

St Peter's Parish Chest October 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



Give thanks to the Lord for he is good!

It is at this time of the year, as the shadows lengthen and the leaves begin to fall, that we reflect on giving thanks to God. Something that has its roots no doubt in our agrarian ancestry. As our forebears reaped the harvest and prepared for the coming winter, preserving, packing and salting away the fruits of their labour they took time to stop and give thanks to God for the gifts of creation; for the food and materials that would sustain them through the harsh days of winter. This tradition of thanksgiving found its way into the churches calendar and has become an established part of our seasonal rhythm.

Of late there have been those who have suggested celebrating harvest in the life of urban community has become somewhat hollow. The question is often asked "when did you last plough the fields and scatter"? Admittedly we have not been out milking cows or drilling wheat in the fields. Many of us have sown seed and harvest our tomatoes and potatoes, though it is not quite the same.

We have laboured. Our labour has changed but the outcome is the same. We are able to feed our families, put clothes on our backs and roofs over our heads because of the tasks we complete each day for which we are paid. We can even say this is true in retirement. Because of our years of service to society, our saving and careful planning we are able to enjoy a safe and comfortable retirement.

In the midst of this of course are those who have not had such opportunities whether at home or abroad. Those who have found themselves homeless, lonely

and broken. These people may be in South Sudan, Lahore or Ealing. In many different ways life or circumstance has left them in a place of need.

In light of these few thoughts harvest becomes all the more important in the modern day, not less. It is not a time for us to crow over our success. It is a time to give thanks to God for the many blessing we have received at His hand; thanks for our homes, our work, our clothes and our food. In giving thanks it is also a time to recognise the blessings God showers on all by sharing what we have with others who are less fortunate.

This year at St Peter's, as in past years, we are doing this by offering gifts at our harvest service to those in need; good quality women's clothing and toiletries to the Marylebone Women's Refuge to help broken and vulnerable women as the rediscover their feet in society; non-perishable food items to the Ealing Food Bank, feeding our economically challenged neighbours in our borough; and a cash collection for the work of Water Aid, bringing fresh water and good sanitation to many of the poorest people on our planet.

We should also reflect on how, through what we have received, we are able to assist the ministry of God in our Parish. Many of us give generously already and that is cause for thanksgiving in itself. Harvest is a time when we can reflect on what we give and whether we can give more or better. As with many institutions St Peter's is struggling financially. Ideally we would have a balanced expenditure sheet with what comes in covering what is spent out. Unfortunately this isn't proving to be the case and we are spending approximately £1000 a month more than we have in income (that's about £9 per member per month). This is not due to carefree spending. Quite the contrary, St Peter's works hard to keep expenditure to a minimum. It is just the way things have gone as life changes. And now we need to address the situation.

As we give thanks to God for the blessing we have received and as we take time out to care for those in need may I ask you to reflect on your giving to the life and work of our parish and consider how you might be able to play you part, however small, in bridging this financial gap so we can continue to give glory to God here in our small part of his great garden and continue to be a witness to God's blessing in our community.

Fr David

Owing to the recent indisposition of the editor, this month's Parish Chest has been guest edited by John Peatfield. Many thanks to John and to all this issue's contributors. Apologies if this is the only acknowledgement of your contribution.

Michaelmas Blessings...



Reverend Harold Stringer – celebrating 50 years

Harold Stringer celebrated his golden jubilee of his ordination to the Diaconate on Sunday the 28th, alongside the celebrations for Michaelmas. Harold was president and told us of the importance of angels, whilst the Revd Ryder Whalley preached on the same subject, and at the end of the sermon he thanked Harold for his ministry for the church over the last fifty years. It was a thoroughly warm and jubilant service, with a packed church of Harold's friends as well as the usual congregation. Afterwards we had a barbecue where all tucked in to sausages and burgers cooked by our vicar, David Neno (on a thoroughly stubborn barbecue which took an awful lot of matches to get going), next to copious amounts of iceberg lettuce and cake, especially the largest fruit salad I have ever set eyes on. Around eighty of Harold's friends and St Peter's congregation stayed for lunch, which marked the achievements and celebrations of Harold's anniversary. (*J Peatfield*)

... and Jubilant thanks

Harold Stringer writes:

At my Michaelmas jubilee celebration I somehow missed the moment to publicly thank all those who had contributed to this joyful occasion. I am enormously grateful to so many: to Father David, for encouraging and enabling the whole event, as well as for shopping and taking charge of the barbecue; to all those who made such generous contributions to the meal, and especially the Peatfield family, taking over Susan's role of co-ordinating it all at short notice when she fell ill; and those who did the many tasks in the hall, from setting up and serving drinks to washing up and clearing away.

Thanks also to Val as sacristan and the whole serving team for helping the service to run so well; and thanks for the lovely flowers too; and for splendid performances from Mark at the organ, and the choir for their beautiful singing at the Communion.

The ordination services, for deacons and for priests, rightly emphasize the enormous responsibilities of ordained ministry. But the wording is pitched so high one can start wondering what is left for the ordinary lay-person to do! Sunday's celebration of ordained ministry was a perfect example of the co-operative interdependence of *all* 'the different parts of the one Body,' which typifies the life of the Church at its best. Thank you, St Peter's.



Food and Fellowship after the service

The Ealing Half Marathon

The most fiercely contested competition in the borough kick started into action on **Sunday 28th September** with the beginning of the Ealing Half Marathon. From the St Peter's stable came Tom Kelsey, who pounded down Mount Park Road very fast indeed, and was dearly grateful for the St Peter's water. Other parishioners included Keith Stephenson, who did well as well. From my position at the two mile mark standing outside my house in my pyjamas and only half awake, one could only admire the determination and joy spread across the contestants' faces.

Amongst the costumes were a brace of ducks, a giraffe and a rhino, all running for various charities, and at the two mile mark still joyous in their costumes. St Peter's did sterling work handing out water bottles to all the happy runners, which I am sure they needed! (*J Peatfield*)



Tom Kelsey well on the way...

Tom completed the Half-Marathon with a chip time of 1 hour 47 minutes – his fastest time to date. Tom would like to thank all those who sponsored him in his run for Holly Lodge.



Also Hot Foot!



Elizabeth and Katie Newton completed the London Trekathon last Saturday 27th September. The photo shows that they were still smiling after walking 26 miles in just under 7 hours! " After an early morning start we left the Olympic Park and walked west along the canal towpath to Paddington, then battled the crowds passing many sights to get to the river at Lambeth Palace, along the Thames Path to Canary Wharf and ended climbing UP the steps from the Greenwich Tunnel Crossing to finish at the Cutty Sark. It was a fascinating route. We are delighted to have raised over £2000 for homelessness charity St Mungo's Broadway and would like to thank all those who supported us."

Elizabeth and Katie are being very modest here as we can report that they came third out of 150 walkers – only a rogue blister stopped them crossing the line first. Well done!

Summer Days

Mike Tiley responded to last month's appeal for articles about how St Peter's people spent their summers with these two lovely accounts of attending the **29th Annual Multi-faith Pilgrimage for Peace** and the **Vergers Training Conference**.

Mike Tiley writes:

For several years I have had the privilege to join the annual Multi-Faith Pilgrimage for Peace to learn more about other faiths through visits to their places of worship involving listening, exchanging ideas and sharing commonly held beliefs.

Last year we (I and about 200 other participants) visited places of Faith in and around Watford including a Mosque, Buddhist and Hindu Temples and a Sikh Gurdwara in a converted former courthouse. We also observed a Druid form of service in open parkland.

This year the Pilgrimage took place in North London in Muswell Hill, Hornsey and Crouch End where we experienced the hospitality and spiritual insights of a number of inter-faith communities. These included a visit to an Orthodox Jewish Synagogue for their Saturday Sabbath Shabat service followed by lunch kindly provided by a Sikh group from Birmingham as in previous years. During the afternoon we had a very informative presentation and discussion about Quaker beliefs and worship followed by a visit to a Moravian Church built in 1908 and part of a Christian church with 750,000 members in over 1000 congregations worldwide with a history going back to 1457 when it was founded in Moravia.

After a presentation on the Bahai faith we visited the Hornsey Sunni Mosque built in 1998 where we were told that all other Muslims including Shiites attend and where hard line fundamentalist Muslims with extreme views are not welcome !

Finally we ended our full day with a memorable visit to the Crouch End Islamic Sufi Centre with its impressive interior architecture of reflective domes and peaceful forms of worship and dance where we sat in circles and joined in some

Sufi chants and later enjoyed their delightful refreshments. We learned that the universal message of Sufism is that not only love but also self knowledge leads to knowledge of God and can enable us all to live in peace and harmony.

Next year the 30th Multi-Faith Pilgrimage for Peace will take place not far from Ealing in Hounslow on **Saturday 13th June 2015**. More information can be found on the Westminster Inter-Faith website: www.westminsterinterfaith.org.uk

or by phoning them on 7931 6028 at their office behind Westminster Cathedral. It would be good if more Anglicans could participate in inter-faith dialogue and be brave enough to move occasionally beyond our Anglican 'comfort zone'. It has been said by Pope Francis that 'inter-religious dialogue is a necessary condition for peace in the world.....an attitude of openness in truth and love must characterise the dialogue with non-Christian religions.'

You may be surprised to hear that the Diocese of London has a London Inter-Faith Centre in London NW6 which runs some academic inter-faith courses. I am hoping to persuade them to co-operate ecumenically with Westminster Inter-Faith and to ask some of their students to do something practical by participating in next year's Multi-Faith Pilgrimage .



Mike Tiley (middle row second from right)

Over 50 members of the Church of England Guild of Vergers from Cathedrals Churches met from 10-14 August for their Annual Training Conference at the Elim Conference Centre in West Malvern. This is the third year that CEGV have come to enjoy the excellent facilities at the Centre Some local residents may have noticed Vergers in gowns trimmed in a variety of colours walking between the Conference Centre and St James Church for formal services. It has been said that: "Churches and Cathedrals with Vergers are open, secure and welcoming. The ministry of the Verger is manifold and varied and can turn visitors into Pilgrims." Not surprisingly we plan to return to West Malvern for our next conference in August 2015. CEGV has over 600 members including 77 overseas members.

Do think about sharing some of your summer stories to warm us up and cheer us up as the year gets colder. All articles please to sipeatfield@aol.com by Wednesday 22nd October 2014.

Music Matters

This month marks the celebration of the Ealing Autumn Festival. Hopefully by now we all have our tickets for *Galileo!* which premieres at St Peter's on the weekend of **Friday and Saturday 10th and 11th October**. Also in the Festival Highlights is the concert hosted by St Peter's on **Thursday 16th October**: William Lloyd-Webber for organ, violin and voices.

Concert Review



Dr Stephen Hamilton with Mark James

Mark James writes:

On **Saturday 20th September**, Dr Stephen Hamilton, organist Emeritus of The Church of the Holy Trinity New York City, played a solo recital at St. Peter's. He explored the organ's broad tonal palette through French repertoire in the first half, with works by Messiaen and Cesar Franck. After interval refreshments, the second half took an American turn with a London debut performance of William Albright's *The King of Instruments*, a parade of music for organ and narrator, narrated by Mark James, taking the audience on a light hearted tour of the organ's various sounds and divisions. Dr Hamilton closed the concert with a fantasy for organ by American composer Kenton Coe, much appreciated by relatives of Mr Coe in the audience.

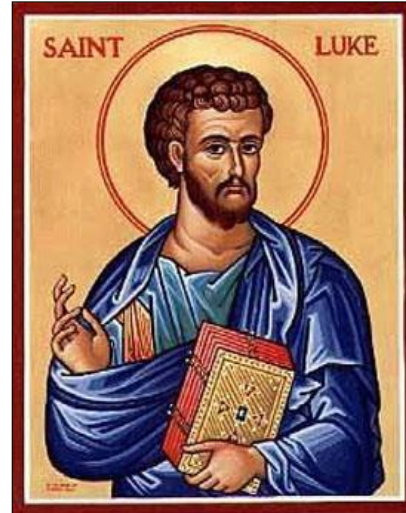
Harvest Time!

Full report on Harvest at St Peter's in next month's *Parish Chest* but for now a few Harvest Anagrams to try ...

- Mpkpniu. _____→
- Kule. _____→
- Rathves. _____→
- Slavtife. _____→
- Bootrec. _____→
- Ushsaq. _____→
- Htaew. _____→
- Neocbim evethtasr. _____→
- Trotrac. _____→
- Krensoc. _____→
- Stsure. _____→
- Pleslap. _____→
- Unatum. _____→

Monthly Martyrs

(who are not always Martyrs...)



John Peatfield writes:

St Luke the evangelist, patron Saint of surgeons and physicians, and the Saint whose festival day falls on my birthday, the 18th of this month. He is the writer of the - guess which gospel - and of the Acts of the Apostles, and was born a Greek gentile, in Antioch Syria. A number of accounts such as the writings of St Paul and Eusebius all refer to Luke as a physician, although he may have been born a slave and trained in medicine to serve a wealthy family. We know nothing of his conversion, but do now that he was associated with Paul whom he met a Troas. He stayed behind in Philippi to encourage the ministry there but later met again with Paul before the latter's imprisonment in Rome, and stays with Paul to the very end even when everyone else had abandoned him.

Luke had a unique perspective of Jesus as we can see from the six miracles and eighteen parables not found in any other of the gospels, and gives us a view of Jesus' help for the poor and lowly, and is the only gospel where we hear Mary's Magnificat. He is heavily associated with Mary and other female protagonists in Jesus' life, and some of his writings are influence by Mary. He is the only one who includes the prodigal son story and the tears of the sinful woman, and so we get a sense he if an all inclusive and forgiving Saint. He is portrayed as a painter especially of the Virgin Mary, but that has little proof of this incarnation of ability. St Luke's little summer is a short period of warm weather around his festival day, which is also called an Indian Summer, and is a very nice time to have one's birthday.

Year's Mind

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|------------|------------------------|
| 3 October | Terence Simpson (1978) |
| 6 October | Stan Strangeway (2006) |
| 12 October | Roger Robinson (2003) |
| 17 October | Maudy Austen (2003) |
| 19 October | Winifred Wilson (1967) |
| 22 October | Betty Bland (1992) |
| 24 October | Caroline Small (1958) |