

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

Margaret's Musings

My study window looks onto a silver birch which I planted as a sapling thirty years ago. It is now a mature tree, as tall as the house, and every autumn its leaves turn a bright gold. It glows in the sunshine for a few days before the autumn rain and winds strip it bare.

October has been glowing in the sunshine too – a welcome change after a not very glorious summer. Such an 'Indian Summer' (the North American name) is one of the most reliable features of English weather. In country areas here it is called St Luke's Summer, because St Luke's Day (October 18th) happens at the same time.

Luke, who may have been a doctor and who was certainly someone trained in careful observation, was a meticulous researcher and recorder of events. He provides by far the most detailed record of the life of Jesus and the early spread of the Gospel, determined that his patron, Theophilus, should have as much accurate information as possible. We at St Peter's have been compiling a set of accurate information too, in the Parish Profile which is available to anyone who may be interested in becoming our next Vicar. The advertisement has appeared and, on the assumption that there are some applications, interviews are expected to take place on November 17th. It's just possible that we will know before Christmas who has been appointed, but they certainly won't take up the incumbency here until well into the New Year.

Please continue to pray for the right person to be found, and also for all the people who are keeping our church alive, welcoming and worshipping during the vacancy. Our churchwardens have a particular burden of responsibilities at this time. St Peter's comes up in the London prayer cycle on November 8th, when people across the diocese will be praying for us. It would be a good day to join in!

Margaret Joachim

Financial Update

2011	September	Year to Date
Income	£9,337	£97,856
Expenditure	£9,659	£101,188
Surplus / Deficit	- £322	- £3,332

With expenditure continuing to exceed income, the deficit has risen to over £3,300 in the nine months to September.

Rosamund Rowe

A New Parishioner?

After Mass, on Sunday 9th October, whilst everyone was enjoying a chat over coffee in the Church Hall, a squirrel decided to wander in to the Church through the main West door and proceeded to then explore various parts of the building. A small group of children spotted it making its way to the High Altar but it could not then be found. It was suspected that it might have slipped into the Vestry.

Concerned that it would feast itself on the wholesome produce donated a week earlier to the Harvest Appeal for the 'Upper Room' (which was temporarily stored in the Vestry), Revd Margaret Joachim, after the conclusion of Evening Prayer that evening, tiptoed up to the Vestry door and slowly opened it – she was confronted by the startled squirrel which promptly scampered and hid behind the music cupboard.

Assisted by the Revd Keith Stephenson and Trevor Bates, and a combination of weaponry which included a lighted taper and a Churchwardens pole, the squirrel was 'encouraged' to vacate the Church through the door leading to the back yard.

Harvest

On the evening of Saturday 1st October we held our annual Harvest Supper in the Church Hall. Thirty parishioners enjoyed an excellent fish and chips supper washed down with wine.

There was a quiz, organized by Val Stephens, where thirty pictures of famous (and not so famous) people were displayed and participants had to guess who they were. Our congratulations to Megan McAllister who identified the most faces.



Anne Reilly & Pat Maufe at the Harvest Supper



Val confirming the results of the quiz

There was also a raffle with an excellent array of prizes. The following day we held our Harvest Thanksgiving service, which was well attended with the participation of our uniform groups and several visitors. Everyone brought items to support the Upper Room.



A display of items donated to the Upper Room

Junior Church

On Sunday 9th October the Junior Church held a Cake Sale in the Church Hall after Mass in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support. There was a wonderful selection of small cakes which were quickly gobbled up. The princely sum of over £170 was collected. Many congratulations to everyone on a spectacular success!



James Bradshaw on the cake stall

Nigeria

Dear Margaret,

I write to let you know that I will be departing the UK today for the village eye hospital I set up in Nigeria for another six months' tour of duties.

We all are thankful to you and all the congregation for the support you have given us physically and in prayers. Please continue to remember us in your prayers.

I have built a web site for the hospital so when you have a moment you can access this site on www.nsliehamawbia.com to view any updates. I shall keep in touch with e-mail and let you know when I am back to the UK for any preaching assignments.

Sincerely,

Revd. Dr. Erasmus Oji

Iran

Since working in a Mission Hospital in Kurdistan, Iran, supported by the Lutheran Church in the U.S.A. (The Lutheran Orient Mission), I have been interested in the people of that country and especially the plight of Christians there.

Following the Revolution in 1979 there has been ongoing persecution and imprisonment of Christians, and especially of the clergy. There have also been deaths - eight people were murdered or hanged, including the son of Bishop Dehqani Tafti, who was the first Iranian Bishop.

On my return to England in 1996 I joined 'The Friends of the Diocese of Iran'. We have meetings twice a year - in the Spring and Autumn - and had our bi-annual conference on

the last weekend of August this year at the London Theological School (formerly the London Bible College), where we were updated on the situation regarding the persecution of Christians and news of the missionary work by satellite transmission from Cyprus. This organization is called SAT 7. Although satellite dishes are illegal in Iran, most people have them and many have come to Christ through this media alone and belong to underground groups.

Thousands of copies of the Bible have also been distributed. These are known locally as 'Red New Testaments' because of their distinctive red covers.

Germaine Kemplay-Amow

Libya - Yvonne Fletcher

Our memorial to Policewoman Yvonne Fletcher, who was shot outside the Libyan Embassy in London on the 17th April 1984, is a beautiful crystal vase inscribed with Yvonne's name and dedicated to her by her god mother. It is now occasionally used for our floral arrangements at our statue of the Virgin Mary.

On Sunday 6th November, it was placed on the welcome table by the West door of the church and was filled with flowers.



Yvonne's godmother, Sue Martin, was a parishioner of St Peter's and a very active member of the team that supported the toddlers and baby groups that initially met at the back of the church before moving to the hall and then the Lady Chapel during the Sunday morning mass. Sue and Richard Martin were close friends of Carole and Michael Johnson. The Johnsons followed them down to Hampshire near Romsey Abbey where both families planned to retire. Richard was a church warden at Christ Church in Ealing Broadway.

In 1985 Yvonne Fletcher's memorial in St James's Square was unveiled by the then Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher. In 2004 Baroness Thatcher with members of Yvonne's family attended the 20 year anniversary of Yvonne's murder. Floral wreaths were laid at her memorial in St James's Square and a minute's silence observed.

Jane Campbell

Diocesan Synod

An important meeting of the London Diocesan Synod was held on the evening of Thursday 13th October at All Souls Church, Langham Place. Chaired by the Bishop of London, there was one key item on the agenda - 'Women in the Episcopate'. All forty four Dioceses' in the Church of England were required to vote on the motion referred by the General Synod: '*That this Synod approve the proposals embodied in the draft Bishops and Priests (Consecration and Ordination of Women) Measure and in draft Amending Canon No.30*'. There had already been a lengthy informal discussion on the subject at a meeting earlier in the year but this was the formal opportunity for the Diocese of London to debate the motion and vote on it.

It was evident beforehand that the result in London was likely to be close - over the previous six months the twenty four Deaneries in the Diocese had voted with 11 deaneries voting FOR the motion and 13 voting AGAINST.

The evening started with a short act of worship after which the motion was moved by the Ven. Rachel Treweek, Archdeacon of Hackney (she is also member of the General Synod). There was then a statement against the motion and two further statements, one in favour and one against. Following this, the Bishop invited members of Synod to speak and a large number of people came forward. There were then twenty further contributions, ten in support of the motion and ten against at which point it was agreed that sufficient time had been given to the 'debate'. There was then a period of silence and the Bishop then led Synod in prayer.

To succeed, a 'yes' vote was required in both the House of Clergy and the House of Laity. Voting was as follows:

House	Ayes	Noes	Abst.	Total
Clergy	39	41	0	80
Laity	45	37	0	82
Bishops	2	1	0	3
Total	86	79	0	165

The motion was therefore LOST. As you can see from the summary of voting above it was very close in all three Houses but, by two votes in the House of Clergy, the motion was defeated.

There were then two further motions for consideration, both of which were concerned with making better provision for those in the Church who were unable to accept the ministry of women Bishops. In both cases the motions were LOST by the most slender of margins.

This was a difficult meeting with passions running high and the Bishop of London should be congratulated for the way in which he chaired the meeting with both balance and humour.

Trevor Bates

Lancelot Andrewes

Between the sanctuary and the south choir aisle of Southwark Cathedral is the tomb of one of the Church of England's greatest saints: Bishop Lancelot Andrewes.

He was born in Barking in 1555 and went to school in Stepney and then to Merchant Taylors' school, going up to Cambridge University in 1571. After graduating he was elected a fellow of Pembroke Hall and taught there for ten years. He was ordained priest and became chaplain to both the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Queen.

He was a noted churchman, successively as Bishop of Chichester (from 1605), Ely (from 1609), and then Winchester (from 1619) – hence the link with Southwark which, until the nineteenth century, was part of the Diocese of Winchester. It was anticipated that he would be translated to Canterbury but King James did not appoint him.

Andrewes was a renowned preacher, teacher and biblical scholar but his enduring legacy is his collection of prayers of devotion and some of these prayers will be reproduced in the *Parish Chest* over the coming months.

He is said to have mastered fifteen modern and six ancient languages and his skill as a translator was used when, in 1604, he was appointed one of the Old Testament team working on the production of the King James (Authorised) Version of the Bible, published four hundred years ago in 1611. The five books of Moses and the books from Joshua to 1 Chronicles include his work.

His saintly and apostolic character made him one of the most influential and respected church leaders in the early years of the life of the Church of England.

With Advent fast approaching (27th November) we include one of his prayers for the start of the new Church year:

Those who with thine own mouth hast avouched that at midnight, at an hour when we are not aware, the Bridegroom shall come: Grant that the cry, The Bridegroom cometh, may sound evermore in our ears, that so we be never unprepared to meet him, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Past Times

100 years ago – regular readers of the Parish Chest may recall an article last year which referred to the building of the doors on either side of the main West door some twenty five years after the church was built.

In the parish magazine of November 1911, it was reported the '*we must gladly acknowledge the full receipt of all that is required*' (for the 'West Doors Fund'). A list of donations is provided with a grand total collected of £74 5s. 6d.

It may also be recalled that priority was given to these works ahead of the construction of a new Vicarage. In the same magazine, in a section entitled 'Notes', it was stated the 'the collection on All Saints Day will be for the Vicarage Building Fund'.

75 years ago – Europe was in turmoil with the start of the Spanish Civil War, the rise of the Nazi party in Germany and colonial problems for the British in the Holy Land.

In the November 1936 parish magazine the Vicar wrote: '*My dear friends, since I last wrote there is but little change in the European situation. There is plenty of explosive material about and yet we hope and pray that no explosion will occur. The tale of innocent sufferers in Spain grows by leaps and bounds, and the setting at nought by the combatants on both sides of all the ordinary usage of civilized warfare excites our horror and amazement. The action of our Government in dealing with disorder in Palestine seems to have been successful and we can only hope that a permanent solution of the difficulty between Arab and Jew may be found*'.

From the Parish Registers

Baptism:

9 October Joshua James PERRY

Year's Mind



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

Julian Malpas	2 November 1958
Winifred Ruston	6 November 1958
John Cowdrey	13 November 1975
John Kippen	15 November 1993
Elizabeth Taylor	16 November 1960
Arthur Hodgson	16 November 1962
John Burton	17 November 2004
Dorothy Simpson	18 November 1986
Peggy Gibbs	18 November 2001
Joan Sadd	22 November 2007
Blanche Francis	23 November 1986
John Sheldon	24 November 1996
Sybil Pollard	26 November 1973
Molly Shephard	27 November 2006
Charles Staden	30 November 1960
Ada Bryant	30 November 1964
Peggy Craft	30 November 2008