



St Peter's Parish Newsletter

September edition 2018

www.stpeterealing.org.uk

Letter from the Vicar

Well now, I guess this comes as a bit of a surprise. The first Parish Newsletter since February! "What has got into the Vicar?", I hear you cry. Well, the Parish News has been on my mind for quite a while. It is a valuable communication tool we have been the poorer without. It's the same old problem of finding the time, finding the people. August is a bit quieter and lets me catch up on some of my projects. This being one of them.

Thank you.

Preparing for a Newsletter allows me to take the opportunity of thanking you for your very generous gift towards the costs of my Study Leave. If you'd not heard, I am on study leave from September until December and a collection was made to help with the costs and I am very grateful. Thank you.

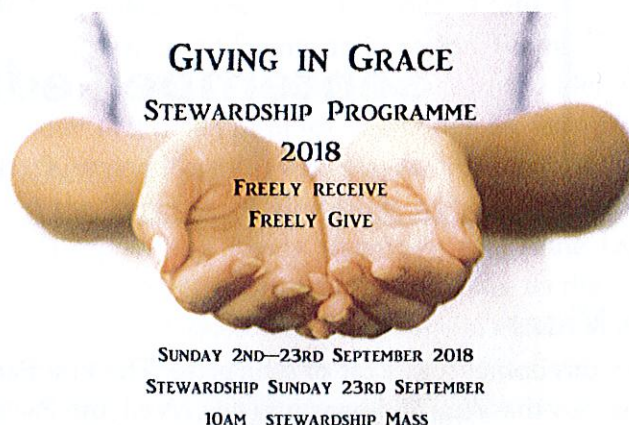
Study Leave

I shall be away from the parish on and off throughout September, October, November and into December as I take a three-month study leave. I shall be travelling to Scotland, Canada, the USA, Suffolk, South Devon and Worcestershire, to some of which Sarah will be coming with me, as will Harvey.

The overall title of my study leave is 'Theology, Ecology and Community –21st Century reflections'. I shall be doing a lot of reading and preparations in Scotland. In Canada I am staying with the AROCHA Community in Vancouver (www.arocha.ca) and planning on preparing a paper with Revd Ray Aldred, the Director of the Indigenous Studies Program at the Vancouver School of Theology. Whilst in Canada I thought it a good opportunity to visit an old friend The Very Revd Bertrand Olivier, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal. An opportunity perhaps to make some contacts for the parish and Diocese. Sarah and I will then head south to Georgia to visit family and maybe take in a conservation project in Savannah before heading back to the UK. On our return and after a short break it is to South Devon for a Cell Group (our 30th anniversary gathering!) and a visit to a conservation project in the Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve. Home again and then creative and quiet space as I travel to Suffolk for a pottery course with Sarah and Harvey (though they'll be doing a lot of walking and snoozing no doubt). Finally, I have a week's retreat at Mucknell Abbey (www.mucknellabbey.org.uk) during which I shall be writing reports to various bodies before returning to the Christmas rush of St Peters. So I'll have a lot to tell you when I get back.

Fr David

Stewardship Programme 2018 – Giving in Grace



In September we run our annual stewardship programme, this year entitled 'Giving in Grace'. I must start with the obvious, stewardship is partly about your giving to the work of God at St Peter's. We have no other source of income and quite frankly times are dangerously lean. After all the work done on the outer stonework and west window, despite hard won grant support from organisations such as the Heritage Lottery Fund we have no reserves. In our current account we are living hand to mouth and sometimes even that has not been possible. With cash flow being so tight we have had to hold off paying bills until the very last moment. We are close to completely broke.

We are very lucky to have a generous congregation and I thank you for playing your part in that generosity. I am afraid we must ask for more. Based on the last years accounts it costs £140,000 a year just to keep St Peter's going. That doesn't include building up any savings or paying for any unexpected repairs, and they always pop up. The church hall brings in £32,500 a year leaving £108,000 to be raise from the congregation. Our Electoral Roll says we have 108 members. That means just to break even we need an average of £85 per month per member. Of course, if we are to build up some savings and cover the 'expected unexpected' we should be looking to £95 per member per month. This may seem frightening or unrealistic. It is huge and not all of us can afford that kind of money.

Three things need to happen. Firstly whatever savings that can be made should be made in the running of the parish and The PCC are on that. We have already reduced the parish insurance bill by £2000 by moving providers. We are getting a new thermostatic control for the Church Hall which may save us another £2000 on our gas bill. We are looking to improve letting income too. We have a budget for 2018 that aims to break even and takes into consideration cuts and spending restrictions but what we can save is limited. We have a commitment to the Diocese of £81,400 this year. That's how much it costs to have one paid vicar in one parish – to see the break down read the Diocesan Pamphlet on Common Fund available at the information desk (I hasten to add the Vicar does not get paid £81,400 a year!). We have an invaluable administrator; the office and associated costs are in the region of £15,700 a year. We have a Director of Music; the musical life of the parish costs in the region of £8,200 a year. Then there are the day to day running costs – gas, electricity, insurances, general upkeep and maintenance etc.

Secondly, you need to give as sacrificially as you can. To stop and pray and reflect on scripture and your relationship with God and how you can help run this church community

with your financial giving. Think about what you already regularly lay out for and how that relates to your giving to St Peter's. For example, what do you pay out each month for gym membership; political levy; cable or satellite television; wine bill; club membership. How does that relate to what you pay into church?

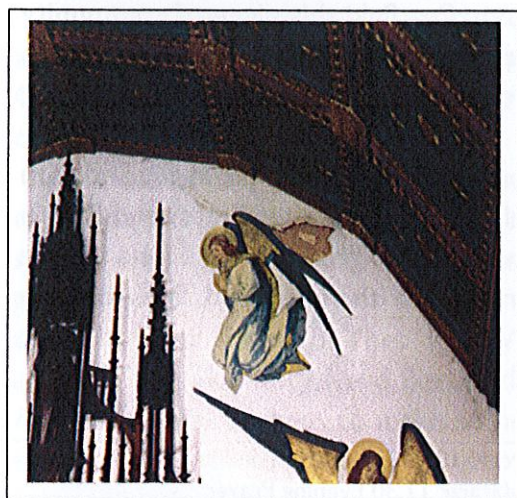
Thirdly, to make sure what ever you can give is given regularly and efficiently. As a regular tax payer who signs up to be part of the gift aid scheme your regular giving could be enhanced by 25% as we clam back from the government that element of tax you have paid. I said earlier that we really need an average contribution of £95 a month per person. That means if a regular month gift of £76 is gift aided it becomes £95 with the extra £19 coming from the Government. That is an extra free £228 a year.

Ok, not everyone at St Peters can afford £76 a month. Some can and some could pay more. What we do need to do is pay as much as we realistically can and make sure our offering is made generously, efficiently and effectively.

You might rightly ask, "What about the time and talents we go on about in these programmes?" They are very important and there is plenty to be done in the parish that will use your skills and require of you to give of your time; your actions and time can help with costs and more importantly help with the building up and carrying out of God's mission here. But for all this to make any impact we must be allowed to stop worrying about church finances. We can only do that if we stand up to the challenge. We must strive, as St Paul would put it 'to run the race'. Responding to God's gifts to us in Jesus with all generosity is at the heart of the gospel.

Fr David

Works in the Lady Chapel



In the previous piece on "Stewardship 2018 – Giving in Grace" I mentioned 'the expected unexpected'. Well we have one of those now. Eighteen months ago we discovered external pointing to the West End Lady Chapel wall had deteriorated and allowed water ingress which affected the internal plaster work of the Lady Chapel, threatening one of the angels in the Annunciation fresco. The pointing was repaired at a cost of c.£7000. We have been waiting for the plaster inside to dry out before being able to fully assess the damage to the plasterwork. The recent heat wave has caused the plaster to dry out quicker

than expected and a great lump has fallen off (see picture). This has become a matter of urgency. Conservators have made an initial assessment and given a preliminary report. Excluding the cost of the scaffolding this could be £4500 +VAT. We don't think this can be claimed on the insurance. If you can help fund this project please let Linda Foster, our Treasurer know. If we all chipped (pardon the pun) in £50 that could be job done.

Fr David

125th Birthday celebrations – 14th and 15th July 2018

What a fantastic weekend we had for our 125th Anniversary of Dedication celebrations! It was brilliant; thank you Events and Mission Teams. On the Saturday we had a selection of free fun events including a free barbecue run by the Men's Beer & Curry Team; a bouncy castle for the under 11s; a ball pool for the under 3s; face painting for everyone and a brilliant Jazz band, The Swinging Magpies, who played all afternoon. We also had Charlie the Clown who entertained the children all afternoon with stories and jokes and tricks with balloons. The Coffee Team put on a lovely afternoon tea. Anne Lazarow produced 125+ geraniums we were able to give away to everyone who came to the afternoon party (and we had a few left for the Sunday crowd too). Revd Margaret did a brilliant job of producing pounds of jam and marmalade that sold like hot cakes and Christine Bates headed a 'bits and bobs' stall. All proceeds went to help fund the afternoon. We must thank Dendrow Estate Agents, Waitrose (Ealing) and the Ealing Deanery Mission Fund for their support in putting on our community party afternoon.

But that wasn't all. With the arrival of Sunday the weekend got even better. The Parish Celebration Mass was attended by all sorts of lovely people including our Mayor, Councillor Tejinder Dhami; by Councillors, Greg Stafford, Nigel Sumner, Seema Kumar and Joy Morrissey; our MPs Rupa Huq and Steve Pound. The Bishop of London Bishop Sarah Mullally joined us to preach and preside. It was a lovely Mass which held a deep sense of celebration and our commitment to God. The choir pulled all the stops out and gave wonderful musical support to our praise of God.

Bishop Sarah blessed an installation 'Miracle Draft', over 125 knitted, carved, moulded, cut out and coloured-in fish made by a wide variety of people associated with as well as attending St Peter's. The idea of Christine Bates and Susan Peatfield this piece of community art celebrates the diversity and breadth of our community. The installation, which will be up for the next couple of months, stands as a symbol of the welcome and inclusion we celebrate at St Peters.

The Mass was followed by a drinks reception, provided by Ryan, Elyn, Molly and Sam Thomas as a thank you to St Peter's before they headed back to the United States and Ryan's next posting in Colorado; and a bring and share lunch with a table groaning under the weight of food. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to the weekend. It is one to remember.

September Diary Dates:

2 nd Trinity 14	09.15 Pebbles returns from its summer break; 10.00 Parish Mass and launch of Stewardship Programme 2018 – Giving in Grace; 17.30 Evening Prayer
3 rd S Gregory	19.30 Data Team Meeting @ The Vicarage
4 th S Cuthbert	19.30 Finance & Stewardship Team Meeting @ The Vicarage
8 th Birth of the BVM	10.00 PCC Study day in the Church Hall
9 th Trinity 15	10.00 Parish Mass with Stepping Stones (for 4+years); 17.30 Evening Prayer
10 th	Fr David's Study Leave starts today
13 th	19.30 Men's Beer & Curry meeting at the Ealing Tavern, South Ealing Road with curry at Lentils, South Ealing Road
16 th Trinity 16	09.15 Pebbles for 0-5s; 10.00 Parish Mass and Stepping Stones 4+; 17.30 Evening Prayer
22 nd	10.00 Best Feet Forward: Walk Twickenham to Richmond meeting at Richmond Station
23 rd Trinity 17	Stewardship Sunday – Giving in Grace; 10.00 Stewardship Sunday Mass; 17.30 Evening Prayer
30 th Trinity 18	Ealing Half Marathon please note change of Mass times; 12.30 Parish Mass; 17.30 Evening Prayer