

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

Susan's Reflections

Autumn, it has been memorably noted, is a "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness". It is also a good time to take stock and pause to reflect. It offers a chance to reap the harvest of the year's experiences before the church's own year begins anew in Advent. Here at St Peter's we have much to reflect upon.

Last month many of us had the great pleasure of seeing Mark and Helen in their new home in Melbourne when we attended Mark's collation. After a wonderful service we shared a reception in the vicarage garden. This was an opportunity to meet Mark's new parishioners and to marvel at his stunning lake view. It was rather bittersweet though to then get back on the coach -without him!

The parish has had to reflect on the special time we shared with Mark and our own journey forwards. By the time you read this the Bishop of Willesden together with our PCC will have approved a parish profile for a new vicar and the search will be underway. Mark's ministry bore much fruit here at St Peter's, but, to continue the image, we must prayerfully collect its seed and be expectant of a rich, new harvest to come.

During the recent stewardship campaign we have been asked to reflect on our priorities and on how and why we give, as much as how much. The fruit of this is vital for the life of our parish and the wider community of the church. I am reminded of an old Sunday School song from my childhood: "Freely you have received, freely give Go in my name and because you believe others may know that I live."

I have been reflecting on the power and beauty of music in our worship. One of great privileges of occasionally robing and sitting in the sanctuary is to be surrounded by the superb voices of the choir and the glory of the organ. I am the least musically talented person I know, so for me the gifts that are offered here each Sunday are beyond price. Our new Director of Music, Mark James, seems already to be "in tune" with our beautiful building and our lovely music makers.

As we gather in our many harvests this month, I pray that we find in them God's richest blessings and promise of fulfilment in our lives together here and all the places he calls us go in his name.

Susan Peatfield

Financial Update

| 2011 | August | Year to Date |
|-------------------|--------|--------------|
| Income | £8,616 | £88,518 |
| Expenditure | £9,527 | £91,528 |
| Surplus / Deficit | - £911 | - £3,010 |

With expenditure exceeding income by some £900 in the month of August, the cumulative deficit after eight months of the financial year has risen to over £3,000.

Rosamund Rowe

Stewardship

Following a letter sent in August from the Churchwardens, Clergy Team and Treasurer to everyone on the electoral roll, the 2011 Stewardship Appeal was launched on Sunday 18th September when Revd. Keith Stephenson preached on the subject of 'giving, sharing and spending'. The financial position of St Peter's has deteriorated in the past year and it is forecast that we will not be able to meet the Diocese's request for the Common Fund in 2012. If you were unable to attend this service, please pick up a copy of this sermon and read it.

A Stewardship Team has been formed and three focus meetings were held in the latter half of September to consider the facts about St Peter's financial position and to discuss the options in the hope that there will be a generous response from the congregation when the appeal concludes at our Harvest Festival on Sunday 2nd October.

Director of Music

On Sunday 18th September we were delighted to welcome our new Director of Music Mark James. He has written to the Parish Chest:

Thank you for a warm welcome to Saint Peter's! I began my organ studies in North Devon after having been a server and regular attendee of the national GSS festival services. While an undergraduate at The University of Exeter I was University Organ Scholar and continued to study with Paul Morgan, Anne Marsden Thomas of the S. Giles International Organ School and more recently with Dame Gillian Weir.

My early passion for choral music was developed

through numerous university choirs, particularly the Chapel Choir which I accompanied at several Cathedrals and on tours to France and Germany.

After graduating from Exeter I was appointed Choir House Music Tutor at The King's School, Ely where I worked closely with the Cathedral choristers and in the school music department. For a time I was organ scholar at the Shrine of Our Lady, Walsingham, and held positions at several churches with a traditions similar to that of St. Peter's.

Earlier this year I became a class teacher at S. Martin's prep school, Mill Hill, where I am also involved in the school's music.

I am delighted to have become an official member of such a friendly church with so much musical potential. On behalf of the choir I would like to take this opportunity to extend a welcome to anyone who has thought about joining the choir, or feels they could contribute musically to join us at rehearsal after the service on any Sunday for an introduction to what we envisage for the musically exciting times ahead. Special upcoming services include, harvest, Advent, Christmas, and next year, the licensing of the new Vicar. We would be very interested to hear from both singers and instrumentalists, even for just an informal chat.



Mark James

I may be contacted anytime on musical_markj@yahoo.co.uk, 07837788940, or in person at church.

Best wishes,

Mark James

(NB – Mark is also available for piano, organ, and singing lessons. Please contact him as above.)

Thank you from Mark & Helen

Helen and I would like to offer our sincere thanks to those of you who came to the Collation & Induction service on 10th September when I became Vicar of Melbourne, Smisby, Stanton-by-Bridge and Ticknall, and to those who send cards and good wishes. It was so

good to have our old friends around us as we faced the daunting task of getting to know so many new people.

There was something of the feel of a college reunion to the service, as the Bishop of Derby was a tutor at my theological college and the Suffragan Bishop of Repton was a student with me (he's also Anna's godfather). Two other fellow students joined us, one from Lincoln, the other from Northumberland. Another college friend, who joined us for part of our summer holiday, was unable to come, but he's the Vicar of Bamburgh and his congregation includes Mrs Ross, the widow of one of my predecessors here.

I enjoyed my first Sunday as Vicar, despite moments of confusion, on my part, about how things are done here. And attempting two Evensongs on the same day in my determination to visit Smisby was something that's not to be repeated – arriving for a 6.30pm service at 6.31pm is less than ideal! Part of the delay was caused by a man herding geese across the road between parishes. However, Melbourne was patient and gracious and I'll learn quickly – and allow for migrating geese in my timings!

Thank you for coming and thank you again for the wonderful send-off you gave us in Ealing. I prepared a speech for the party after my collation, part of which expressed out thanks to you, but the wind was so fierce and noisy, and the puddings seemed such an attraction that we decided no one would be able to hear anything I said!

If any of you are interested, there are loads of photographs of the service and party on the Melbourne Parish website:

www.melbourneparishchurch.co.uk

Just look under "Gallery" then "Mark Powell's Collation."

Mark

Dear Friends

As I type this, there are ferocious winds outside and the trees are beginning to change colour – Summer is over, I guess!

For us this summer has been a strange couple of months with huge changes. It has felt that we have been on the receiving end of so much kindness and have given back very little in return. Our farewell from St Peter's was overwhelming – Mark's final service, the party afterwards and the gifts that we were given were truly memorable. You will, I hope, have seen some photographs that we have sent, showing that we have already used some of your generous cheques to purchase some new garden furniture. We have very many happy memories of parties and meals in Ealing – either in the vicarage garden or in those belonging to many of you. So this seemed like an appropriate use of the money!

We have planted the rose by the back door which leads into the garden – so every time we go outside (numerous times each day!) we are reminded of you all and keep you in our thoughts.

It was such a joy to see so many of you for the Collation and Induction on 10th September. It was a real celebration and felt wonderful to be surrounded by so much love and support from old friends and new, as well as family. Those of you who came will now understand why this place felt so right.

It is a caring and friendly community, which has eased the pain of leaving Ealing. The house is (another!) stunning vicarage and the garden (and view) is beyond description. South Derbyshire is not as mountainous as the Peak District or the north of the county but there is vast, undulating countryside surrounding us that is much more soothing than the A40! From our doorstep we have already discovered a number of short walks and are hoping to try out some of the more strenuous routes in the course of time.

We have been warmly welcomed in south Derbyshire by the people of Melbourne and the parishioners of Ticknall, Smisby and Stanton-by-Bridge. Cards, flowers, jam and cakes arrived in abundance during our first few days here and we have been invited for meals and drinks to a number of people. Faces are becoming familiar; names have yet to be learned!

Whilst it was not easy to say “goodbye” to St Peter’s and all of you, Mark felt that the time was right for him and for you. He is looking forward to the challenges he faces here with renewed energy and enthusiasm. The process for his replacement has already begun and by the time your new person is appointed you will all be ready and eager for someone fresh. Please be sure to welcome them as you welcomed us; St Peter’s is a stunning church and has a community with huge hearts of gold. Whoever gets the job will be blessed in plenty; I know because we were sustained and nurtured by you for over ten happy years.

Derbyshire is only a couple of hours up the road. Do, please, keep in touch with us and come and visit! We would love to see any of you.

And, again, thank you for all that you gave us during our time with you - and when we left. It was very much appreciated and will always be remembered with affection and gratitude.

With love

Helen, Mark, James and Anna

Melbourne

Lety and I joined our group of about 40 members of St Peter's journeying by coach (a further 10 went by car) to attend Mark's eagerly anticipated Collation as Vicar of the United Benefice of Melbourne, Ticknall, Smisby and Stanton-by-Bridge by the Bishop of Derby on Saturday 10th September.

The morning weather was dry and cloudy with some bursts of sunshine as we drove up the M1 and turned off into some beautiful north Leicestershire countryside to have lunch in the Ferrers Craft Centre in the former stables of Staunton Harold Hall, a large mid-18th century red brick and stone mansion and former home of the family of Lord Ferrers.

Some of us walked to the front of the hall to see the extraordinary high Anglican church built in late perpendicular gothic style with a richly furnished Laudian style interior by the Royalist Sir Robert Shirley during the middle of Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth in 1653. This was an insult to the puritans who preferred a simple classical style with the result that Sir Robert was soon imprisoned in the Tower where he died without being able to see and enjoy his completed new church.

The church is maintained by the National Trust (although the Hall is still privately owned and was not open to the public) and is one of very few built during the Commonwealth. There is a spectacular painted ceiling inside illustrating the creation of the world out of chaos and some fine ornate Jacobean panelling including box pews (women sat on the left and men on the right of the main aisle), pulpit, lectern and west organ gallery screen.

We drove on for a few miles across the border into south Derbyshire to Melbourne which is a delightful large quiet village, about eight miles south of Derby, with many attractive late Georgian and early Victorian buildings with a population of about 5000. The main street had an impressive range of local shops including a post office, some pubs, a pharmacy, Nat West branch, some small cafes and restaurants and a fish & chip shop and no sign of any Polski Skleps or large supermarkets....yet. Also there were Methodist, URC and Roman Catholic churches in the center of the village and we were invited to refresh ourselves and to have some tea or coffee with Mark in the RC church hall.

Melbourne Church does not have a hall and the RC church was built a century ago by the Kerr family, whose descendants Lord and Lady Ralph Kerr, are also Roman Catholics and live in Melbourne Hall a Jacobean mansion with 18th century additions and grounds next to Melbourne Church and Vicarage. Lord Melbourne was Queen Victoria's first Prime Minister in 1837 and the City of Melbourne in Australia was named after him.

We walked down the street to the parish church of St Michael with St Mary which is a magnificent 'mini-cathedral' and 'one of the finest Norman churches of England' according to Simon Jenkins in his book 'England's Thousand best Churches' and has a rare 4 out of 5* rating! There is a fine central tower containing 12 bells with a colourful array of hanging bell ropes at ground level in the crossing which tended to obstruct the view to the altar when rung before the service. The rows of sturdy cross hatched Norman arches were particularly impressive. The church was

comfortably full with over 200 present including 50 of us from Ealing in reserved pews mostly in the north aisle.

The Bishop of Derby welcomed everyone (a pity that he forgot to actually mention St Peter's Ealing during the service!) and conducted the Collation which gave Mark the spiritual care of the parishes and involved some legal formalities of swearing obedience to the Monarch and Bishop. The Bishop told us that he first met Mark when he was his tutor at Cuddesdon Theological College near Oxford during his sermon. The Archdeacon of Derby conducted the Induction in the second part of the service which gave Mark legal possession of the churches and vicarage which involved saying prayers by the most important parts of the church such as the font, lectern, altar and bells where he rang one of the bells to indicate the beginning of his ministry. The tradition in churches is that the number of rings is an indicator of the number of years the new incumbent intends to stay so Mark rang it ten times which indicates 10 years!



Mark was then handed bunches of keys, parish maps and electoral rolls by the churchwardens to symbolize taking legal possession. Representatives of the other denominations, local councilors and the MP then welcomed Mark to Melbourne with short addresses. He then announced the times of the subsequent Sunday services including three at Melbourne at 8.00am, 10.30am and 6.30pm which sounded busy compared to St Peter's!



Vicarage with church tower visible behind

After the final hymn, prayers and procession we all adjourned next door to the extensive lawn of the Vicarage garden for some welcome drinks and refreshments. It was good to talk with Mark's parents Pam and Graham and Helen's mother who, like us, had come for the service to support Mark. The weather looked a bit uncertain and after about an hour a sudden squall of rain caused us all to run for cover in the parish room at one end of the mostly mid-Victorian vicarage where we could help ourselves to some food to fortify ourselves before our 2-3 hour journeys home.

We had a quick look at the ground floor of the vicarage which Mark and Helen had already made attractive and comfortable and we felt sure that they and James and Anna (when she is there) will be happy living in Melbourne. We then dashed for our coach now parked in front of the vicarage to avoid more rain in order to return a bit tired but happy to Ealing.

Mike Tiley

A Visit to Mozambique

First of all I would like to thank Father Mark and everyone who either donated money or gave me the opportunity to earn it by babysitting and drawing pictures – it all helped me raise funds for my trip to Mozambique in July.

My school, Twyford C of E High School, with the help of the London Diocese's ALMA foundation, has established a link with a school in Maicenne, in rural Mozambique. Just before the end of the summer term, a group of pupils led by our school chaplain, Father John Seymour, travelled there to help set up an ICT department and to build an understanding between our two very different cultures.

It was a small group, (most of Year 12 opted for 'holiday' trips) and some of us attended Portuguese classes after school on Fridays for the whole year, in preparation for the trip.

It took a very long time to reach our destination, starting from London Heathrow, transiting Johannesburg airport en route to Maputo in Mozambique, finishing in a minibus packed with ourselves, our suitcases, and 2 sacks of potatoes our driver picked up at the market.

We arrived in darkness, as very few of the houses in Macienne have electricity, and discovered that although we were staying in the most modern house in the village, we still had no running water, just giant buckets and pails. We soon realised that the ladies of the house would spend most of the day carrying water to fill the buckets up, so we had to be very careful not to waste it!

All of our meals were taken at the main house attached to the cathedral, a sort of vicarage, which was a long walk from the guest house as the village was spread out along a single road. The food was simple but the servings were

generous – we mostly ate rice with cooked vegetables, and either meat or fish in rich sauces. It was all very tasty and filling, but not at all what we were used to!

The local vicar was Father Carlos, a very sincere, content and patient man. We discovered that he was held in very high respect by everyone in the village. I quickly realised that all those Portuguese lessons had not been very useful after all. Father Carlos spoke perfect English, but almost everyone else, including the ladies running the guest house, spoke a local dialect which wasn't a bit like Portuguese.

On our first full day in Macienne we were woken up in time to attend the Sunday service. This was SUCH a different experience. The whole service was sung, everyone knew the words to everything without books, and all the songs were sung 'a capella'. During the service people were invited up to give thanks to God for things that had happened and which they wanted to share. So many people spoke, and were thankful for so many things that we take for granted, that it definitely changed my perception of what is important.

Throughout the whole service everyone was smiling, because it was their favourite part of the week. At the end we shook hands with every single person in the church, and it was amazing how welcome we were in their community. We were guests of honour at a birthday party, which was fascinating because everyone there kept jumping up to sing, dance and stamp their feet. Of course we were drawn into the dancing and were exhausted by the end of the day...

...only to be woken up at 5am on Monday morning for our first day of school. At 6:30 am every day, the pupils assemble to sing the national anthem, and by the end of the week we knew it off by heart (it's a very catchy tune!) We attended classes and gave talks to the pupils about our culture, from the Royal family and the British media, to social networking and how to use YouTube and stay in touch by Skype. A lot of this was important because we wanted the pupils to be able to use their new computers to maintain links with Twyford and also to use this new resource carefully and safely.

We discovered that teaching methods in Mozambique are very different to those in England. It was almost impossible to lose focus as every few seconds the teacher would yell a question and the pupils would yell the answer in unison. There was no bad behaviour as everyone seemed to totally appreciate the need to learn – it meant both teacher and pupils were happy and the lessons were engaging. This was a lesson to us on how school should be, even though the building was crumbling and some rooms only had 3 walls, and all the classrooms had old fashioned blackboards instead of the high tech interactive white boards that we use.

As lessons were taught in Portuguese it was hard to keep up with some of them, although I was pleased to be able to follow the science and

maths classes without actually understanding most of what the teachers were saying. Music classes were the most fun, though. We learned local songs and dances, then sang Twyford Gospel Choir favourites and taught the children the songs we use in worship.



*Mariko Chadwick & some new friends
in Mozambique*

We all made some great friends over the week, and had some amazing experiences. Sudden outbreaks of singing and dancing, always apparently spontaneous, made everything such fun – for example, a teacher conference suddenly turned into a dance circle, with our head girl hoisted onto the music teacher's shoulders.

Every day local people would press gifts of fruit and vegetables on us, which would be turned into delicious juices and side dishes for mealtimes. The most wonderful part, for me, was the way that I could walk down the street and everyone I met would smile and say hello. It was great to respond in kind, and very sad to find that back in England my smiles and friendliness were met only with scepticism and glares.

It was clear that despite all our wealth, resources and opportunities, we have not grown as people nearly half so much as the happy, carefree citizens of Macienne. They know what is really important.

Mariko Chadwick

PCC

The process for selecting and appointing a new Vicar is relatively time consuming and complex. Central to this process is for the Parochial Church Council to prepare a statement 'describing the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish' (the Parish Profile) and, if required, to then request a meeting with the Bishop and Patron to discuss the profile and hear from him about the needs of the Diocese and the wider church in relation to the benefice and his comments on the parish profile. Two important meetings of the PCC were held in September.

Firstly, on Wednesday 14th September, the PCC met to discuss the draft 'statement of needs' which had been developed over the previous six weeks and for which input had been requested from everyone at St Peter's. After discussion and some further amendments a final version was approved. The PCC then appointed our two Churchwardens, Richard Peatfield and Allison McAllister to act as our Representatives who are charged with selecting our new Vicar.

Secondly, on Tuesday 20th, the PCC met with the Rt. Revd. Pete Broadbent, our Bishop and Patron, and also the Revd. Christopher Ramsay, Area Dean for Ealing.



Revd. Christopher Ramsay & Rt. Revd. Pete Broadbent at the meeting

There was a good discussion on the parish profile where the Bishop made some very helpful comments and asked several questions to ensure that its content would be clear to any prospective Vicar applying for the post and then outlined some of the priorities he had in the Willesden and wider London Diocese.



Rt. Revd. Pete Broadbent, Richard Peatfield, Susan Brewin & Allison McAllister at the meeting

The Bishop also outlined an indicative timetable, the key items of which were advertising the post in early to mid-October, short-listing candidates in early November, interviewing prospective Vicars in mid-November with a new incumbent possibly starting at St Peter's shortly after Easter next year.

Susan Brewin

Synod

A meeting of the Ealing Deanery Synod took place on the evening of Thursday 22nd September at St James' Church, West Ealing. Chaired by the Area Dean, the Revd. Christopher Ramsay, the meeting was set in the context of a Eucharist with breaks to cover the business issues.

The Accounts for the year 2010/11 were received and approved. With grants of £5,500 being made during the year overall funds had fallen from £11,850 to £6,692. Trevor Bates was re-elected Auditor for the forthcoming year. This was followed by the election of Officers and Rosamund Rowe was re-elected Secretary.

Regarding local Church of England schools, Twyford has applied for Academy Status and the three Governors, who have been appointed by the Synod, were required to stand for election to the new governing body. The three – Katy Ogunsetian, David Bush and Louise Gibb – were proposed, seconded and duly elected. A Governor was also required for Christ the Saviour Primary School and Nursery. One nomination had been received from Alan Reynolds who was duly elected.

Christopher then spoke of the need for all churches to think about the forthcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012 and of the opportunity this gave us all – through words, deeds and hospitality – to share our faith.

St Peter's is represented at this Synod by Trevor Bates, Wendy Quill and Rosamund Rowe.

Year's Mind



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

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Terence Simpson | 3 October 1978 |
| Stan Strangeway | 6 October 2006 |
| Roger Robinson | 12 October 2003 |
| Maudy Austen | 17 October 2003 |
| Winifred Wilson | 19 October 1967 |
| Betty Bland | 22 October 1992 |
| Caroline Small | 24 October 1958 |