

St Peter's Parish Chest November 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



Remembering

Henry Ford once said "Life is a series of experiences, each one of which makes us bigger". Memories and experiences are very important in making us and helping us to understand who we are and how we came to be in this moment. We have learnt, shared, taught in those past experiences. Memories help tell our story and help us understand what that story means. Each of us has our own individual set of experiences and memories, some similar some quite singular. All help form and direct us along the path of life.

The Christian faith in many ways is based in or on memory. Jesus commands us to break bread and share the common cup of the Eucharist in memory of him. This isn't just a memorial though. He says, "This is my body" and "This is my blood". The experiential side of faith that brings a level of tangibility and meaning to an event that becomes holy before the people as an act sanctioned and blessed by God. The story of salvation is told time and again as the shared memory of the faith community. The story of Jesus born of Mary, a preacher and teacher executed by the Roman authorities, laid in a borrowed tomb and raised from the dead on the third day. A story remembered in the words of the prophets and given meaning in the wider context of the salvation of human kind begun in the Fall of Adam and Eve.

The danger of memories and experiences is that we might very well get tied up in them. That they in themselves may take over our present when they should be a spur to move us forward to continue gathering memories and experiences. When these memories take over and keep us looking back we do not grow as people, as members of our community. We become stuck and thereby incomplete. Those of us who have experienced grief will know this experience all too well. In such situations we cannot let go of the past for fear of losing still further those whom we love. Yet move forward we must, else ultimately we will wither and die. We discover in moving forward and growing still further we do not lose that which we love but we actually gain; we gain memory and enhance experience, we learn and grow carrying with us love and understanding.

November is a classic time of the year for remembering. The month begins with the celebrations of All Souls and All Saints. A time when we can remember before God those whom we love but see no longer whilst remembering the teaching and leadership given by a whole host of The Faithful who have gone before us. We also have Remembrance Sunday when the lives of those given that we might live in freedom and justice are remembered. We remember them with love and thankfulness.

Yet such remembrance should encourage us to move forward, to embrace change and renewal with courage and enthusiasm borne of a desire to build on what has gone before; to build upon the call to peace and service of those whose lives brought us reconciliation and justice. To grow in the remembered love and support of those who have gone before us. To be renewed in our desire to proclaim the healing power of God's love that has forgiven all our sins and allowed us to be born again in the power of the Holy Spirit.

This time of remembrance then is not a harping back. It is not a time of triumphal remembering. It is not a time of sorrow and grief, though we may shed a tear. This is a time of moving forward, of growing as individuals and a community into that which has built on the past and fulfils the hopes and expectations of those who have gone before us. This is what the Eucharist is about, the community of faith coming together, not as a grieving mass but as a celebration of the promise offered in the Jesus who gave his life that we might live. This is heightened for the church as we gather over this time. We remember our loved ones who had a share in making us who we are, whose memory makes us more than we were before. We remember those whose lives were given that we could remain free and could enjoy justice and liberty. And we do all this in hope, the resurrection hope of God's love poured out for us, made real in the broken bread and wine out-poured.

As we remember this November, let us do so in hope that brings healing and wholeness to all people. That we can proclaim Jesus Christ as our risen Saviour, the bringer of peace and truth, who heals us and loves us, regardless of whom we are.

Fr David

Harking back to Harvest!

Last month's *Parish Chest* promised an account of St Peter's celebration of Harvest. The festivities began with the Quiz Supper in the church hall on the evening of **Saturday 4th October**. Those who attended very much enjoyed the fun of competing in the quiz and sharing a delicious supper. Many thanks to Quizmaster, Clive Brand, and to Allison McAllister and all those who gave their time and skills to make this such a happy evening.



Ready and waiting! 4th Ealing Guide

The next day at our 10am service on **Sunday 5th October** we shared our time of Harvest Thanksgiving with 4th Ealing Guides who were celebrating their 100th anniversary. It was wonderful to be joined by the Guides and by Brownies and Rainbows on this very special occasion. One of the guides' anniversary pledges was to provide one hundred tins of food for the Ealing Food Bank, and one hundred toiletry items for a women's shelter run by the Church Army in Marylebone. These were brought up to the altar at St Peter's while other members of the congregation also brought up their gifts for these charities. (The proceeds of the retiring collection was donated to Water Aid.)

The church looked glorious with flowers and the fruits of the season – all the fruits of our gifted team of flower arrangers. Musically too it was a feast as we joined our voices to sing the traditional Harvest hymns. Our thanks as ever to Jane Campbell and to Mark James for all they do to make each Sunday, Harvest or not, full of colour and light.

It was very clear during the service and afterwards as we looked at the exhibition of the guides' work displayed in the church hall, that 4th Ealing are in very good shape for the next one hundred years!

Something with which Unit Captain Anne-Marie Pearce strongly agrees as you will see in this lovely account of all the guides have been up to in this, their special year.

Anne-Marie Pearce writes:

100 years ago, on 3 October 1914, 4th Ealing Guides was officially registered by Agnes Baden Powell, the younger sister of Lord Baden Powell. Great Britain has been at war for 2 months, and women did not yet have the vote.

4th Ealing Guides marked our centenary year by looking at the past 100 years. We thought about how times may have changed, but the girl guide promise and the six laws have adapted, and are still relevant values for life 100 years on, as they were when our unit began.

We explored the role of girl guides during WW1. We earned our 'How Girl Guides helped in the War' commemorative badge by reviving old crafts: bunting, knitted for the soldiers in the trenches and grew vegetables for victory. We also enjoyed our trench warfare water bomb fight!

In 1915, girl guides replaced boy scouts as spies for MI5 during the War, helping to deliver important messages. 9 girl guides were invited to be present at the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. We spent an evening cracking cyphers, meeting 'agents in the field' who gave us important crypted information to discover where the 'drop' was taking place

We thought about the future and the role our guides will play in shaping the next 100 years. The choices we make, our actions and our values will all have an impact on the next generation. We explored this during our choices walk night, where each patrols' route was determined by the flick of a coin.

In addition to looking at the past and future 100 years, we have spent time looking at girl guides today. We have worked on new crafts and activities, taken part in guiding and community events and worked together as patrols and as a unit.



Promises and Memories Quilt

We took part in two '100 challenge' evenings, one sports based and the second construction & problem solving. We were challenged to think about, and keep a diary of, what makes us 'happy' for 100 days in a row.

We marked the departure of two of our leaders who have given so much to 4th Ealing over a significant period of time - Liz Everett & Linda Newton. For national volunteers week we thanked our young leaders for all the help, support and time they give to the unit each week

In June we went to Willow Tree camping for the weekend. The weather was amazing. We went canoeing at HOAC, and tackled the spiders web challenge and night line. In September we entered 2 teams in the Paxmead water fun day. Our mythical creatures canoe, "Nessie", stood up to the challenge and made us very proud.



4th Ealing Guides and a mystery helper...

As part of the community, we helped volunteer on the St Peter's water station in the Ealing Half Marathon. We donated 100 tins of food to Ealing Food Bank and 100 Toiletries to a women's shelter run by Church Army in Marylebone, as part of the St Peters Harvest festival.

We took part in the North Ealing district centenary celebration with guides, brownies and rainbows.

Through all of the above we have earned the following badges:

- How guides helped in WW1
- Camper & campfire challenge badges
- Craft badge
- Party planner badge
- North Ealing centenary badge
- Paxmead & Willow Tree badges
- 100 happy days badge
- World cultures badge
- Big Gig 2014 badge
- 4th Ealing Guides centenary badge
- And over the summer our whole unit was awarded a Blue Peter badge for:
'all the fantastic things we have done in the run up to our Guide unit 100 year anniversary'

It was appropriate to celebrate our 100th anniversary on 3 October 2014 in St Peter's Hall, our home for the last 100 years. The evening was a celebration of everything we love about guides. It included patrols, crafts, challenges, campfires, marshmallows, meeting new people, promise ceremonies, taps, singing and earning badges. To mark the occasion, everyone contributed to our centenary promise quilt, which our unit will treasure. It was lovely for our guides to receive a message of congratulations from the Queen. It was a wonderful evening, enjoyed by all.

On Saturday 4th Oct, dressed in neon, we headed to Wembley arena for the girl guides Big Gig. Our celebrations were rounded off, with a truly memorable harvest festival service held at the church. This was our chance to say 'thank you' to the church who has hosted our unit for the past 100 years, and to celebrate our 100th birthday with the

community. 4th Ealing guides were joined by 4th & 23rd Ealing brownies and rainbows, to parade with our colours, and have a very special blessing from the vicar and the community for the next 100 years.

Thank you to everyone for sharing our celebration with us and for all the support given to 4th Ealing Guides – looking forward to the next 100 years!

Anne-Marie has requested that we include the guides' email address as she is happy to be contacted by prospective guides. Her details are; Anne-Marie Pearce, Unit Captain, 4th Ealing Guides, guides4thealing@outlook.com.

Lord, for the years...



Happy Birthdays to you!

It was not only 4th Ealing Guides that had something to celebrate on Harvest Sunday. Our churchwarden Angus McAvoy was about to pass a significant birthday milestone, and a delicious cake (baked very kindly by Jane Bradshaw) was there to mark this special occasion too.

My thanks to Sarah Hare for sending in this photograph of Angus cutting the cake with Pat Maufe, who has also recently celebrated another "round number"!

Marketing News: St Peter's Live!



Alexandra Pridgeon has sent in this message about the newly launched St Peter's website and our smart new Christmas card. Thank you for this Alex, and for all you do to keep us "in the loop" with our communications.

Alex Pridgeon writes:

We are pleased to announce that St Peter's has now launched its new website. Over a year in development, the new site is professional and easy to navigate, and contains some beautiful new images of the church. Most importantly, St Peter's now has a smart 'shop window', communicating to the wider community what we offer, and providing us with the opportunity to develop and grow.

Please visit us at <http://www.stpeterealing.org.uk>

Although still early November, St Peter's attractive and professional Christmas card for 2014 has already been designed and is currently at the printers! Our bi-annual card to the Parish is an important opportunity to engage with our community and communicate the times of our Christmas services, where we are and what we have to offer. Your help is urgently needed in delivering the cards, which will be available at the back of the Church from early December.



Christmas is coming...

Alex's note about the Christmas card is a good cue to make sure that everyone has the date of the **Christmas Fair, Saturday 29th November 2014 from 10am until 2pm**. All proceeds will go to this year's charities suggested by members of the congregation.

Please look around your homes for gifts for the various stalls. Perhaps you could make a cake for the cake stall or offer a raffle prize, or be able to "man" a stall for an hour or so? In any event do try to come along and treat yourself and friends and family to some of the lovely things on offer for Christmas. For more details please speak to Fr David.

No place to lay His head...



For many of us as Christmas draws nearer, we pull the curtains tighter, turn up the central heating and enjoy the warmth of the long winter evenings. For some though, Ealing's rough sleepers in particular, the winter nights are a cause for dread. Lives already difficult enough are made more desperate by the cold and bad weather.

Jane Bradshaw has previously written in *The Parish Chest* about her experiences of being a volunteer with the Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter, which offers a place of friendship and safety to those on Ealing's streets.

Those of us in church on **Sunday 12th October** will have heard Jane and others explaining how St Peter's will be playing our part in this vital work this year. We shall be hosting the Night Shelter for four consecutive Thursdays beginning on **Thursday 27th November**. Jane Bradshaw and Elizabeth Newton are busy drawing up a list of volunteers so that our guests are made as welcome as possible. Please think about how you might become involved. You may feel able to volunteer for one of the shifts on a Thursday, but there are also many other ways of supporting the Shelter including cooking a meal, helping with the laundry or donating good quality warm clothing. Please speak to Jane or Elizabeth for more details.

Looking Forward...

Please see the *Parish Diary* on the website <http://www.stpeterealing.org.uk> (hard copies available at the back of church) for full details of all that is happening at St Peter's. Here are a just few dates to note:

St Peter's Book Club Tuesday 4th November

Supper evening at Christine Bates'. Please contact Susan Peatfield for more details: sjpeatfield@aol.com

Confirmation Service Sunday 23rd November at 10am. The Bishop of Willesden will be coming to confirm our candidates.

Christmas Fair Saturday 29th November 10am - 2pm in the church and church hall. All welcome!!

Advent Carol Service on Sunday 7th December will be hosted by St Barnabas this year. Time and other details tbc.

Best Feet Forward!



We know from previous articles that we have some fine runners and walkers in our congregation. Even if you don't feel up to a marathon yet, why not join the new St Peter's Walking group? It offers an opportunity to enjoy some fresh air, good company and exercise.

Linda Foster writes:

Greetings fellow walkers!

If you are interested in joining the new St Peter's Walking group, please put the following dates in your diaries:

Walk 1 Sunday 9th November 2 to 4 pm
Start from the Church car-park at 2 pm promptly; a walk around Ealing green spaces of approximately 4 miles.

Walk 2 Sunday 30th November 2 to 4 pm

Walk 3 Sunday 14th December 2 to 4 pm

The walks will also be published on the St Peter's website. <http://www.stpeterealing.org.uk>

Parish Memories

A while ago we printed a letter from Peter Straw a former parishioner who now lives in Australia. Reading this letter prompted another former parishioner, Christopher Weeks, to get in touch (with thanks to June Blake for passing it on). Here is his letter to Peter. Perhaps it will nudge a few more memories?

Christopher Weeks writes:

Most interesting to see the extract from your letter to St Peter's earlier this year. You asked if someone wished to correspond, so here goes!

The copy of your letter was seen by June (nee Neave) Blake, married to Brian Blake and passed to my sister-in-law, Angela (nee Wendy Norman) Weeks. Angela is married to Tony Weeks and I am Christopher Weeks. We both attended Ealing County School.

I remember your name, Peter, but can't recall a face. You are 82, my brother is 79 and I am 78. We were both in St Peter's choir circa. 1946-1951, under Arnold Greir (choir-master). We were also in the cubs under Joan Boon and in the Scouts under John Edwards about 1946/52.

Other names from Scouts/Choir I remember are, John Dent, John and David Carsberg, Roy James. Derek Sadd, Denis Bizerray, Peter Millard, Roy

Carpenter, Robin Dorrell and Leslie Edwards (John's brother) a friend of Alan Hughes. I also remember Alan Hughes, and older brother Alan. I was good friends for many years with Alan's younger brother, Keith, who was also in the Scouts, Choir and at Ealing County. I think he is still in the west coast USA. I remember Alan married Maureen Darville. I am still in touch with David Carsberg, (John died some 14 years ago), Roy James.

After Scouts it was Junior Fellowship, National Service in the Army, business in the City, life in Surrey and now retirement in Dorset.

Enjoy your life in Oz - a lovely country. My wife and I have visited several times (Perth/Melbourne/Adelaide/ Sydney) as well as Alice Sp. and up to Cairns, Port Douglas.

I hate to be pedantic, but I believe Fr Pond died in 1945 and John Borrell was Curate to Fr Bosworth, who was later succeeded by Fr Cooper?

Do you recognise any of these names? Do write in if you do. It is lovely to hear from "old" Friends of St Peter's.

Remembering 1914-18

A reminder that Margaret Joachim is looking for people who are able to spend some time uncovering some of the stories behind the names on our War Memorial. We hope to honour the memory of those who gave their lives in the Great War by sharing these stories and holding their names in the Year's Mind. If you would like to be a part of this research please do have a word with Margaret or contact her at Margaret.joachim@london.anglican.org.

Masonry Matters



Living stones...

Visitors to the church in October found some very interesting baptism candidates waiting by the font. These beautifully carved blocks of stone are corbels waiting to be set in place in our restored stonework. We hope to have a report on the site visit offered to inspect the works by climbing the scaffolding on **Saturday 25th October** in next month's *Parish Chest*. It is wonderful to think that these lovely pieces will look out over Mount Park Road, unseen by most of us but witnessing to the loving care and stewardship shown to our building over the years. Renewed thanks to Allison McAllister for her faithful oversight of all things "stonework" during her time as churchwarden.

Music Matters

This has been a very busy season in the musical life of St Peter's. Mark James has sent in a very pleasing review of an event held earlier in the year:

Notes by Colin Menzies from the Organ Club visit to St. Peter's - part of a day tour of the organs of North Ealing in May 2014 in the recently published Organ Club Journal.

Mr. Menzies writes:

We were warmly welcomed by the Vicar and then had the pleasure of being introduced to the organ by our member (and OCSO stalwart) Mark James, who has been the director of music here for the best part of three years....The organ responded well and showed itself to be versatile, coherent, and well-voiced. Nothing sounded out of place, it all spoke in a very musical way, and the building took the sound to all corners without distortion or much degree of decay. On paper this looks a fairly average 3-manual organ but in reality it is much more characterful than that. Despite the grandeur of the Hill fluework at St Barnabas, I thought that, by a small whisker, the Bishop organ at St. Peter's was the most satisfying of the day.

Founded in 1926 with Henry Willis as the first president, The Organ Club exists to promote public awareness and appreciation of the art and science of the organ, its players and its music. Membership is open to all...players and non players. www.organclub.org



Our organ – the star of the show!

Ealing Autumn Festival: *Galileo!*

We are still waiting to read the full reviews of this wonderful world premiere hosted by St Peter's on **Friday 10th and Saturday 11th October**. Suffice to say it was very well-received by the large and appreciative audience that attended this event. The composer and the festival's artistic director, Gillian Spragg, explained the motivation for writing the piece to *Classical Music Magazine*:

The new opera was written by Spragg following the success of the festival's 2013 production of Britten's *Noye's Fludde*. Wanting to produce a similar event this year, organisers found themselves faced with the problem that 'there isn't another work which is quite like *Noye's Fludde*'.

'It engages a large number of children but is not really a children's opera,' says Spragg. 'At the other end of the spectrum, it has to have professional performers of the very highest calibre to lead the performance. It also embraces music that the local community, who were the original audience and made up of all ages, would have known and could sing along with. The solution, in the end, was to write something of our own.'

Many at St Peter's helped to make this a successful event.* Thanks to all involved and, of course, to our very dedicated Director of Music, Mark James for putting St Peter's so firmly on the Festival map.

Monthly Martyrs: St Leonard



John Peatfield writes:

This month's martyr who isn't a martyr is St Leonard, whose feast day falls on the sixth of November (which is also Ronald Blythe's birthday). He is the patron saint of all prisoners, women in labour and horses, which is an odd mix.

He was a French noble, converted to Christianity by St. Remigius, who was bishop of Reims, and set up a monastery in Micy near Orleans, which later grew into the town of Saint-Leonard. As a noble he was in the court of King Clovis and engineered a deal which meant that he could release any prisoner he deemed fit for freedom and so became the patron saint of captives.

During his time at the monastery he amassed many followers, and became a hermit in the forest. As a reward for his prayers that the Queen of the Franks would safely bare a male child – which she did – he was granted the lands of Noblac, which is around 21 kilometres from Limoges. He was granted this land as it was all the land he could ride on in a day on a donkey. At Noblac he founded an abbey, which later became part of the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, as so gained fame throughout central Europe, and he became one of the most popular saints in the middle ages. He is celebrated in Malta and Bavaria the most fondly, but his fame has dwindled over time.

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)

*If you attended *Galileo!* or the William Lloyd-Webber concert on Thursday 16th October it would be wonderful if you could write a review for the *Parish Chest*. All copy for the December issue please to sjpeatfield@aol.com by **Wednesday 26th November**.