

A monthly bulletin of all that is accomplished by and within our church's community

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## **Keith's Comments**

On Wednesday 16 November, the Queen was at Westminster Abbey for a service to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> birthday of the King James Bible. Earlier in the month I was at the National Theatre for readings of extracts of the KJB. And earlier in the year I was at Shakespeare's Globe for a reading of the entire KJB – Genesis 1i to Revelation 22xxi.

The Globe staged this around Easter, when the glorious weather showed the building to best effect – white & wood against bright blue sky. And within the theatre's simple structure and natural materials, exposed to the air, the words also seemed structured, but natural - meaning & mystery exposed to all who would listen.

The King James Bible was written to be read in public and heard, not read alone and silently. At each session a group of actors would take turns, each reading a few chapters. Each actor brought a fresh voice, and in Job and the Psalms we could hear the human cries of anguish, bewilderment, acceptance and joy. In Isaiah and Jeremiah we could hear the prophetic voice crying out, proclaiming God's ways.

In Ezekiel, the words spoke visions and formed patterns, wonderful appearances – *"and there appeared in the cherubims the form of a man's hand under their wings. And when I looked, behold the four wheels by the cherubims, one wheel by one cherub, and another wheel by another cherub: and the appearance of the wheels was as the colour of a beryl stone. And as for their appearances they four had one likeness, as if a wheel had been in the midst of a wheel."* [11viii-x]. I preferred these strange descriptions to the more precise prescriptions with which Ezekiel ends – he seems to be lost in cubits measureless to man.

The National Theatre took a different approach, an ensemble of actors reading extracts so that the presentation was more dramatic, which worked very well for the gospels. But the final session was Revelation, read solo by Simon Russell Beale. I last saw him as the Duchess in the Royal Ballet's *Alice in Wonderland* – a sublime piece of nonsense; which is also how many, even theologians, regard Revelation. But Beale read it brilliantly, opening it up to listeners to grapple with its sense.

Which is what a great actor should do with any text – it has its own meaning and we should not try to impose our meaning onto it. One Shakespearean actress put it thus, "You play the play until the play plays you". How wonderful it would be if we could read the Bible, the word of God, until the Word of God writes us, forming

our approach to life! The Bible can seem very distant – not written for our times. But if we listen and read afresh, it will challenge us to give it new meaning, and thus give new meaning to our lives – whatever version we use.

Yours in prayer,

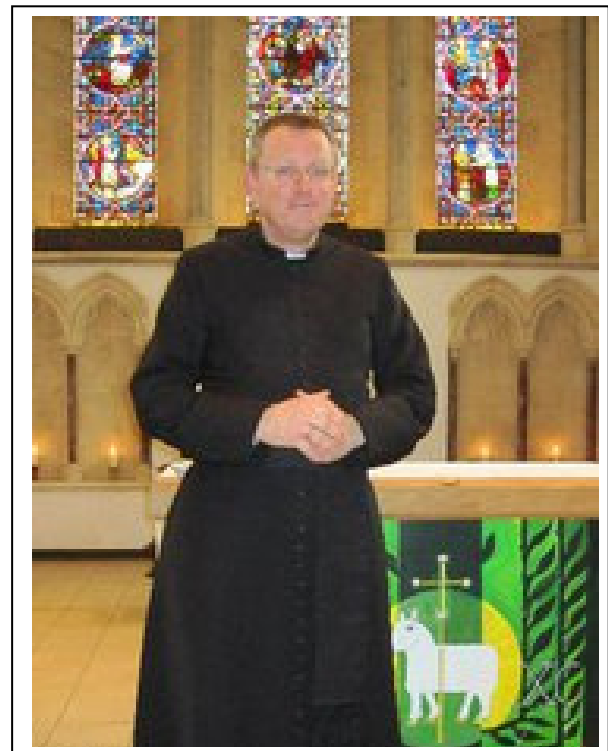
**Keith Stephenson**

## **New Vicar**

Allison and I are delighted to announce that the Bishop has offered the Living of this Parish to Reverend David Edward Neno, currently Rector of Christ Church with St Lawrence Brondesbury, and he has accepted.

His Collation is planned for Tuesday May 8<sup>th</sup> next year.

**Richard Peatfield & Allison McAllister  
Churchwardens**



*Reverend David Neno*

David Neno grew up in Plymouth where he went to school. In 1991-94 he was senior curate at St Mary's Acton. He then became vicar of Holy Innocent, Kingsbury until 2002 when he moved to become rector of Christ Church, Brondesbury.

The editor has also discovered, via the internet, that David likes rugby, reading, theatre, travel as well as eating and wine!

## **Financial Update**

2011	October	Year to Date
Income	£13,645	£111,501
Expenditure	£10,838	£112,026
Surplus / Deficit	+ £2,807	- £525

A surplus of income over expenditure in October of just over £2,800 (£2,377 of which came from tax refunds), reduced the cumulative deficit after ten months of the financial year to - £525. This month's figures particularly illustrates how helpful it is when donations are gift aided and the Inland Revenue give back to the church the tax that the donors have paid. It costs the donor nothing but makes a big difference to the charity.

***Rosamund Rowe***

## **Revd Steve Morris**

For two successive Sundays we were delighted to welcome the Revd Steve Morris, Curate at our neighbouring church of St Stephens, who was with us as part of his training to learn something about us – the way we celebrate Mass and the way we work.



On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October (All Saints Day) he was our Preacher and his Sermon was on the theme of "Blessed are they that mourn". The following Sunday he officiated as Celebrant.

## **Ealing Street Pastors**

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November we welcomed Richard Ward as our preacher. During the day Richard

leads a very busy life as a Creative Director and as a family man, but for the past two years he has been involved with the 'Ealing Street Pastors' scheme. As a volunteer, this requires him to go out on to the streets with a Street Pastor team, usually on a busy Friday or Saturday night between 11 pm and 4 am, where he interacts with anyone who is in need of help or, simply, wants to talk.



*Richard Ward*

This scheme was set up by the churches in Ealing and is inter-denominational with many churches actively involved. Street Pastors started in 2003 and, over the past eight years or so, has grown to cover most boroughs in London and, in the Ealing Deanery, stretches from Acton to Ealing, to West Ealing and through to Southall. Richard explained that the Street Pastors scheme was a partnership of the Local Authority, the Police and the Street Pastors themselves. Its purpose was to 'serve', to 'listen', to 'care' and to 'love'.

Street Pastors go out on patrol in teams of four and deal with all sorts of issues often connected with anti-social behaviour, signposting and looking after vulnerable people. The interaction and relationship with the general public is a confidential one and they will not involve the police unless the law is clearly being broken. The impact and success of this initiative has been astonishing. In some areas crime has declined by half since the Street Pastor scheme was introduced. Whilst the Street Pastors are out on the streets, a group of Prayer Pastors is back at base supporting this work through a vigil of prayer.

The organization is looking for more volunteers and a 'Taster Breakfast' is being arranged for Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2012. Several members of St Peter's congregation indicated an interest in getting involved. There was a retiring collection which raised the sum of £140 for this organization.

## **Past Times**

50 years ago, in the December 1961 edition of the Parish Magazine, was the following snippet entitled 'Faith':

Faith is the flower in bud that promises fruit,  
Anxiety the knife that severs it from the stem.  
Faith is the bloom in perfection that tells of seed  
to mature,  
Worry the worm that devours the petals before  
they droop,  
Consuming both heart of blossom and seeds  
before dispersal.

Faith is the tiny seed that grows to a mighty  
tree,  
Anger the cruel axe that fells fruition of years.  
Faith is the sap of life, its food and force and  
strength,  
Growth on the sorry stump that clothes and  
heals the scar,  
Faith renews the forest, vanquishes seeming  
doom.

## **Memorial Service**

On the evening of Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November a memorial service was held to remember, with thanksgiving, all who have died. We remembered all those whom we have loved and those whose example has been important to us and, in particular, we remembered those who had died in the past year and prayed for their families and friends.

The Revd Margaret Joachim led this Commemoration of the Faithful Departed and Susan Peatfield gave a sensitive address on the theme of 'those we love and see no longer'.

The names of all those for whom a request had been made to be included in our prayers were read aloud and candles were then lit in their memory.



## **Did you know?**

..... that high above the altar at the east end of St Peter's, at the point where the walls meet the roof, are a set of carved animals.

Looking towards the high altar end, on the left there is a sheep and ram together, then an elephant, a giraffe and finally a lion.

On the right the first animal is a wolf, then a bear, a bull and finally a camel.

They are delightful so do take a look at them one day, maybe after the service. But why did the architects/stone masons choose to install carvings of animals around the walls? Any views?

..... that nine of the cathedral churches (of the forty-four diocese of the Church of England) have "St Peter" within their title. Both Bradford and Exeter have the simple dedication of 'Cathedral Church of St Peter', whilst York has the dedication 'Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of St Peter'. The remaining six cathedrals have more complex dedications. Chelmsford is dedicated to 'St Mary, St Peter and St Cedd'; Peterborough is to 'St Peter, St Paul and St Andrew'; Ripon is to 'St Peter and St Wilfred' and Sheffield is to 'St Peter and St Paul'. Finally, Gloucester is dedicated to 'St Peter and the Undivided Trinity' and Winchester is to the 'Holy Trinity, St Peter, St Paul and St Swithun'.

Several of our other great abbeys and churches also have St Peter in their title famously, of course, Westminster Abbey which is the 'Collegiate Church of St Peter'

## **Remembrance Sunday**

'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them'.

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November we paid tribute to all the servicemen and women who have given their lives in wars and conflicts, and we particularly remembered those from St Peter's who died in the First and Second World Wars. At the Remembering, the list of those who died from this parish were read from the Books of Remembrance. This was followed by The Silence. The Last Post and Reveille were then sounded.



*'When you go home tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today'.*

The Celebrant was the Revd Harold Stringer and the Preacher was the Revd Margaret Joachim. In her sermon, Margaret explained how, with passing time, wars could seem distant – particularly to those who had not experienced directly their impact – but that it was our duty to remember and to honour the memory of those who had died in war by committing ourselves to peace.

For the anthem the choir sang 'For the fallen' by Blatchly. The hymns for the occasion were timeless and have been sung at this Service at Anglican churches all over the world – 'All people that on earth do well'; 'I vow to thee my country'; 'Eternal Father, strong to save' and 'And did those feet in ancient times', concluding with the National Anthem'.

## **PCC**

A meeting of the Parochial Church Council was held on the evening of Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at St Peter's in the Lady Chapel.

Chaired by Churchwarden Richard Peatfield, the agenda included several important items including a discussion on the Budget for 2012 (the approval for which has been delayed to the January PCC meeting), numerous issues connected with the fabric of the church building, and a report from the Mission Committee.

***Susan Brewin***

## **Synod**

A meeting of the Ealing Deanery Synod was held on the evening of Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November at Holy Cross, Greenford. The meeting was chaired by our Area Dean, the Revd Christopher Ramsay. There were two important items on the agenda.

Firstly, approval of a grant of £5,000 from the Social Responsibility Fund to support the work of 'Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter'. Synod members were shown a short film of the extraordinary work this organization did last winter in providing overnight shelter and hospitality to homeless people from January to March in seven churches across the Ealing Deanery. Interestingly the narrator on this film was Richard Ward who, coincidentally, had been our preacher on Ealing Street Pastors, earlier in November. He is a busy man!

Secondly, and the main item on the agenda, was a presentation by Sam Donoghue, the London Diocesan Children's Adviser, who gave us an inspirational introduction to the 'Children's Charter' which provides a four-point framework (of worship, welcome, nurture and mission) within which any church can develop and inspire their young people.

This was followed by three short presentations within the Ealing Deanery of case studies where churches had developed children's programmes

that reflected their own traditions and resources. Two of these presentations were from our near neighbours of St Stephen's (on a Messy Church) and St Barnabas (on a Children's Service), and the third was from St Joseph the Worker (on KidZone).

***Trevor Bates***

## **In the Beginning**

In the beginning, God covered the earth with broccoli, cauliflower and spinach combined with an abundance of green, yellow and red vegetables. He did this so that Man and Woman would live long and healthy lives.

Then, using God's bountiful gifts, Satan created Dairy Ice Cream and Magnums. And Satan said: "You want hot fudge with that?" And Man said: "Yes!" And Woman said: "I'll have one, too... with chocolate chips." And behold, they gained 10 pounds.

And God created the healthy yogurt that Woman might keep the figure that Man found so fair. And Satan brought forth white flour from the wheat, and sugar from the cane, and combined them. And Woman went from size 12 to size 14.

So God said: "Try my fresh green garden salad." And Satan presented crumbled Blue Cheese dressing and garlic croutons on the side. And Man and Woman unfastened their belts following the repast.

God then said: "I have sent you healthy vegetables and olive oil in which to cook them." And Satan brought forth deep-fried coconut king prawns, butter-dipped lobster chunks, and chicken-fried steak so big it needed its own platter. And Man's cholesterol went through the roof.

Then God brought forth the potato; naturally low in fat and brimming with potassium and good nutrition. Then Satan peeled off the healthy skin, sliced the starchy center into chips and deep-fried them in animal fats adding copious quantities of salt. And Man put on more pounds.

God then brought forth running shoes so that his children might lose those extra pounds. And Satan introduced cable TV with remote control so Man would not have to toil changing the channels. And Man and Woman laughed and cried before the flickering light and started wearing stretchy lycra jogging suits.

God then gave lean beef so that Man might consume fewer calories and still satisfy his appetite. And Satan created McDonald's and the 99p double cheeseburger. Then Satan said: "You want fries with that?" And Man replied: "Yes! And super-size 'em!" And Satan said: "It is good." And Man and Woman went into cardiac arrest.

God sighed... and created quadruple by-pass surgery.

## **Charity Bazaar**

On Saturday 26th November we held our annual Charity Bazaar at St Peter's. This is always the biggest and most important fundraising event in our busy calendar and this year was no exception.



*Duncan Reid-Thomas & Trevor Bates on the door*

With stalls selling homemade cakes, jams and preserves, flowers and bulbs, children's toys, second hand books and nearly-new items, and various lucky-dip draws including a bottle tombola, cake raffle and main raffle, there was a lot to attract our visitors to part with their money.



*Roland Stumpf on the Bottle Tombola*

Additionally, hot drinks and a delicious snacks and meals were available all day.

Nearly £3,500 was raised from this event – over £2,000 of which was raised from the charity auction. The main charities supports this year Oxfam (for their work in East Africa) and the Manna Society (for their work with the homeless). It is also planned to make smaller donations to a range of other charities from the proceeds.



*Julie Chadwick on the Cake stall*



*Susan Peatfield running the Promise Auction*

In the evening, after an exhausting but successful day, several of the volunteers attended a 'wind-down party' hosted by Christine and Trevor Bates.

Our thanks to everyone who helped to make this bazaar such a success, with particular thanks to Richard Peatfield who organised and masterminded the whole event.



*Margaret Joachim on the Book stall*

## **Happy Christmas to all my friends**

Dear Friends,

As most of you know, my eyesight has deteriorated further over the past year and, again, I will be unable to write Christmas cards to my friends at St Peter's. Instead, I will give a donation to St Peter's.

Please accept my love and good wishes to you all for a Happy Christmas.

***Sheila (Clarke)***

## **Tents, Bells and Silence**

We hadn't yet seen the encampment at St Paul's, so the suggestion of joining a Quaker meeting on the steps of the cathedral was very inviting. Those steps brought back many memories for me – from my ordination in 1964 to recent public debates – on science and faith, spirituality and money.... And memories of celebration – the great Jubilee Debt Campaign service, or embracing my dear friend and colleague as one of the first C of E women to be ordained priest. So it was strange to be sitting there as part of a small unspeaking circle of Quakers, and looking out across those banners and tents, a heaving sea of nylon in bizarre contrast to the ordered solidity of Wren's architecture.

Familiarity was restored by the celebratory sound of the bells – all-enveloping in their wildly joyful din! But how to find silence in that commotion? Shutting them out was impossible.

So I tried just listening. At first it seemed mere chaos; with bell following bell so closely and the fuzz of many echoes off the buildings, there seemed no pattern, just a deluge of sound. But the deep boom of the three-ton tenor bell helped a kind of flexible rhythm to emerge. Gradually the ever-shifting patterns of the changes came through, at least in fleeting snatches.

I found myself held in this ordered chaos, this random precision, till the cold stone step, aching back, bemused tourists, expostulating protesters and their banners and tents were all embraced in a deep stillness and inner silence.

Almost too soon something shifted, the bells' wildness resolving into order, all twelve simply cascading straight down in scale after scale to land on the tenor's great DONG. Then abruptly – silence. A magic moment to be held, with even the rumble of traffic contained. The first spoken 'ministry' came almost as a shock.

When the meeting ended with a final handshake Christina and I climbed the steps and slipped inside (no payment asked) for what remained of Choral Evensong. It too was marvellous: the choir of course; the prayers (for peace, that 'the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, may be subject to His just and gentle rule'); and even hymns that somehow seemed to resonate with what was going on outside (George Herbert on finding God in all things, even menial tasks, and Blake on the divine in human qualities – mercy, pity, truth and love...). What an incredibly rich afternoon.

***Harold Stringer***

## **Year's Mind**



Please remember in your prayers the following people whose year's mind falls at this time:

Malcolm Dillon	1 December 2004
Doreen Walker	3 December 1989
Marcel Rogers	14 December 1959
Carol Johnson	14 December 2008
Jill Ford	15 December 1961
Diana Hewlings	19 December 1990
Beatrice Clover	21 December 1957
Daphne Doherty	23 December 2002
Elwyn Jones	24 December 2001
Connie Ives	27 December 2002
David Hewlings	29 December 1990