



# St Peter's Parish Newsletter

## October edition 2018

[www.stpeterealing.org.uk](http://www.stpeterealing.org.uk)

### Letter from the Vicar.

I've been occasionally asked 'What does a vicar do all day?'. It seems a strange question until I realise how unfamiliar we are with the workings of the vicarage. Vicaring used to be such an everyday encounter but now there are fewer vicars and everyone's life patterns have changed so much that encountering a vicar outside the Sunday slot has become quite rare. Often it is at a meeting if you are church member or to arrange an occasional office such as a family baptism, wedding or funeral.

In light of a text I received a little while ago I have been reflecting on how little I know of your daily pattern and the pressures modern work and living are placing on your lives. A dreadful thing to admit. If there is reason for the clergy to visit on a regular basis, such as illness or being housebound, we get the opportunity to know you better. Otherwise, visiting and taking time to get to know each other is increasingly difficult. We are loathed to make visits of an evening realising bath times, meal times or just getting home late make that inconvenient. Saturdays are precious as times for quality family time, if you can get some in amongst all the other domestic duties and requirements that demand their share of your time. So, having the vicar knock on your door may not be that welcome.

During Lent this year we reflected upon and prayed about the phrase "It takes a church to raise a child" and what that might mean for St Peter's. The Staff Team have been encouraged to think about our provision and programme; to think about our children and what their place in the life of St Peter's should be. Considering this the question is how we should best support and nurture them in the life of the church, that being the responsibility of the whole church and not just a few volunteers. This has led to reflections on 'church' and 'child(ren)' and what we understand by these terms. Alongside this to think about change and how change can help us grow in faith and deepen our relationship with God.

I am still reflecting on 'church' a lot. How can we say we are church when we don't know each other? And what does 'know' mean? That is, have we or do we take time to know each other or are we just faces, seen in the same building week by week over the many years we gather for prayer?

Especially as we seem to have lost the tradition of attending midweek events and learning opportunities. A big question; but a very important one.

In one of my past parishes I ran an afternoon Lent study group. Of the parishioners who came along there were two who spent a lot of time chatting. Eventually I got to sit with them and asked if they were enjoying the course. “Oh I don’t know about that, vicar, we’re not paying much attention!” said Rose. Attempting not to be put out I asked what they were chatting about. “Well, you see, vicar,” said Brenda, “we’ve been catching up.” It seems they had come to church every Sunday, seen each other across the building, passed each other with a courteous nod, but in a combined attendance of 96 years had never spoken because they didn’t even know each other’s names. Attending the course had rectified that omission.

At a time when everything conspires against community; our increasing mobility, requirements of the workplace and the pressures placed on family time with our inclination to get home and shut our door on the world, how can we engage in church when church is dependent on our understanding of community? Jesus calls us to be the body of Christ but how can we be that if we aim to come into church for our own purposes and to find our own space.

In our Anglican understanding of the Mass we all concelebrate, that’s why we refer to the priest leading worship as the president, as opposed to the celebrant. The priest leads us in worship but we are all taking part, all celebrating together. As we come together at the holy table for our eucharistic meal; gathering young and old, rich and poor, in all our diversity and complexity; standing together with all that makes us who we are, we are confronted with the question of what makes us church, what is our community and how are we part of it. We are not individuals sat in our pews doing our own thing. We are the body of Christ. When Jesus shared food with his disciples they all gathered around the table; when he broke bread for the final time saying, “This is my body”; when he offered them the common cup with the words, “this is my blood” they did so together, around the table, next to each other. This is such a powerful message in an increasingly isolationist world and one we need to declare as loud as possible. In it we say, ‘we are church’. Maybe, just maybe if we share with each other we might not be in Brenda and Rose’s position of having to catch up in a study group on 96 years of news.

Fr David



## Harvest 2018



Our Harvest Festival Mass will be held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Gifts of non-perishable food items will be very welcome (please hold off on the dried pasta, baked beans and tin tomatoes – we have plenty of those). All food offerings will be taken to Ealing Food bank. A retiring cash collection will be made for the charity Water Aid that aims to provide clean water, safe sanitation and hygiene education for the poorest of the planet ([www.wateraid.org/uk](http://www.wateraid.org/uk)). Please be generous to both ventures. Mass is at 10am.

## Pet Service 2018



We hold our 'Pet Service' each year on the Sunday nearest to the Feast Day of St Francis, often known as Animal Welfare Sunday.

At the service we welcome all pets so that we can celebrate the gift of creation, the wonder that is God's gift to us, and the joy we share in living with other members of the planet, more particularly our pets. We recognise in this service the gifts our pets give to us of companionship, friendship and devotion. We also use our companion animals as signs of all of God's creation and animal kingdom.

Bringing animals into church has a deep representational importance symbolising both God's providential care for all creatures, and the need to include care for animals within the arena of Christian moral concern.

The service this year is on the afternoon of Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> of October at 3.00pm. Please come along whether you bring a pet or not, and encourage your relatives, neighbours and friends to join us.

(Dogs should be on leads and cats and smaller animals in baskets or cages)

Fr Michael

## Stewardship Programme 2018 – Giving in Grace

St Peter's relies on the generosity of its parishioners to fund the £108K per annum running costs of the church. Each month, as Treasurer, I pay our contribution to the Diocese, which covers the cost of clergy/vicarage/training, as well as paying invoices for church and hall running expenses - utilities, insurance, cleaning and maintenance, the parish office, etc. We have been struggling to balance the books over the past few years; in 2017 there was a deficit of £25K, and we have no reserves to cover unforeseen expenses such as repairs to the Lady Chapel. In 2018 we have budgeted a modest surplus of £5K as a start to building up reserves, but this will not be achieved without increased income.



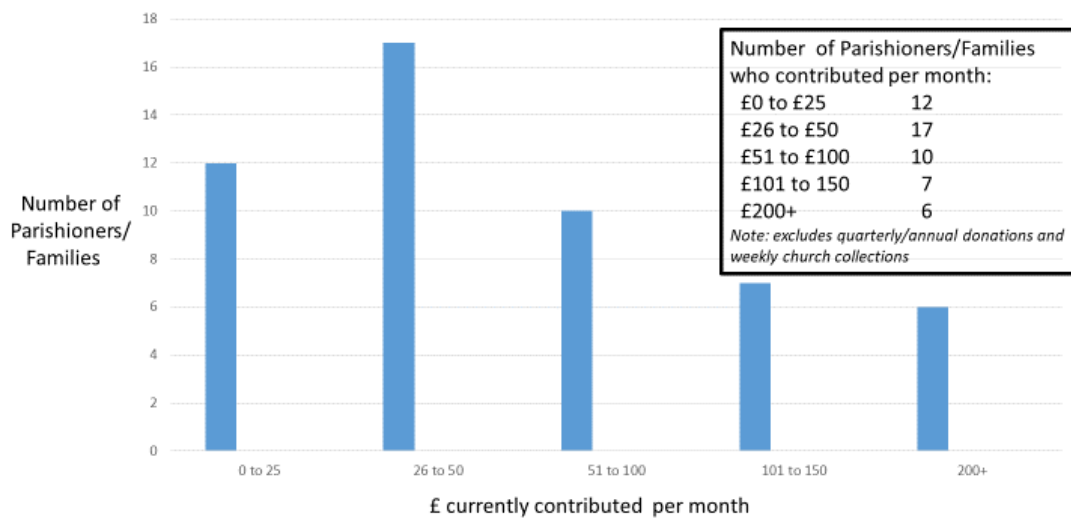
### The annual costs of our Church

	£K	
<b>Diocese Fund Contribution</b>	<b>81.4</b>	clergy/vicarage costs/training
<b>Parish Office</b>	<b>15.7</b>	administrator salary/office costs
<b>Utilities</b>	<b>10.9</b>	gas/electricity/water
<b>Cleaning &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>7.4</b>	hall cleaning/waste disposal
<b>Insurance</b>	<b>5.2</b>	church/hall
<b>Music &amp; Worship</b>	<b>8.2</b>	organist/sheet music/organ repairs/candles
<b>Clergy expenses</b>	<b>3.4</b>	travel/vicarage costs/general expenses
<b>Other</b>	<b>7.8</b>	outreach/events/audit fees
	<b>140.0</b>	
<b>Less Church rental income</b>	<b>32.5</b>	
<b>COSTS OF OUR CHURCH</b>	<b>107.5</b>	

We need £10,000+ per month, or an average of £95+ per month from each member, to cover our costs and build up a modest reserve for outreach and repairs, improvements and the 'expected unexpected'.

About half of those folk on our electoral roll make regular monthly payments (ranging from £5 to £500) via bank transfer; a few contribute either quarterly or annually and the rest via the collection plate in church. The chart below shows the current profile of monthly giving via bank transfer. The ability to give obviously varies greatly, but you should know that it is only the generosity of the 13 or so parishioners who give well over £100 per month that keeps us afloat. On average we need £95+ per month from each parishioner.

## Monthly stewardship contributions of our parishioners



So as you prayerfully consider what you can contribute each month through stewardship, ask yourself if your church is worth more than your monthly dining out bill, or telecom/WIFI costs, or gym membership, or other regular expense. St Peter's is our church and it is up to us, the congregation, to make it financially viable.

**Linda Foster**  
Hon. Treasurer

## Remembrance: a concert to mark the centenary of the Armistice 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918.



### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

The Remembrance Day Mass will feature the motet "May wisdom and knowledge" composed by Malcolm Archer for the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations of HM The Queen at St Paul's Cathedral. The service will be framed by movements from contemporary French composer Philip Mabboux's trumpet concerto. Performed by Royal College of Music, trumpeter Antoine Sarkar, and Mark James, organ.

### Remembrance Day Concert 5pm

There will be an early evening concert marking the Centenary of The Armistice. The concert will feature an organ duet arrangement of movements from Verdi's Requiem with soprano solos.

The music for four hands, four feet, and soprano will be performed by the arranger, Italian organist Alberto Brigandi, Mark James, and Vix Sherliker. The movements will be interspersed with poetry and readings on the theme of war and peace, love and loss.

We are looking for suggestions of five or six shortish poems or readings on the above themes. If you have a poem or reading you would like to propose and or read please email Mark (preferably with a copy attached) to [mark.james@rcm.ac.uk](mailto:mark.james@rcm.ac.uk), or approach him in church. Tickets are on sale at £10.

**Mark James**  
**Parish Director of Music**

## **Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter – an end of term report from our organiser.**

St Peter's participated in the Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter scheme for the fourth year by running the shelter in the church once a week during December. 21 Ealing churches work together to open the shelter during the winter months and provide emergency accommodation for up to 14 guests who would otherwise be sleeping on the streets.



It was a great team effort - 43 members of the congregation and local community generously gave their time and cooked delicious evening meals, made beds, chatted to guests, stayed with them overnight, cooked breakfast for them and did the laundry. Over the period we gave hospitality, friendship and accommodation to 21 different guests. One of guests has been in touch with ECWNS recently:

*"I've managed to find somewhere to live which I'm happy with. Just wanted to send a quick text to say thank you for all the help you've given us guys at the shelter – I know you guys do a lot of work behind the scenes and we never get the opportunity to thank the people who we don't see in the shelter properly, so a big thanks to you and the rest of your team who work so hard to make the shelters possible – it's really appreciated by everyone who is staying there."*

The shelter continues elsewhere in Ealing until the end of March, so do volunteer at other churches if you are able to. Also, please remember homeless people in your prayers, that they may find ways of moving on in their lives.

**Elizabeth Newton**

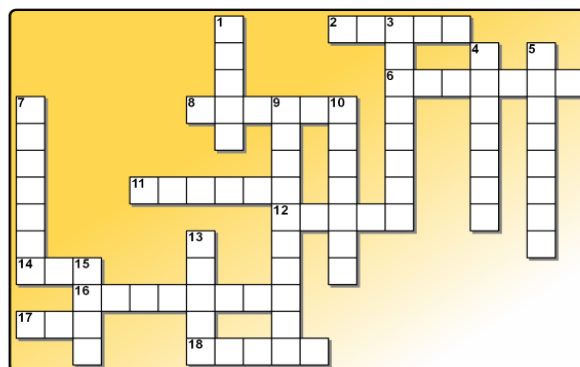
[The above was a piece written by Elizabeth for a March edition of the newsletter that never appeared. As Night Shelter has come around again we have reproduced this article here to remind ourselves of this important work and hope that you may like to be involved in St Peter's ECWNS 2018. Ed.]

We are very grateful to Elizabeth for helping St Peter's engage with this vital project. After four years Elizabeth has decided to step down from the role of chief organiser. She is still willing to help and support the team but feels it is time to pass the baton on.

Ben Sherliker is now working with Fr Michael and Fr David as the ECWNS Co-Ordinator for St Peter's. He will be organising volunteers and working with the clergy to prepare us for this year's programme. As in previous years we will be hosting the ECWNS on the four Thursdays before Christmas (29<sup>th</sup> November 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December). If you would like to be part of the programme, and we are looking for people to make beds, welcome our guests, make and/or serve supper, be overnight watchers, serve breakfast and help clear away, Ben would love to hear from you. You don't have to be a regular at St Peter's to help, we welcome all members of our community. Ben can be contacted on [bensherliker@gmail.com](mailto:bensherliker@gmail.com) and 07970 173 854. Or indeed you can talk to the clergy team.

Ben, Fr David & Fr Michael

## Back to School Crossword Puzzle!



### Across:

- 2 midday meal
- 6 person you learn from
- 8 tool for writing; has an eraser
- 11 time when you just have fun!
- 12 a little meal
- 14 get some exercise in this class
- 16 a, b, c, ...
- 17 class where you make pretty things
- 18 helps you if you are sick or hurt

### Down:

- 1 measure with this
- 3 blank book to write in
- 4 class that involves experimenting
- 5 book you learn from
- 7 tell stories on paper
- 9 fellow students
- 10 place with lots of books
- 13 you are in school to
- 15 class that involves equations



## October's Calendar

Date	Day	Event	Venue
Wednesday 3rd		15.00 Ivy Cafe	Church Hall
		19.30 Mass	Lady Chapel
Thursday 4th	<i>Feast of St Francis of Assisi</i>		
Sunday 7th	<i>Harvest Sunday</i>	09.15 Pebbles	Lady Chapel
		10.00 Parish Mass with reception of gifts	Parish Church
		15.00 Pet Service	Parish Church
		17.30 Evening Prayer	Lady Chapel
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	<i>St Paulinus</i>	15.00 Ivy Cafe	Church Hall
		16.00 Amnesty Letter Writing Group (TBC)	Church Hall (TBC)
		19.30 Mass	Lady Chapel
		19.30 Deanery Synod Meeting with Bishop Sarah	Christ the Saviour. Ealing Broadway
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	<i>St Wilfrid</i>		
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>	<i>St Edward the Confessor</i>		
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Trinity 20</i>	10.00 Parish Mass	Parish Church
		17.30 Evening Prayer	Lady Chapel
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	<i>St Ignatius of Antioch</i>	15.00 Ivy Cafe	Church Hall
		19.30 Mass	Lady Chapel
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	<i>St Luke, Apostle</i>		
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Trinity 21</i>	09.15 Pebbles	Lady Chapel
		10.00 Parish Mass	Parish Church
		17.30 Evening Prayer	Lady Chapel
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Ealing Schools autumn half term</b>			
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>		15.00 Ivy Cafe	Church Hall
		19.30 Mass	Lady Chapel
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	<i>St Chad</i>		
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Ss Simon &amp; Jude</i>	10.00 Parish Mass	Parish Church
<b>BST ends today and clocks go back an hour</b>		17.30 Evening Prayer	Lady Chapel
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>		19.30 PCC Meeting	Parish Church
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	<i>All Hallows Eve</i>	15.00 Ivy Cafe	Church Hall
		19.30 Mass	Lady Chapel