

# Parish Newsletter



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## Letter from the Vicar

As I snuffed out the paschal candle at Mass on Pentecost Sunday the business of the past few months seemed to come to a close. That full and amazing story of the salvation of the world proclaimed in the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus culminating in the giving of the Holy Spirit to the church.

Of course, that isn't the end merely the next stage of God's work amongst God's people. We, his church, now have to continue that story each and every day, being guided and encouraged by that same Holy Spirit.

There is much in our church life that speaks of

the work of the Holy Spirit. The first will be our Stewardship Programme for 2016, one in which we are asked to consider our giving to the life and work of the church in time, skills and finances so that we can continue to promote the gospel of God in our small part of God's kingdom.

Then we have the arrival of Fr Michael as assistant curate to the parish for the coming three years. He is ordained deacon at St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday 2nd July and will be welcomed officially to the parish on Sunday 3rd July when he will deacon the Mass for the first time.

The next is the parish retreat to Douai Abbey. A

chance to stop and smell the flowers, spiritually anyway. And then the holidays, often overlooked but in the refreshment of the time away or at least time of change we can recharge our batteries and hopefully take a bit of time to prayerfully reflect on our own relationship with God and the place of God's spirit in our life.

Alongside all this of course, as we gather week by week at the altar to receive God's grace in the sacrament of the Mass; we remember the spirit of God fills and directs us each day to proclaim the way of God and the truth of the good news of Jesus in all we do and say; Colossians 3.17

Fr David

## Revd. Michael Selby

After two years of study at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, followed by his ordination at St Paul's on 2nd July, Michael Selby joins us the following day as assistant curate. Accompanying him is his partner of 26 years, Neil, cat Hamish and dog Ruairi. They have lived in the Harrow area for many

years, Michael first as a school teacher, then as a freelance singer, and latterly as a chorister with English National Opera (17 years).

Michael and Neil were long-time members of St Mary's, Harrow on the Hill, with Michael serving as Reader and fulfilling a

number of other roles, before deciding to following his calling to ordination. He looks forward greatly to this exciting new part of his journey at St Peter's.

### Significant Dates for this month

- 2nd Marriage Preparation course begins
- 6th Pilgrim Module 4 begins
- 26th Pentecost Festival with Parish Mass, lunch and organ recital by Paul Ayres
- 29th Feast Day Mass followed by drinks in the Vicarage garden

## St Peter's, Ealing

St Peter's Church  
Mount Park Road  
Ealing  
W5 2RU

Phone: 020 8997 3655  
Email: [admin@stpeterealing.org.uk](mailto:admin@stpeterealing.org.uk)

Colossian 3.17 "Whatever you do, in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus"

**We're on the web@  
stpeterealing.org.uk**  
**Like us on Facebook and  
follow on twitter**



## Stewardship 2016

Our Stewardship Programme for this year will be launched on Sunday 5th September with our Stewardship Sunday being 18th September. In discipleship we are encouraged to reflect on our giving; in time, skills and money, to mission and ministry of God.

Last year you responded generously; with your generosity and budgetary savings we managed this year to balance the accounts. Now we need to move forward. Recent years have seen our reserves depleted. The cost of living has gone up along with ecclesiastical costs and we have very little wriggle room to build up the mission of God in our parish, which must be a priority.

Stewardship 2016 asks how we may improve our giving so we can begin to redress the reserves issue, meet

the ever rising costs without slipping back into deficit, whilst considering ways of building up the mission and ministry of God at St Peters.

Ways you could do this would be:

- consider increasing your financial giving by 10%
- to consider helping the churchwardens with church cleaning, church laundry or minor church maintenance.
- Offering you skills for the work of the church.

An information pack will be prepared to help you make that decision, it will also contain a pledge card. Use the pledge card to commit your giving to God by completing it appropriately and bringing it to the Pledge and Legacy Sunday Service on 18th September. Play your part in proclaiming the good news of Jesus in Ealing.



Fr Michael  
(the grey  
t-shirt!)  
Neil and  
Ruairi  
(the dog)

## Pilgrim 2016

As the Parish News hits the streets we are preparing to launch the fourth and final module of this season of Pilgrim, the Christian enquirers course we have been running since the autumn. Between 10 and 12 members have enjoyed, been challenged and encouraged in their faith by this course that has explored what we believe, how we behave, how we worship and finally how we see the world.

Pilgrim will be relaunched in the coming autumn and perhaps you might like to consider joining the course. Look out for the sign up list.

**pilgrim**  
A COURSE FOR THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

## Retreating at St Peters:

**22-24th July 2016: Douai  
Abbey.**

A quite, reflective retreat at this Benedictine House and former school. Spaces still available.

**3rd-10th May 2017: Rome and  
Assisi**

A Pilgrimage following the Christian story.

Booking forms for both retreats available at the parish information desk.