Hugh that he is very much involved with Dorset Opera and in the musical life of Sherborne more generally. He has recently overseen a very successful visit to Amsterdam for Dorset Opera supporters and has a trip to Leipzig planned for next year which we also hope to attend.

We were very well-looked after indeed and are keen to "book ourselves in" for next year's operatic feast.

On our way back from Sherborne we dropped down to the coast to stay a night with Colin and Jacquie Holt in their new home in Highcliffe. The ups and downs of their move are far behind them both now, and their beautiful bungalow, a few yards from the sea, was well worth waiting for.

Jacquie has turned the garden, originally "in need of some attention", into a glorious display of flowers and very impressive fruit and vegetables. (Helped by her green fingers and the Dorset sunshine.)



Jacquie and Colin – not missing the District Line...

Colin has also settled in very well and hopes to volunteer on a regular basis on the Swanage Steam Railway – a good run on his new Harley Davidson!

Jacquie and Colin again entertained us royally and gave us a tour of Highcliffe and some of the beautiful sights on their new doorstep.

A Corner of a Foreign Field...

This summer saw many events to commemorate the beginning of the First World War on 4th August 1914. In this account John Peatfield describes something he did to mark the occasion.

John Peatfield writes:

Whilst on holiday very far north in France (you can see England on a clear day) we got a text from our friend Pat Ealey, who wanted us to look up an old gardener of her church, St Mary's, who is buried in the Commonwealth War Graves in Wimereux, the town where our family have a small seaside flat. It seemed a really appropriate thing to do in the week when we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War.



...that is forever Ealing.

The cemetery is shared between the Commonwealth and the civilians of Wimereux. The war graves are on a more open slope, with various buildings and monuments surrounding the tombstones, which had all been laid flat because the cemetery is on top of a hill and so is even more windy than the already blustery beaches.

In the centre of the graves is a large cross, and there is also a separate altar which bears the words:

*"We are the dead short days ago,
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved were loved and now we lie,
In Flanders Fields"*

Words taken from the poem *In Flanders Field* by John McCrae, one of the most famous people buried there. Thanks to a good numbering system and the information provided by Pat, we soon found our friend's gardener, one Private Thomas Goodege of the second battalion of the Grenadier Guards, who died at the age of thirty seven on the 3rd of August 1917. Appropriately an English rose had bloomed just to the side of his gravestone giving the gardener some shade from the summer's heat.

Although I have been to Wimereux many times and driven past the cemetery on each occasion, I will now always remember a little bit of Ealing close to our flat in France.

More than Names on our War Memorial

On similar note the Reverend Margaret Joachim has a request to make to us all at St Peter's about our own parish's commemoration of the events of the First World War.

Margaret Joachim writes:

In our Lady Chapel (which was originally known as the War Memorial Chapel) there is a brass tablet with the names of those of St Peter's parish who were killed in the 1914-18 war. Each year, on Remembrance Sunday, the names are read, and we say that 'We shall remember them.' But it is a century now since they died – no-one is now alive who actually met any of them, and it is impossible truly to remember someone that we never knew.

As we begin to commemorate the centenary of the Great War, it would be interesting to find out more about these people. Our Book of Remembrance has some basic information – where in the parish they lived, in which branch of the forces they served, and when and where they died. Using that as a starting point, we could use the internet and local archives to build up a fuller picture. Sometimes it may be possible to track down members of their family who could tell us more – perhaps even lend us a photograph to copy. Maybe we could create a more detailed book of remembrance, or a display to go in the church. Perhaps, on Remembrance Sunday 2014, we could particularly commemorate those who were killed in 1914, in 2015 those who died in 1915, and so on.

Would anyone be interested in taking this forward? Maybe several of us could take one name each and see where we get to? Perhaps some of the older members of Junior Church would like to carry out a project? Are you a historian or an archivist with particular skills in this area, who could point us in the right direction? Do you have other ideas about how we might make the centenary relate specifically to St Peter's?

If so, do please get in contact with me. If there is enough interest I'll see what can be done to co-ordinate activity. It would be good to create a real act of remembrance.



Please do speak to Margaret to become involved in this very worthwhile project.

Reading Between the Wars...

A Book Review by the Editor, *The Age Of Illusion* by Ronald Blythe (Oxford 1965, reprinted 1983)

Recent and ongoing coverage of the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War has brought to our attention many of the individual human stories as well as the national struggles of 1914-1918. Many books have been written and published to coincide with this sad centenary. It was not though those years themselves which brought about so many of the changes we see in our world of 2014, it was far more in the aftermath of those years and the grim prelude to the Second World War, where we can see old values and ideas changing forever. It is this period, the years between the wars, that is the subject of *The Age of Illusion*, a wonderful book by Ronald Blythe. (An author known to readers of *The Church Times* as the Word from Wormingford diarist, and to readers of *The Parish Chest*, as the editor's favourite living writer.) The subtitle of the book is "Some glimpses of Britain between the wars" and Blythe's aim is to convey something of the events, and, more significantly, the feelings of those times.

The book begins with a moving account of the interment of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey, and ends with Churchill's ringing pledge of "blood, toil, tears and sweat" in 1940. In between are chapters on the Spanish Civil War, George Lansbury, Wallis Simpson and the abdication crisis, TE Lawrence *after* Arabia, John Reith and the BBC, as well as subjects less familiar to us now, but of deep interest at the time. These latter include the vices and excesses of the Vicar of Stiffkey, the Brighton Trunk Murders and the picaresque political adventures of William Joynson-Hicks.

Blythe's tone is light but authoritative throughout. He is a fine and careful historian but he is an even better teller of tales. All these "glimpses" are exceptionally well-old and all have a salutary sting in the tail/tale for readers of today, as our news so uncannily and uneasily echoes some of the horrors of the past.

Blythe's view also takes in life and concerns of the Anglican Church during this period. These do not form a separate chapter but are woven into his account of the wider world.

The church was sullied by the experience of 1914-1918. Fairly or unfairly it was seen as giving in to the jingoism of military patriotism and forgetting that "we have here no abiding city" or nation. This is certainly what many of the "Bright Young Things", determined to enjoy themselves at all costs, thought in the early 1920s. The Church grieved that so many had turned a deaf ear to her precepts and had rushed with swift feet to the Charleston rather than moral rearmament.

The problem is summed up by Blythe thus:

"The clergy were somewhat handicapped by a lack of facts to make hell-fire and perdition anything like as frightful as most people's well-documented experience in France."

No fire-breathing, damnation touting preacher could compete with the Somme.

I highly recommend this book as a good companion to anyone intrigued by the changes that followed the "war to end all wars" and the men and women who lived rather precariously "in between".

Making a Difference

Although the New Year is the usual time of resolution and plans, September is also a good time to look ahead and look with fresh eyes. Here Fr David encourages us to consider joining the **Parish Retreat to Iona in 2015**.

Fr David writes:

Retreating is an ancient religious tradition. There are many instances in the Old Testament of the prophets leaving the community for a quiet place to engage with or contemplate God. In the New Testament we are often told Jesus left the disciples or the crowds and went up a mountain or into the wilderness to pray. He encouraged his disciples to do the same. Sometimes he took them away with him to pray. Finding space in our diary to be with God is a good tradition and is very helpful in building up our relationship with God. When retreating we are taking ourselves out of the daily routine, moving ourselves away from cooking dinner, doing the washing, catching up with emails, collecting the children, popping down to the shops or sorting the monthly bills. By changing pace and scene with a specific aim in mind allows us to focus on that which actually feeds and supports us as we complete the daily tasks of modern living. It also opens us up to new experiences and understandings of God, and our relationship with God.

Our Parish Retreat to Iona (19th-24th April 2015) is an opportunity to do just that. Iona is a 'thin place' where heaven and earth seem to be very close. It is special. It is not heavenly (especially when the wind is up and the rain is coming down in sheets) but there is a sense of God's presence which is more palpable than in many other places. It is far from distractions, it is different. It is also a safe and comfortable place that allows us to feel secure and valued in God's love. Retreating is not just for a select group, you don't have to be special or particularly prayerful and we can often find ways to retreat that suit us better (retreating in everyday life for example). As a retreatant you are simply on a journey of discovery; of yourself, of God, of your relationships, of creation. I would encourage and invite you to consider coming with us to Iona and if you can't make this trip look out for others that may better suit.



"Be still and know that I am God" Ps 46.10

Do pick up a leaflet from the back of the church, with more details of the Retreat and speak to Fr David to confirm your place.

Going the second (twenty sixth!) mile



Best feet forward!

Another way of making a difference is by going out of our way to help change lives. This is what **Elizabeth and Katie Newton** will be doing this month when they are taking part in a marathon walk (26 miles) around London on **Saturday 27th September** to raise funds for St Mungo's Broadway. This charity helps people recover from the issues that create homelessness and to rebuild their lives. Elizabeth and Katie write: "We have supported this charity for many years and want to raise an extra amount this year to help them in their vital work."

To support Elizabeth and Katie please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/Elizabeth-Katie-Newton/>

Someone else making a difference for a good cause this September is **Tom Kelsey**, who, as we reported last month, is taking part in the Ealing Half-Marathon on **Sunday 28th September** in aid of Holly Lodge, Richmond Park "Special needs in a Special Place". We hope to have lots of supporters for Tom and his fellow runners as they pass St Peter's on the half-marathon route that Sunday.

To support Tom please visit

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



More best feet forward!

We are also delighted to congratulate Tom on his engagement to Helen Peatfield over the summer.

Boomerang News

Earlier this year Neil Robson kindly shared news of the **Reverend Andrew Williams**, a curate at St. Peters in the mid 1990s. He and his family moved to a parish in Perth, Australia. Those who remember Andrew will be pleased to learn that he is now returning to England and will be taking up a very exciting post in London this autumn.

"Revd Andrew Williams, Rector of Applecross in Perth, Western Australia, will be the next Priest Missioner in the new community at Hale Village in Tottenham Hale. The Hale Village development in Tottenham Hale will see accommodation developed for 16,000 new residents over the next 10-15 years on the boundaries of St Mary's and Holy Trinity Tottenham.

As Priest Missioner, Andrew will oversee the extensive community engagement of the Engine Room. The centre, which is currently under construction, will provide a main sanctuary and hall, a community café, a flexible area for meetings and activities, a 26-place day nursery and an office to support the residents of Hale Village.

Andrew was recruited for his skills in community engagement and parish leadership. " *

All learnt here we are sure!



Andrew and family enjoying the Perth sunshine.

Year's Mind

2 September	Michael Cowdrey (1959) Nora Ensor (1975)
8 September	Gordon Bryant (2001)
14 September	Mavis Emery (1967)
15 September	Lina Rogers (1963) Rita Tyrie (1965)
16 September	Edmund Dufty (1968)
17 September	David Bowland (1975)
18 September	Ken Daley (2009)
20 September	Patricia Matthews (2006)
27 September	Edith Smith (1968)
28 September	Naziha Khouzam (2006) Margaret Williams (2010)

All articles for the October issue please send to sjpeatfield@aol.com by Wednesday 24th September. Holiday pieces especially welcome for this issue!

Music Matters

Your Top 20!

Fr David and Mark James write:

Choosing hymns for worship is not an easy task. This is not an excuse, it just is. There are so many variables to include, season, source, musicality, familiarity, tunes etc. We draw the liturgical framework together, select hymns appropriately, trying not to have repetitions through the month, balancing musicality, wording and what we think is familiar and what is actually available in the hymn book of the season (New English Hymnal for festivals and major seasons; Hymns Old and New for all other times and occasions), hopefully coming out at the end with a sensible and appropriate selection of hymns for the month.

To help this process Mark and I thought it would be a good idea to ask you, dear reader, for your top 20 favourite hymns. The only caveat is that they have to come from the hymn books we use at St Peter's. Then when planning hymns and services we can refer to the accumulated list and try, where ever possible and fitting, to include choices from your selections. That way we can aim for happier and more fulsome singing from the congregation. So please, get choosing those top 20 hits and let Mark and I have them as soon as possible.

We would also be interested in requests for Organ Voluntaries.

All responses can be emailed to Mark on musical_markj@yahoo.co.uk

Looking forward...

Readers of the weekly St Peter's news sheet and the Vicar's Letter will know that September is an extremely busy month. A few key events only are given below this month; for all other announcements please see a news sheet or Parish Diary of Events.

Concert at St. Peter's Saturday 20th September

An organ recital by Stephen Hamilton begins this season's music events. Please note that the recital will start at 5.30pm. As always a wonderful chance to hear our beautiful organ expertly played.

Ride and Stride Saturday 20th September

Raising money for the Heritage of London Trust, which supports the repair and upkeep of churches. Please do think about either riding and striding yourself or sponsoring Fr David. For further details please speak to Fr David or see www.facebook.com/LondonRideStride

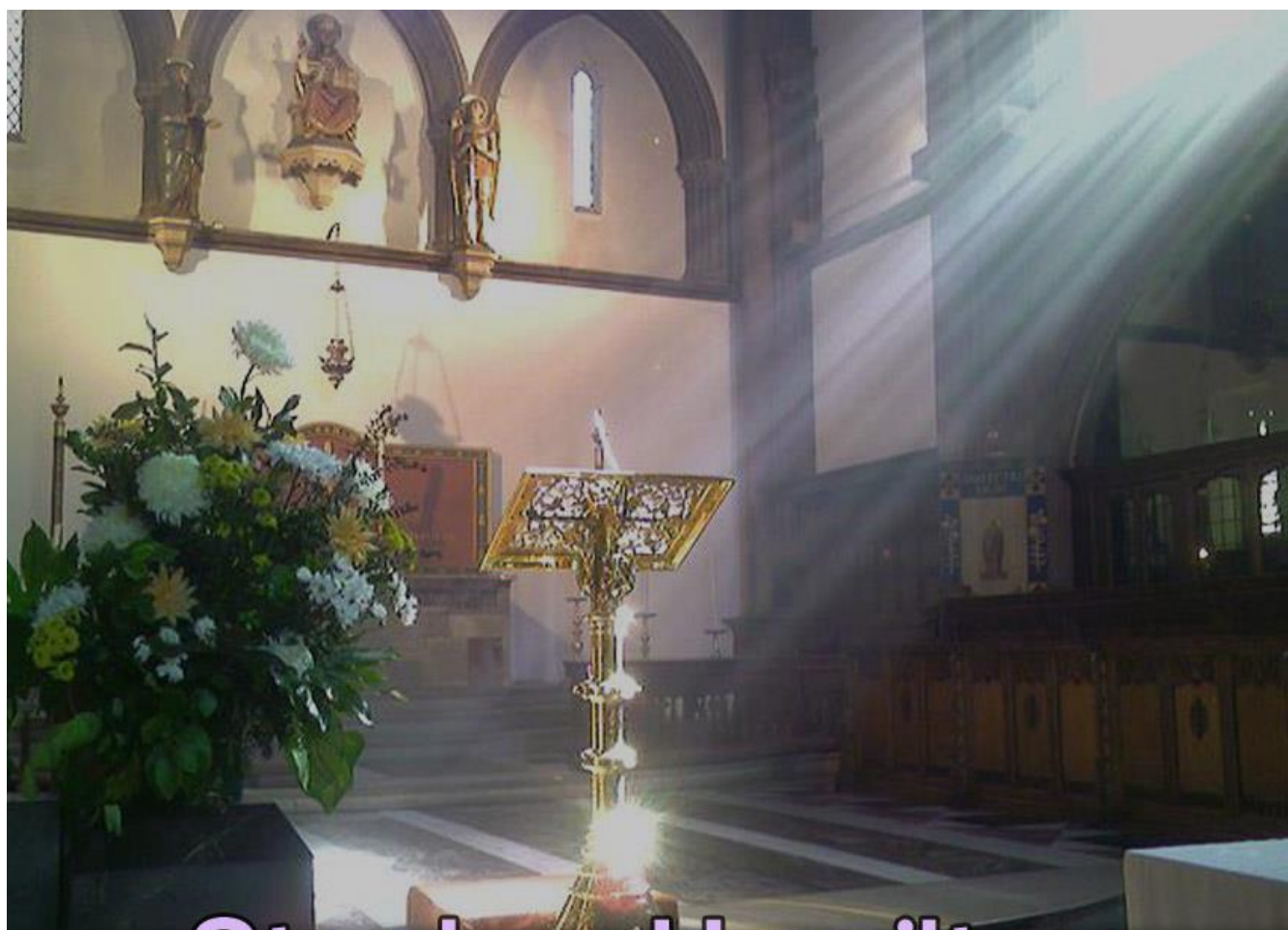
Reverend Harold Stringer's 50th Anniversary of Ordination 12.30pm on Sunday 28th September

(NB later time of service owing to Ealing Half-Marathon.) Full plans tbc but all are most welcome to the service which will be followed by lunch.

Ealing Autumn Festival 2014 begins on Friday 10th October

with a premiere at St Peter's of *Galileo!* an exciting new work commissioned by the Festival. Book now!

*For the full article on Andrew Williams please visit www.churchofengland.org



Stephen Hamilton

Organist

MUSIC BY MARCEL DUPRÉ, OLIVIER MESSIAEN
CESAR FRANCK, WILLIAM ALBRIGHT, KENTON COE

Saint Peter's
Anglican Church
Ealing, United Kingdom

Saturday
September 20, 2014
5:30 PM

Free-Will Offering

www.stephenjonhamilton.com