



St Peter's Parish Newsletter

December/January edition

2017/18

Letter from the Vicar.

Welcome to our second edition of the latest incarnation of the Parish Newsletter. Thank you to all of you who made positive noises about the publication. It is always under review and your insights and views are welcome. Your articles or suggestions of articles are also welcome. This is after all Parish News so news and items from the parish would be good to have. So, don't be shy!

Advent 2017

The Staff Team have looked at ways to mark the season of Advent. Last year you may remember we presented a different style of Advent Candle and celebrated the Eucharist using the High Altar, to interesting and very mixed responses.

This year we thought we'd try some other things:

The Advent Candles are having a makeover,

The sermons will follow the themes of the Advent Candle prayers

The clergy will be sat in slightly different places

The Ministry of the Word will be brought forward (you'll see what we mean when it happens).

After 'Lent in a Bag' comes 'Advent in a Bag' containing five tea lights, the 'God with Us' booklet for your prayerful reflections and some instructions with prayers.

A series of Advent reflections delivered by the Staff Team in 2016 will be published

Don't forget Pilgrim too! Starts Tuesday 5th December 7.30pm at the Vicarage.

Bit busy isn't it?

In Advent we reflect on the incarnation. How God came amongst us, fulfilling his promises in the prophets, completing the witness of the patriarchs, revealed in the words of John the Baptist and the actions of Mary. That this incarnate God came among us to share love and healing, to encourage us to grow in the light and power of the Holy Spirit; connecting heaven and earth, sharing in the joys and sorrows of our life.

Often overlooked as shops fill with Christmas goods and homes are decorated from the beginning of December, Advent, set in the darkness of the encroaching evenings, takes us into the light of salvation. Make space and take some peace for time with God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who is a child born in a stable, a teacher wandering the streets of Jerusalem, a political prisoner executed for the expediency of a ruling class, the Son of God walking the resurrection gardens. Take time to meet him who waits for you.

Advanced dates for your diary: 28th January 2018 is our confirmation service at St Peter's; 15th July 2018 will be our 125th anniversary. There will be events planned. Make sure you keep that weekend free.

Harvest Offerings to Ealing Food Bank

Thank you for your Harvest Festival offerings. We took 167kg of supplies to the Ealing Food Bank. We continue to collect for the Food Bank throughout the year. Every little helps and help is very much needed. Special request for the Advent Collection (on top of anything else you may be able to offer):

Small boxes chocs or Christmas sweets – no alcohol
'Christmas' sauces (apple, cranberry – remember though NO ALCOHOL); Christmas biscuits or chocolate coins; Trifle mix;
Edible tree decorations – foil wrapped; Jelly; Tinned salmon;
Christmas theme napkins/paper plates; Small gift size toiletries

– all ages, both sexes; Small jars relish/mustard; Gloves – brand new with the label – all ages, both sexes; Instant hot chocolate/Horlicks – small container, but not sachets (they damage easily!); Savoury nibbles and savoury snacks Individual; Christmas cake/bars; Dates and other dried fruits; Chocolate logs/ mini choc rolls; Nuts/Bombay mix etc; Small jars of pickles or olives; Preserved fruits; Small hair brushes and hair bobbles; Mini Christmas puddings; Christmas cards / gift tags; Christmas crackers pulling (not the Jacobs kind!); Small gifts – brand new in the packaging eg pencils/crayons, pencil case etc; Stickers/mini stationery

Best Feet Forward – A walk on the Cookham-side



On Saturday 21st October a group of 13 of us (11 humans and two dogs!) set out on a walk, led by Sarah and Fr David, starting from the village of Cookham. The weather forecast hadn't been too promising so it was a pleasant surprise to find that on the day it was slightly breezy, but with

lovely sunshine. Heading through Cookham we then walked by the river, meeting lots of walkers and dogs following the same route; then across Cock Marshes, up a steep incline (which we all managed with only a bit of huffing and puffing) and then across the John Lewis Golf Course, finishing up back near Cookham for a delicious lunch at The Crown Pub, where, in spite of problems in the kitchen, we were looked after (humans and animals) very well! It was a four mile walk, taking about two hours, and a really great opportunity to not only walk, but to chat with people and get to know more about each other.

Neil Gillespie

**“January brings the snow. Makes our feet and fingers glow!”
(Traditional Rhyme)**

These days we see less snow than we used to –especially here in west London- but the excitement of waking up to a blanket of fresh snow I hope never leaves us. A while ago there was an advert (I think for a bank) that captured the excitement snow brings: The scene is an office in the early evening in the City. Smartly besuited office workers are shown about their business. The camera focuses on one of the managers, a man of African origin. We see his face suddenly light up and he rushes from the room, runs down a corridor and pulls a fellow African colleague from his chair and together they run from the building. What on earth is going on? Then the camera points to the window. It is snowing! The last frame is of the two men faces pointing to the heavens revelling in this new and wonderful experience.

The story of the advert is about excitement and about enjoying simple things. The simple difference of coming from one climate and discovering another – a sandstorm or monsoon would awake a similar wonder I think in someone from northern climes. Children are often much better in responding simply and wonderingly to the natural world. I love this poem by Allan Ahlberg, which captures this:

Outside, the sky was almost brown
The clouds were hanging low.
Then all of a sudden it happened:
The air was full of snow.

The children rushed to the windows.
The teacher let them go,
Though she teased them for their foolishness.
After all, it was only snow....

The teacher sat at her desk
Putting ticks in a little row,
While the children stared through the steamy glass
At the only snow.

The Psalmist too, recognises and encourages the delight that nature inspires and how in its every movement and change brings glory to God: "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." (Psalm 19 verse 1)

I hope that in 2018, snow or no snow, I can find myself not putting ticks in a row, but rushing out, head turned to the sky to meet the blessings all about me that I so often fail to notice. May not only our feet and our fingers, but our hearts and our lives all be aglow this New Year!

Susan Peatfield



KEYS MUSIC



- began on the 3rd of November, and has now met three times. It has become a group of 5 - 12 year olds meeting to make music and learn, while having fun. We have learnt about wind instruments, are studying rhythm and have learnt four songs. We meet on Fridays at 4 in church and the next meeting will be on Friday 1st of December and again on the 8th and 15th December.

We have had numbers attending ranging from 13 to 20 people, so if you want to give it a try, come along on one of the next Fridays and join in the fun.

Fr Michael

December Diary Dates:

3 rd	Advent Sunday	09.15 Pebbles; 10.00 Parish Mass; 17.30 Candlelit Evensong
5 th		19.30 Pilgrim Course Module 1:1
6 th		19.30 Mass
9 th		Coffee Drop-in; Best Feet Forward
10 th	Advent 2	10.00 Parish Mass; 17.30 Candlelit Evensong
12 th		19.30 Pilgrim Course Module 1:2
13 th	St Lucy	17.30 Durston House Carol Service; 19.30 Mass; 20.15 Amnesty Letter Writing Group
17 th	Advent 3	09.15 Pebbles; 10.00 Parish Mass 17.30 Nine Lessons & Carols by Candlelight
19 th		19.30 Pilgrim Course Module 1:3
20 th		19.30 Mass
24 th	Advent 4	10.00 Parish Mass
	Christmas Eve	15.30 Christingle; 23.30 Midnight Mass
25 th	Christmas Day	10.00 Christmas Mass
31 st	Christmas 1	10.00 Parish Mass

January Diary Dates

7 th	Epiphany Sunday	09.15 Pebbles; 10.00 Parish Mass; 17.30 Evening Prayer
9 th		09.30 Standing Committee Meeting; 19.30 Pilgrim Course Module 1:4
10 th		19.30 Mass; 20.15 AI Letter Writing Group
11 th		19.30 Men's Beer & Curry Soc.
14 th	Epiphany 2	10.00 Parish Mass; 17.30 Evening Prayer
15 th		19.30 Junior Church Leaders Meeting
16 th		19.30 Pilgrim Course Module 1:5
21 st	Epiphany 3	09.15 Pebbles; 10.00 Parish Mass; 17.30 Evening Prayer
23 rd		19.30 Pilgrim Course Module 1:6
25 th		19.30 Finance Team Meeting
28 th	Epiphany 4	10.00 Parish Mass with Confirmation Service & Parish lunch
31 st		19.30 Mass

Stewardship 2017

Thank you.

Although it may seem a while ago when we had this year's stewardship programme here's a bit of an update. First to say thank you for everyone who took part in this year's programme. We have had 55 responses so far covering 55 households, not necessarily individuals, that's a good percentage (c.60%+). I know there are still a few who have not yet had a chance to send in their Pledge Cards. It is not too late, we can still have your pledge blessed at the Parish Mass, so get those cards in.

Time and Talents.

Many of you have pledged your time and talents. Thank you. Letters are being prepared putting you in contact with those who organise the relevant activities. We realise you may have pledged something you already do in St Peter's. But then that is the point, to recognise each year what it is we are offering to the service and ministry of God and asking God to bless that offering.

Financial Pledges.

We have also had a pledged increase in financial offerings. This is wonderful. Our financial life is always precarious, we rely totally on your generosity. If your pledge has changed please ensure the necessary steps are taken to realise that offer. It's great to make that kind and generous offer, we now need to make that a reality.

Legacy.

Remembering St Peter's in your will is another form of good stewardship. We should all have wills. They ensure the judicial distribution of our inheritance which in itself is another form of good stewardship. By remembering St Peter's in your will you will be playing your part in ensuring the ministry of God continues in this place.

Stewardship as part of our faith.

Of course, stewardship doesn't just happen in September each year. It is part of the Christian faith, to be good stewards of the blessings we have received from God for the good of all. Jesus reminds us on more than one occasion it is our duty to be good stewards. That means using our gifts to bless the earth. That may seem rather grand, it does mean we should also be considerate of how we engage with our world – the ocean is made up of billions of drops, we might feel our actions and intentions are just a drop in the ocean but if we all offer our drop...

Christmas at St Peter's

Sunday 17th December 2017

Carols by Candlelight – 5.30pm

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday 24th December 2017

Parish Eucharist – 10.00am Christingle

Service – 3.30pm Midnight Mass –

11.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday 25th December 2017

Mass of the Holy Nativity – 10.00am