

**St Peter's**  
**Eaton Square**  
Parish Magazine



**DECEMBER 2017**  
**& JANUARY 2018**



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## VICAR'S NEWSLETTER



I had not expected on a week's visit to sites associated with Martin Luther and the German Reformation, to find myself at a concentration camp. But on Wednesday, 8 November along with 24 other clergy, I took the train to Weimar, the city which was at the heart of the Nazi movement in the 1930s, and although we had been encouraged to look at museums and churches associated with Goethe and Schiller and the Reformation painter Cranach, a brief look at the internet made me aware that the camp of Buchenwald was just a few kilometres from the city, and I decided to go there instead. Many of you may have been on trips to Concentration camps, but I had not been, and although I grew up watching the horrors of WW2 on Sunday afternoon episodes of *The World at War*, it was very moving indeed to stand on the soil, on the stones, and the concrete roads where thousands lived and worked and died. Buchenwald was not a death camp like Auschwitz, but a labour camp. A quarter of a million prisoners spent time there, from all over Europe and the Soviet Union—Jews, Poles and other Slavs, the mentally ill and physically-disabled, religious and political prisoners (including socialists and religious leaders like Dietrich Bonhoeffer),

Gypsies, Freemasons, Jehovah's Witnesses, criminals, homosexuals, and prisoners of war including British airmen and spies. They worked mostly as forced labour in armaments factories. They dug tunnels and chambers underground for the construction of V2 rockets. About 500 women were also imprisoned there and were used to provide sexual services to the SS officers. Tens of thousands died of starvation and illness, or were shot for stepping out of line to pick up potato peelings, or for being too weak to work. After it was liberated by the US army in 1945 it was handed to the Russians, who ran it as their own concentration camp until 1950.

After two hours reading the detailed notes in the well-curated exhibition, along with large groups of German school children, I felt overwhelmed. After returning to Erfurt where we stayed I wandered the streets for a while, but down a side street I came into what had been the Jewish quarter and found myself at the medieval synagogue, a building which had been used by the Jewish community in Erfurt from around 1100, and given up in the pogrom of 1349 when Crusading Christians murdered Jews across Europe on their way to die in the Holy Land. It became a store house and was so misused that the Nazis were never aware of its previous existence. They were too busy destroying subsequently built synagogues in the city. In 1990 it was saved and restored, and is now a testament to the early Jewish communities in Thuringia, who coped with continuous prejudice, pogroms, exterminations and expulsions. Then I found another synagogue, called the Little Synagogue, which has also been restored and is home to cultural events of all sorts today. Most poignant there were the stories told of individual members of the Jewish community who had contributed so much to the town, and to the life of Germany, and who had given their lives, in the 14th century, the 17th, 19th and 20th centuries.

There is great evil in the world, but despite that sad fact, there are also many many people of all nationalities, creeds and beliefs, who treat others with compassion and respect, and who

overcome the prejudices of their day. For most of the history of Europe, Jews and Christians have lived peaceably together, have supported and cared for each other, and have enjoyed learning about each other's faiths and customs. Today in Germany, Jews and Eastern Europeans, the mentally ill and physically-disabled, the religiously and politically opinionated, Romanies, homosexuals, Freemasons, Jehovah's Witnesses, and former criminals, are officially welcome to build a just and valued life in Germany which is heartening after such horror and atrocity. But progress is never secure, and today the newly celebrated openness of Germany to difference is being tested by the large influx of refugees from the Middle East, straining the tolerance and understanding of so many who are now feeling protective of their culture and identity.

What are we to learn? We should not be despairing. We should not be complacent. We should not be too naive. Europe faces many problems and if social justice and peace are to be maintained it will require a lot of effort from churches, and mosques and synagogues, and from people of good will and political commitment, to prevent mistrust turning into prejudice and aggression. In times of social stress, change and conflict it is vitally important for people of faith both to remember and to live out the truth of their faith, which places the value of individual life before social orthodoxy, and the individual's need for both justice and practical support and protection before the cultural identities which are the rallying points for prejudice and violence. We each, I think, must find a way to play our part.

Ralph



*The Holy Trinity, worshipped by Mary and St Sebastian - Lucas Cranach 1515*



*Shoes from those who died at Buchenwald Concentration Camp*

## FROM JULIE



November was a month of new life and new explorations. We enjoyed our first of many parish retreats together. The theme of the retreat was our journey into the heart of God. And we had a lovely time. I think it is fair to say that each of us came with the intention of exploring our personal journey of faith. And we

found, over the 24 hours that our personal journey is very much bound up with one another; that as we make space for God, we begin to recognise and experience his presence in the person sitting beside us. The Pilgrim course has begun, a group of people meeting each week to deepen their own journey of faith whilst preparing for Confirmation.

A few weeks ago we heard a wonderful sermon by Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons. Her words to us were challenging. She spoke quite simply about what it means to live out the faith in a world of broken relationships, prejudice, abuse and greed. I was challenged by her words to us. Not merely because of the specific examples she gave from her life but because she was pointing me, pointing all of us, to the heart of our faith.

**“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “**

These words from the introduction to the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew’s Gospel are not a list of dos and don’ts but they are pronouncements of blessing. Jesus does not say, ‘you must

be merciful,' but rather, those who are merciful will receive mercy. They will be blessed of God.

Sometimes we find it disheartening to read a passage like the Beatitudes. We may feel we are unable to live up to such a standard. Or we may respond by trying to take the weight of the world on our own shoulders. And yet, we all know that this is fruitless for only God can carry the weight of the world. And he has done this through Incarnation, through becoming one of us and entering the reality of our world.

Whether we like it or not Christmas is being celebrated all around us. But in the midst of these celebrations let's take the time to stop and enter the season of Advent. Because, it is in our journey together through the season of Advent where we prepare for Incarnation, the story of Jesus in Bethlehem. As we move towards Christmas we tell and re-tell the story. And we do this in many different ways. Sometimes it's through coming together in worship or celebrating with our friends and family. For this story to which Advent leads stands the test of time.

The third Sunday of Advent recalls the life of John the Baptist who points to the reality of Incarnation. 'Prepare the way of the Lord. Make His path straight.' The image of the straight path would have been clear to the people listening to John. When a king was to come into the land, the roads would be cleaned and straightened in preparation for his arrival. John, then, is telling the people to prepare themselves, their families and their communities, for the arrival of the Lord in a way similar to how they would prepare the roads for a coming king.

And this good news calls for celebration, for them, and for us. For this message 2000 years ago is alive and well today. Jesus, the Son of God, the Saviour of the world has come to shine his light into the very heart of our lives and into the division and darkness of our world. This is Incarnation and is the true meaning of Christmas.

*Julia Khoo*

## PLEASE SUPPORT ST PETER'S CHRISTMAS CHARITIES

This Christmas season St Peter's is supporting three charities that support children locally and around the world. Our local charity is Caxton youth organization, supporting children with learning difficulties in our local area. Caxton Youth Organisation has been working with young people from different communities in Westminster since 1948. They work to advance the education and social development of young people with disabilities, resident in the City of Westminster, and to develop their social, educational, citizenship and life skills. We will be hosting a Christmas party for the youth club in our parish hall on Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December.

St Peter's is also supporting the charity Kids for Kids, a charity which St Peter's has been involved with for the last few years in supporting their carol service, which this year is on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November. Kids For Kids helps children in Darfur, Sudan, who live lives of unimaginable hardship. The key project we will support is a goat loan, enabling families to support themselves. Many children are malnourished in Darfur and goat's milk transforms a child's health.

And finally, we are supporting Open Doors, an International ministry working with people around the world persecuted for their faith and personal conviction. Our donation will go towards Open Doors work with children of Christians and other minority families in the Middle East who have suffered persecution because of their faith.

Additionally, donations from the Christingle service on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December will support the work of the Children's Society with disadvantaged children in the UK. The mission of The Children's Society is to 'fight for change so that disadvantaged children have better lives.' They do this through nurturing children in early years, strengthening families through advice

and support, providing basic needs for destitute families, campaigning for the needs of children, particularly around the areas of debt and poverty.

Thank you for your support and may you have a blessed Christmas.

*Julie Khoo*

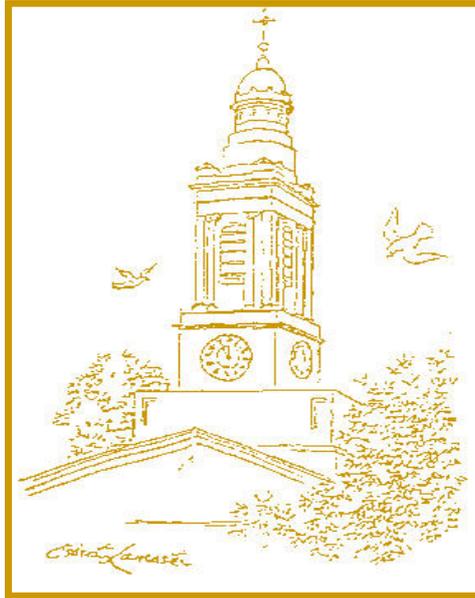


**CAROL SINGING**  
at **VICTORIA STATION**  
on  
**Friday, 8 December 2017**  
from **1.30-3.00pm**  
**St Peter's School Choir**  
will join us from **2.00-3.00pm**

**We will be handing out mince pies as a way of celebrating the Christmas season with the community.**



## PARISH NEWS



This year we began November with a simple remembrance of All Souls Day, which we observed with two said Eucharists. That evening, due to an oversight with concert dates, there was an outstanding Eaton Square Concert, performed by Tasmin Little (violin) and John Lenehan (piano) who performed brilliantly to a full audience in church. Next year we shall revert to an evening Sung service for All Souls Day, but this year we were glad that so many enjoyed such vibrant and life affirming music at St Peter's. The last Eaton Square concert



of the season was from the Queen's Six, on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> of November. The Queen's Six are a male a cappella ensemble based from the Choir of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. Their programme 'Sous la pluie anglaise' included a mixture of French and English sacred, folk and part songs, ending with a little bit of Bacharach and The Beach Boys! It was

a joyful end to a fantastic concert series this Autumn.

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November the church was filled with Latin joy as we celebrated our Quiz Night and dinner to raise funds and awareness for the charity Telefono de la Esperanza ([www.telefonodelaesperanza.org.uk](http://www.telefonodelaesperanza.org.uk)). The parish hall was filled with diners and members of the church worked together with volunteers from Telefono to serve a sumptuous and delicious meal. The Quiz, led by Chris Maguire, revealed the weakness for some of us of our knowledge of South and Central America! The evening ended with spectacular dancing in the church, with a group of Columbian folk dancers performing. We are grateful to all who helped raise funds for Telefono's important work and who made it such an enjoyable social occasion.

Inclusive Church were among the many charities which have used the church over the month, meeting on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup>, and then on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> we gathered for Remembrance Sunday on the portico as in previous years, for a moving Act of Remembrance, while Matthew and Revd Julie led acts of Remembrance at Victoria Station too.

The following day the PCC met and considered, among other things, our Mission Action Plan for the next five years. We will complete this before the APCM next Easter. That week both the clergy and Matthew went away with clergy and Pastoral Assistants from St Dunstan's Stepney and St Matthew's Westminster for a few days of valuable worship and team building in the countryside, near Horsham.

The Funeral of Stephen Olugboja took place on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup>. Stephen was a much loved member of our congregation and will be badly missed by all of us. Our prayers are with Evelyn, Stephanie, Alexandra, Edward and Jonathan in their loss.

Stewardship Sunday took place on the Feast of Christ the King, Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> of November, and information about financial giving to St Peter's was sent to everyone by email too. We hope for a positive response to our Stewardship Sunday, to enable us

to do more in our parish and community.

St Peter's Poppets, led by our new member of staff Ana Mateos continued to meet on Fridays as well as Mondays and numbers have been good, and the Pilgrim courses continued to meet too, with six adults meeting together and some preparing for confirmation.

Fr Ralph was away for five days in November, visiting sites associated with Martin Luther and the German Reformation with other clergy, arranged by Sion College. Later in the month Revd Julie went to Boston to join her husband Ivan at a theological convention.

The Youth Group, led by Revd Julie and Matthew, continued to attract lots of our young people, with 20-30 teenagers coming to decorate cupcakes with Auriol Williamson on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November and for an evening of games and a Bible Quiz on the

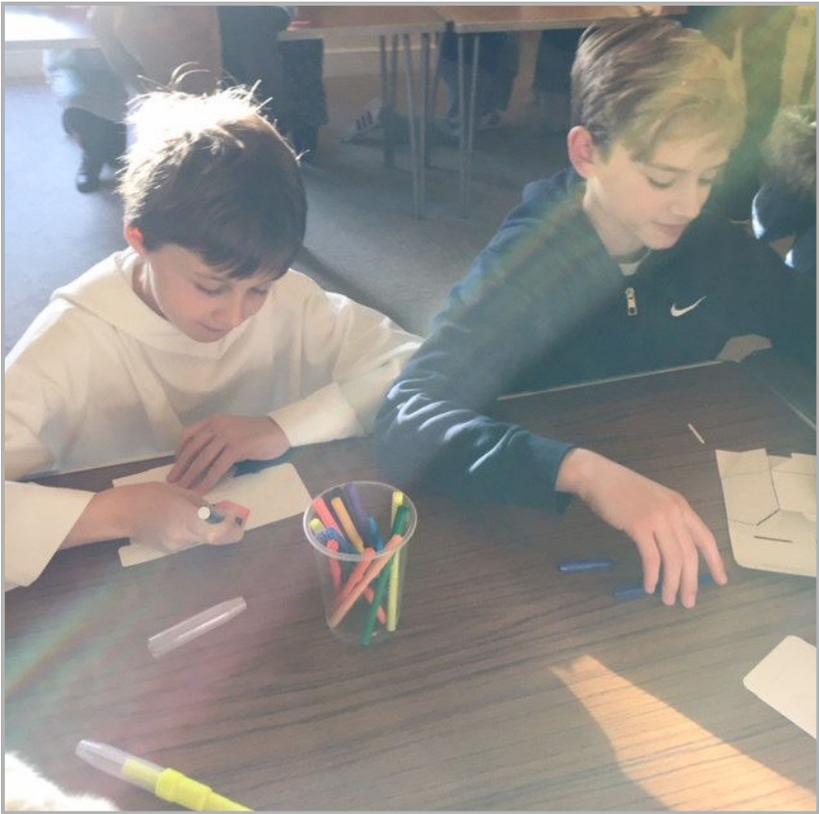


19<sup>th</sup>. At the start of December they will be Ice Skating at the Natural History Museum, which will be great fun, and they are having a party after the Christmas Carol Service in December.

Christmas concerts and services began on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November with the Kids for Kids Carol Concert, raising support for their vital work in Darfur. The following night the Friends of Columbia also held their concert in the church, with wonderful music and readings. The Faith Discussion Group meets on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss and read together the story of the birth of Christ, and the Welcome Box team are hosting an International Food Party for Refugees in Julie's flat on Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup>. The Caxton Youth Club are coming to enjoy their Christmas Party on Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the church will be hosting a number of other school and charity services, concerts and events over these coming weeks.



*Photographs taken on Stewardship Sunday of the children making boxes for our Christmas Charities.*



## FROM MATTHEW



The Madonna and Child statue, just before St. Peter's sanctuary steps, has stood out to me over my last three months here. My dissertation at King's College London was based on Mary, and more specifically on the colours she is usually painted or depicted as wearing: red and blue. The St. Peter's Mary, though, is only garbed in white and blue. The red paint is not, as is usual, the dye of the dress beneath her cope, but instead

clothes the Son of God. The beautiful folds of Mary's blue fabric gather around Jesus like waves, as if he himself has just risen out of them, like the figure of Venus in Sandro Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus*. In this famous Renaissance painting, the goddess of love is also about to be garbed in red as the waters gather round her. Transferring this classical interpretation over to our Madonna and Child, the same thing appears to be happening. Mary, with the ebb and flow of her dress, gives birth to Love itself/himself, in the person of Jesus. Henry Dreyfuss tells us that for the Greeks and the Hebrews the colour red symbolised both love and sacrifice, so when we see the Christ Child clothed in a fiery red this is perhaps simply a reminder of the reason for his existence: to declare God's love for the world.

Can we not also see in the statue echoes of the Eucharist? The body and blood of our Saviour held out before us? This may make us feel uncomfortable, after all this is only a baby. But sacred art has never shied away from giving foreshadowing glimpses of the ultimate sacrifice to come, and there is

something profound about St. Peter's baby Jesus holding out his arms. He is reaching out to us, about to enfold us in his love, but also spreading them out in readiness to bear the cross. His mother's tilted gaze strikes me as slightly tired, perhaps from trying to protect a child that refuses human protection. Her left hand clasps him gently to her, but the child Jesus pays her no attention, instead looking towards his future role. I have always felt sympathy for Mary, and I feel this especially when gazing up at her statue from the pews at St. Peter's Eaton Square. I'm not alone in this. From the medieval period onwards, people contemplated and painted the *Mater Dolorosa*, *Our Lady of Sorrows*. The first of seven of her sorrows is the prophecy of Simeon: "And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel" (Luke 2:34). The incarnation is *alarming*, it isn't *normal* or everyday, which is a point emphasised by a stanza of a poem I once studied.



*[Untitled] Madonna and Child by Michael Camilleri Cauchi. Nadur, Malta*

Stanza from “The Virgin Punishing the Infant”, by Carol Ann Duffy:

He spoke early. Not the goo goo goo of infancy,  
but I am God. Joseph kept away, carving himself  
a silent Pinocchio out in the workshed. He said  
he was a simple man and hadn’t dreamed of this.

Including Joseph, it plays on an idea from our modern day society: that men react to difficult situations by disappearing off down the shed! And thinking about the Holy Family as a living, breathing family, perhaps Joseph did sometimes wish for a “silent Pinocchio”: a puppet that just fit in to normal Jewish society, and not a special child with a divine destiny.

Going back to our statue, Mary is doing what any other mother would: she is holding and protecting her son. The Angelus prayer reads as if to give reassurance to Mary as a mother: “The Lord is with Thee”, the words offered to her by Gabriel in the Gospel of Luke (1:28) to save her from alarm. But despite her fatigue, as a tired mother with a young infant, we still look to Mary: “Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death”. The most “blessed amongst women” has captured our hearts and our imaginations: as the woman who bore and nurtured the Son of God, who actively accepted this duty despite the heartache it promised. Her presence in our church is important because she gives us the courage and strength to respond to God’s calling on our own lives.

*Pray for us, O holy Mother of God*



Citations:

<https://confessingevangelical.wordpress.com/2008/10/15/a-punishing-infancy/>

Dreyfuss, Henry. *Symbol Sourcebook*. New York: Wiley, 1984, p. 239.

## BOOKS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

These days, Advent tends more and more to get swallowed up in the amorphous “Festive Season”. However, using the weeks before to prepare for Christmas and not just pre-empt it can be valuable and enriching as can observing the full Christmas season instead of just opting out after Boxing Day. Having a special book can help both with the preparation and with the celebration. Here are a few suggestions.

### 1. **“Unearthly Beauty” by Magdalen Smith.**

This book consists of stories of saints defined as “people who live distinctively” from the first to the twentieth century, from the New Testament and from history. The first section focuses on people whose stories help particularly with the period of waiting and whose feast days mostly fall in Advent and the second with those that relate more to the period of celebration either because of their part in the Christmas story or because their feast days fall within Christmastide. Good use is made of some potentially unpromising material. The story of St Lucy, who rather gruesomely had her eyes put out, leads to reflection on both physical and spiritual blindness, on Jesus as the light of the world in contrast with the darkness of our northern midwinter Advent and on our need to look at the world with new eyes. It concludes with prayer ideas for those with impaired sight, for surgeons and for our own clear seeing of the light of Christ. The story of the particular saint, the reflection and the ideas for prayer form the structure of each chapter and enable us to choose friends from many ages to increase our understanding of these great seasons.

### 2. **“An Advent Pilgrimage” by Paul Nicholson**

By contrast with the solid reading of the first book, this one has a short meditation for every day in Advent. (Note that Advent is very short this year, only from 3-24 December, so it might be best to skip the readings for week 3 and replace them with week

4 which more immediately prepare for Christmas). It differs from the normal books of daily reflections in two main ways. First of all there is a thematic unity in that it presents the journey through Advent as a pilgrimage with reflections equating to parts of the journey - setting out, feelings and mishaps on the road, getting lost, the last lap and so on. Companions (figures from the Bible) are suggested for each week. Moreover each reflection used a pattern of prayer based on the famous Ignatian method. We begin by asking God for a spiritual gift we particularly desire for that day, followed by reading a passage from the author that encourages us to examine why we might need this particular gift, followed by a relevant scriptural passage and a prayer that we might receive the gift we look for. The book ends with arrival at our destination of Christmas Day and the preparation for the return home on Boxing Day.

### **3. “A Feast for Advent” by Delia Smith**

This is also a book of daily reflections (by the Delia Smith of cookery fame) but of a more traditional kind, with a printed extract from the Bible, followed by a reflection, a short prayer and a suggested passage for further meditation. Generally the scripture passages chosen are those set for reading in church during the Advent season and going up to Epiphany on 6 January showing both familiar and less familiar passages in a new light. The book has proved its worth over many years. It was first published in 1983 but its good sense, directness and practicality mean that it seems fresh each time not least for its recognition of the pressures we all tend to face in the rush to have a “perfect” Christmas on top of all our other preoccupations.

### **4,. “Make Room for the Manger” by Paula Gooder and Peter Babington**

With work and preparations for Christmas and loads of school events children’s observation of Advent at home can soon be reduced to eating the chocolate of the day from the Advent

calendar.

This little, cheerfully-produced booklet comes up with lots of bright ideas that need not take too long but make Advent special. A very short, illustrated entry for every day from 1-25 December gives suggestions - from feeding the birds, helping someone who is very busy or watching a Christmas film to reading slowly through a favourite Christmas carol, looking at a candle flame or thinking over what has been good or bad since last Christmas. Sundays each have two special separate pages explaining the meaning of the particular Sunday, with a picture of the number of candles alight on the Advent wreath, a short extract from the gospel of the day and a prayer related to the characters who are the focus of the particular Sunday which means it will link up with the child's experiences at church..

#### **5. "The Spirit of Christmas" extracts from works of G.K. Chesterton**

This is a book full of vigour and joy consisting of short passages from several of Chesterton's works relating to Christmas. It is a theme which shows up Chesterton's adventurous imagination and characteristic use of paradox and hyperbole without some of his more annoying characteristics. His is a thoroughly incarnational approach, ridiculing excessive high-mindedness and inviting us to rejoice in Christmas puddings, Christmas presents and fun without losing sight of the sacredness of the season. The title of one essay, "Sausages and Stars" sums it up.

You will find these books displayed on top of the parish library bookshelves. They are also (with the possible exception of No 5) available from bookshops – St Paul's next to Westminster Cathedral and the Church House Bookshop on Great Smith Street, near Westminster Abbey, as well as from online suppliers.

VALERIE SMITH

PICTURE FOR DECEMBER

*St John the Apostle and Evangelist*  
*Guido Reni (1575-1642)*



*The youngest of the Apostles, author of the Gospel of John, the three Epistles of John and the Book of Revelation - Feast Day 27 December*

# DECEMBER CALENDAR

**This is the Church's liturgical calendar for the month ahead. It shows the holy days that we will be celebrating in common with other Christians throughout the world. In the right hand column is indicated the particular focus of our prayer each day at St Peter's. You might like to incorporate it into your own prayers even if you are unable to join us here.**

F 1		For all attending Carol Services at St Peter's this year
Sa 2		For those working in local retail
<b>Su 3</b>	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>For the Parish</b>
M 4	Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, Founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637	For Christian community
Tu 5		For the Churchwardens
W 6	Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c. 326	For children
Th 7	Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher of the Faith, 397	For the Roman Catholic Church
F 8	The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Of Requiem
Sa 9		For the Anonymous groups
<b>Su 10</b>	<b>The Second Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>For the Parish</b>
M 11		For our growth in faith
Tu 12		For vocations
W 13	Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304	For persecuted Christians
Th 14	John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher of the Faith, 1591	For all spiritual guides
F 15	<i>Ember Day</i>	For vocations
Sa 16	<i>Ember Day</i>	For the Metropolitan Police

## CALENDAR CONTD

<b>Su 17</b>	<b>The Third Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>For the Parish</b>
M 18	<i>O Adonai</i>	For the homeless
Tu 19	<i>O Radix Jesse</i>	For the Church's mission agencies
W 20	<i>O Clavis David</i>	For inter-faith relations
Th 21	<i>O Oriens</i>	For all who are in darkness
F 22	<i>O Rex Gentium</i>	For the lonely
Sa 23	<i>O Emmanuel</i>	For grace, patience and perseverance
<b>Su 24</b>	<b>The Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve</b>	<b>In thanksgiving for the Incarnation of the Son of God</b>
<b>M 25</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	<b>In thanksgiving for the Incarnation of the Son of God</b>
<b>Tu 26</b>	<b>Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr</b>	<b>For all persecuted for their faith</b>
<b>W 27</b>	<b>John, Apostle and Evangelist</b>	<b>For our continual formation by the Gospel</b>
<b>Th 28</b>	<b>The Holy Innocents</b>	<b>For children</b>
F 29	Thomas Becket, 1170	For the Archbishop of Canterbury
Sa 30		In thanksgiving for the blessing of 2017
<b>Su 31</b>	<b>The First Sunday of Christmas</b>	<b>For the Parish</b>

*Please note that requests left on our Prayer Board will now be prayed at the 12.30pm Eucharist every Friday.*

# Advent and

## Sunday 3rd December - Advent Sunday

8.15am Holy Communion

9.45am Family Eucharist

11.15am Sung Eucharist

*Music: Missa Per arma justitiae - Merbecke  
Vigilate - Byrd*

## Sunday 10th December - Advent 2

8.15am Holy Communion

9.45am Family Eucharist

11.15am Sung Eucharist

*Music: Missa Si bona suscepimus - Morales  
Alma redemptoris mater - Guerrero*

**4pm Christingle for children and families**

## Sunday 17th December - Advent 3

8.15am Holy Communion

**9.45am Family Eucharist with Nativity Play**

11.15am Sung Eucharist

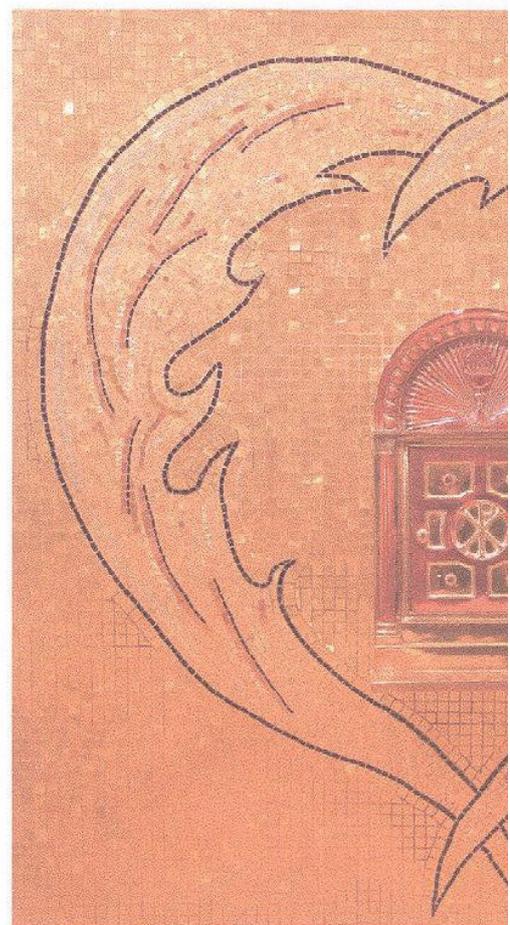
*Music: Missa Dictes moy toutes voz pensées -  
Mouton; Ave Maria - Mouton*

**6pm Parish Christmas Carol Service**

Followed by mulled wine and mince pies

*Christmas carols and music by Britten, Warlock,  
Leighton, Mathias, Vaughan Williams, Maxwell  
Davies and Tavener.*

# ST PETER EATON S



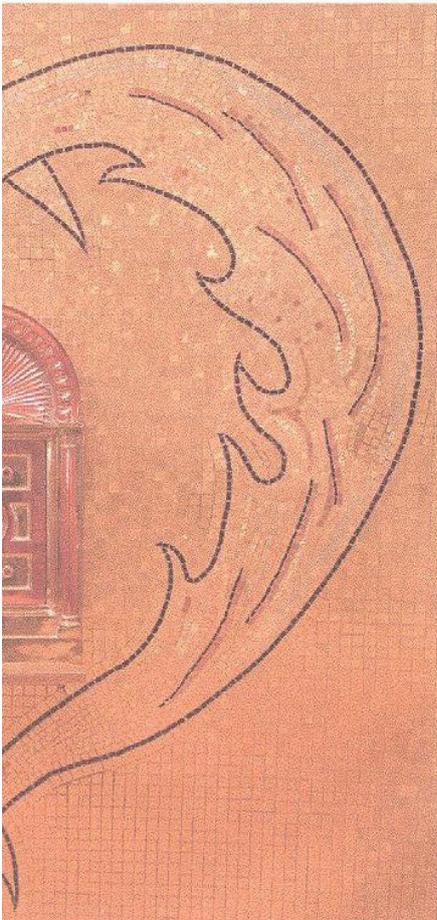
**We wish you joy and p**

Christmas collections will be  
Kids for Kids (bringing aid to  
Sudan), Caxton (a local youth  
with learning difficulties) and  
persecuted C

[www.stpetereaton.org](http://www.stpetereaton.org)

020 7235

# PETER'S SQUARE



## Christmas 2017

### Tuesday 19th December

9.30am St Peter's Eaton Square Church of England Primary School Carol Service for children and parents.

### Sunday 24th December - Christmas Eve

8.15am Holy Communion

10.30am Parish Eucharist with hymns

### 4pm Crib Service for children and families

### 11pm Midnight Mass

*Music: Missa Sancti Nicolai - Haydn*

*There shall a star - Mendelssohn*

### Monday 25th December - Christmas Day

8.15am Holy Communion

9.45am Family Eucharist

11.15am Sung Eucharist

*Music: Missa Puer natus est nobis - Tallis*

*Verbum caro factum est - Sheppard*

### Sunday 31st December - Christmas I

8.15am Holy Communion

10.30am Parish Eucharist with hymns

### Sunday 7th January 2018 - The Epiphany

8.15am Holy Communion

9.45am Family Eucharist

11.15am Sung Eucharist

### Peace this Christmas

donated to three charities:  
to communities in Darfur,  
a project for young people  
Open Doors (supporting  
Christians).

[petersquare.co.uk](http://petersquare.co.uk)

020 74482

# JANUARY CALENDAR

**This is the Church's liturgical calendar for the month ahead. It shows the holy days that we will be celebrating in common with other Christians throughout the world. In the right hand column is indicated the particular focus of our prayer each day at St Peter's. You might like to incorporate it into your own prayers even if you are unable to join us here.**

<b>M 1</b>	<b>The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus</b>	<b>For the mission of the Parish in 2018</b>
Tu 2	Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishops, Teachers, 379 and 389	For the bishops of the Church
W 3		For victims of economic hardship
Th 4		For St Peter's School
F 5		Of Requiem
<b>Sa 6</b>		In thanksgiving for the revelation of Christ to all the nations
<b>Su 7</b>	<b>The Epiphany</b>	<b>For the Parish</b>
M 8		For those preparing for Confirmation
Tu 9		For the Parish staff
W 10	William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645	For the church's worship
Th 11		For the Parochial Church Council
F 12	Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167	Of Requiem
Sa 13	Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher of the faith, 367	For the charity Saakshar School Appeal
<b>Su 14</b>	<b>The Second Sunday of Epiphany</b>	<b>For the Parish</b>
M 15		For the charity Zacchaeus 2000

## CALENDAR CONTD

Tu 16		For the charity Kidscape
W 17	Antony of Egypt, hermit, abbot, 356	For wisdom
Th 18	<i>Beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	For the unity of Christians: the Anglican Communion
F 19	Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095	Of Requiem
Sa 20	Richard Rolle of Hampole, Spiritual Writer, 1349	For the unity of Christians: the Roman Catholic Church
<b>Su 21</b>	<b>The Third Sunday of Epiphany</b>	<b>For the Parish</b>
M 22		For the unity of Christians: the Orthodox Churches
Tu 23		For the unity of Christians: the Churches of the Reformation
W 24	Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, teacher, 1622	For the unity of Christians: the new Churches
<b>Th 25</b>	<b>The Conversion of Paul</b>	<b>For our continual conversion to Christ</b>
<b>F 26</b>	<b>Timothy and Titus, Companions for Paul</b>	<b>For the mission of the church</b>
Sa 27		For friendship
<b>Su 28</b>	<b>The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)</b>	<b>For the Parish</b>
M 29		For the conviviality of our Parish
Tu 30	Charles, King and Martyr, 1649	For those whom we find it difficult to love
W 31		For parents

*Please note that requests left on our Prayer Board will now be prayed at the 12.30pm Eucharist every Friday.*

# READINGS FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY

## **Sunday 3 December - First**

### **Sunday of Advent:**

Isaiah 64: 1-9

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Mark 13: 24-37

## **Sunday, 10 December -**

### **Second Sunday of Advent:**

Isaiah 40: 1-11

2 Peter 3: 8-15a

Mark 1: 1-8

## **Sunday, 17 December - Third**

### **Sunday of Advent:**

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

## **Sunday, 24 December -**

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent -**

#### **Christmas Eve:**

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

Romans 16: 25-end

Luke 1: 26-38

## **Sunday, 24 December -**

### **Midnight Mass**

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Titus 2: 11-14

Luke 2: 1-14

## **Monday, 25 December -**

### **Christmas Day**

Isaiah 52: 7-10

Hebrews 1: 1-4

John 1: 1-14

## **Sunday, 31 December - First**

### **Sunday of Christmas**

Isaiah 61: 10-62.3

Galatians 4: 4-7

Luke 2: 15-21

## **Sunday, 7 January - The**

### **Epiphany**

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Ephesians 3: 1-12

Matthew 2: 1-12

## **Sunday, 14 January - Second**

### **Sunday of Epiphany**

1 Samuel 3: 1-10

Revelation 5: 1-10

John 1: 43-51

## **Sunday, 21 - Third Sunday of**

### **Epiphany**

Genesis 14: 17-20

Revelation 19: 6-10

John 2: 1-11

## **Sunday, 28 January -**

### **Presentation of Christ in the Temple - Candlemas**

Malachi 3: 1-5

Hebrews 2: 14-end

Luke 2: 22-40

PICTURE FOR JANUARY

*Adoration of the Magi*  
*Rogier van der Weyden c1460*



## ST PETER'S WW1 MEMORIAL

Both of the men in this month's story came from privileged backgrounds and were outstanding soldiers.

Lt. Cornwallis John Warner 1889-1915 was the second son of Sir Thomas Courtenay Theydon Warner and Lady Leucha Diana Maude. He had two sisters and two brothers. He was born in Woodford Green, Essex. Here his father, who was a Liberal MP, had set up a company to build good quality, low cost housing for the 'upper



ranks' of the working classes. In the 1891 census the family was living in 54 Cadogan Square with 12 servants, including a butler and two footmen.

Cornwallis went to Eton and then to Christchurch, Oxford. In 1906 he joined the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry where his father had been Lt. Colonel and later Honorary Colonel. In 1910 he was called to the Bar and unsuccessfully contested Salisbury as a Liberal candidate.

Cornwallis went to France in 1914 where he was attached to the 2nd. Battalion of his Regiment. Five months later he was killed in action at Richebourg L'Avoue. His Commanding Officer wrote to his family 'I cannot say how I miss your son. He did such excellent work last spring that if he had been spared at

Richebourg as far as I am concerned he would have commanded a company here ever since .... He was such a very useful and reliable officer in so many ways.'

Cornwallis has no known grave. His name is on the Le Touret Memorial and there is also a memorial to him in the church of St. Mary Thorpe, Morieux, Suffolk: it has his arms in enamelled colour with replicas of his 4 medals, and there is a duplicate at Brettenham.



Major Humphrey St. Leger Stucley (spelt Stuckley on the memorial) 1877 -1914 was the second son of Sir George Stucley,



1st. Baronet of Moreton, near Bideford in Devon. Sir George had been known as George Buck but in 1859 he assumed the surname of Stucley by Royal licence as lineal heir of the ancient Stucley family. The family had possessed Affeton Castle in Devon for over six hundred years but it had been destroyed in the Civil War. Sir George restored the gatehouse as a shooting-box. He lived in Moreton

House which had twenty eight bedrooms. No wonder the 1881 census records thirteen servants living with the family. Sir George served as a Conservative MP.

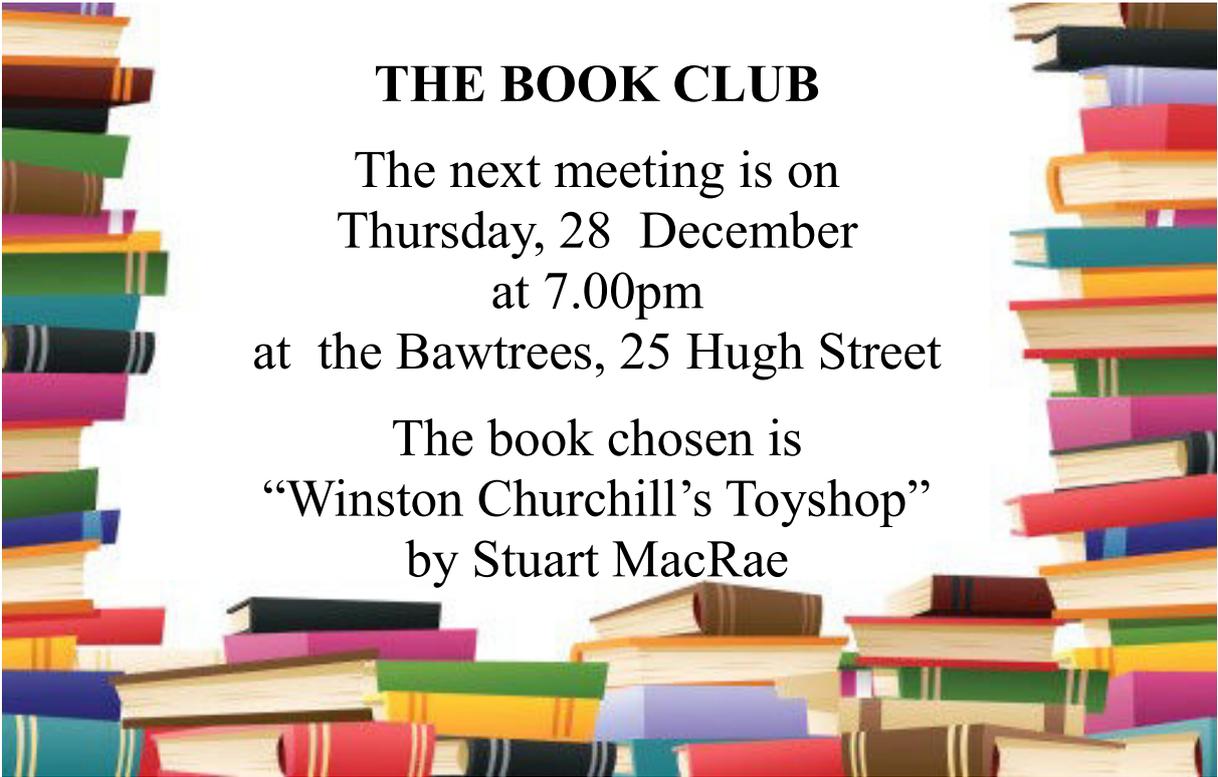
Humphrey went to Eton and joined the Grenadier Guards in 1897. The following year he served in the Nile campaign and fought at the battle of Omdurman. Then he went to South Africa and in the Boer War he was awarded the Queen's medal with 3 clasps and the King's medal with 2 clasps. He married Rose

Carew and they had two sons, one of whom was killed in WW2. They lived at 37 Sloane Gardens.

At the outbreak of WW1 Humphrey was second in command of the 1st. Battalion Grenadier Guards with the rank of acting Lt. Colonel. They were part of the British Expeditionary Force fighting in France and Flanders. Showing great courage, he was killed in action at the first battle of Ypres, aged 37: 'when the King's Company was faced with a horde of charging Germans he went out in front to inspire the men, facing certain death.'

Humphrey is buried in the Zantvoorde British cemetery in Belgium.

PHOEBE HILARY



## **THE BOOK CLUB**

The next meeting is on  
Thursday, 28 December  
at 7.00pm  
at the Bawtrees, 25 Hugh Street

The book chosen is  
“Winston Churchill’s Toyshop”  
by Stuart MacRae

## REVD JULIE INTERVIEWS LAURA COOK



It has been a few months since my last interview and I thought it would be lovely to begin again with interviewing Laura Cook, St Peter's faithful Churchwarden and Chair of Hospitality. I was introduced to Laura through the Hospitality team, what is now the Social Committee. And I soon realised that, when it comes to organising

meals, parties and church events, Laura is amazing! She seems to know instinctively what needs to be done to create an enjoyable and welcoming event for all. And this sense of joy and openness seems to permeate all that Laura does.

Laura was born in Australia to an Australian father and Scottish mother. Laura's father was a diplomat which meant Laura lived in an array of places during her childhood such as Vietnam and Washington DC. Laura, the youngest of six children and describes her childhood as very happy. She attended Benenden boarding school in Kent for 6<sup>th</sup> form which Laura enjoyed, although a school surrounded by sheep is not the most exciting of places.

Laura attended Royal Holloway University where she studied History. After University she worked in advertising for 13 years as an account director. After Laura had her two beautiful daughters Matilda and Isabella she dedicated her time to them. When Isabella was 2 years old Laura began her MA in

Psychotherapy. She now is a Psychotherapist working for Relate and also works as a school counsellor. Laura works with all ages and loves her work as a counsellor. Laura finds her work helping others to grow and develop in their self-understanding very fulfilling. Laura said of her work, ‘counselling has been incredibly rewarding rather than depressing as I thought it would be. It puts one’s own life and problems in perspective.’ I was also struck by the way Laura has been impacted by her experience, explaining that, in helping others, we also help ourselves. ‘Once you accept that everyone is doing the best they can you feel calm and less likely to judge and make assumptions.’ To me this is a picture of grace, pointing to how God sees all of us.

When asked what is most important to Laura, she answered, not surprisingly, ‘Matilda and Isabella.’ From the day they were born her life was forever changed. Along with the joy they each bring, Laura has also enjoyed and appreciated the community of other parents she has found, first in nursery and then in school and church. Laura, says of her girls, ‘they surprise me in the most wonderful of ways in the things they say and the connections they make.’

Laura was introduced to St Peter’s through Griselda Yorke when her Matilda and Isabella were very young. Very soon the church and then the school became central to Laura’s life. Before this Laura hadn’t gone to church regularly since school so wasn’t quite sure what to expect. But, in her words, she ‘was amazed when coming into the church. It was unexpected, beautiful and awe-inspiring’ She loved the relaxed and inclusive family service with its open and understanding attitude towards children. Before coming Laura was worried that her children might be too noisy or would disturb the service. And yet, on arriving she was relieved and amazed too, not only find that children were welcomed, but that they were a central part of the service.

Matilda and Isabella now see St Peter's as part of their family feeling comfortable and truly at home.

The welcome and inclusive nature of St Peter's made it easy for Laura to get involved. The then vicar, Fr. Nick, asked Laura to join the hospitality group and help to organise the Christingle service. Laura is now the head of Social Committee and Christingle wouldn't happen with her. And she is now one of our two Churchwardens, an important and critical position to our life together at St Peter's. As Churchwarden she is particularly responsible for hospitality and the Fabric of the building. Laura, with others, will be looking at ways we might improve the structure of St Peter's to become an even more welcoming church for all people.

And finally, when asked what she appreciates most about St Peter's Laura said, 'the giving and life-affirming values at the centre of what we hold important, St Peter's focus on welcoming all people, and the beauty in the building, the music and, most of all, the people.'

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### **BAPTISM**

5 November	-	Gabriel and Honor Randle
12 November	-	Douglas Gordon Davies
	-	Hugo John Davies
	-	Jonty Peter Davies

## EATON SQUARE CONCERTS

What are the ingredients for a successful season? Great performances? Famous artists? Beautiful and exciting music? Large and enthusiastic audiences? An unusually fine acoustic venue? Most commentators would say that it is a combination of several factors. In the autumn 2017 season Eaton Square Concerts had them **all**, in what was our most successful series to date.

### **Emma Johnson & Friends**

The season's opening concert was a joyous occasion, as Emma Johnson charmed the attentive and appreciative audience with her commentary and her playing of the programme with her friends, all accomplished musicians. Throughout her total mastery of her several clarinets was remarkable, as she adjusted to the different styles of the pieces she and her fellow musicians played. The opening work, Introduction, Theme and Variations was a virtuosic tour de force. The Brahms clarinet quintet with the Carducci Quartet was particularly moving. After the interval the ensemble performed the immensely popular Beethoven Septet with an elan that was particularly infectious. Emma acknowledged and thrilled the audience with two encores. It was an exciting and fulfilling evening.

### **Halcyon Quartet**

The young and outrageously talented quartet attracted the largest audience ever for a St Peter's Prize winner, due in part to their astounding performances in the first of the two prize concerts in the spring season. Anyone who had attended their earlier performances simply had to hear them again. The Halcyons did not disappoint. They had grown in the interim, and they gave exciting and finely articulated performances in a very demanding programme of Haydn's 'Apponyi' String Quartet (Op. 74 No.1), Dvorak's 'American' String Quartet (No. 12 Op. 96), and Schubert's String Quartet 'Death and the Maiden' No.14 in D

minor). In the judgment of some who heard them, the Halcyon Quartet may be among the most accomplished and promising of the St Peter's Prize recipients. If they continue to develop and demonstrate the talent they have already shown, they may become among the most distinguished string quartets of their generation.

### **Freddy Kempf**

Already of one of today's most successful pianists, Freddy performed a challenging concert of Beethoven (Piano Sonata No. 17 in D minor 'Tempest'), Prokofiev (Piano Sonata No. 1 in F minor) and Schumann (Acht Novelletten). Known for his risk taking and a dazzling technical facility, he played the different works with an amazing ease and expressiveness. Eaton Square Concerts have featured many outstanding pianists, and Kempf's performances were among the most memorable we have enjoyed.

### **Tamsin Little**

Firmly established as one of one of today's leading international violinists, Tamsin Little performed an excitingly diverse programme with the widely praised John Lenehan on piano.. Their concert opened with Mozart's Violin Sonata No. 21 in E minor, and included works by Brahms (Sonatensatz for Violin and Piano in C minor) and Ravel (Tzigane), but the revelations of the evening were works by the English composer Ethel Smyth (1858-1944) *Sonata for Violin and Piano in A minor* and by the American Amy Beach (1867-1944) Violin Sonata Op. 34. Both composers were highly regarded during their lives, but their works are rarely heard today. Both compositions were very attractive and highly accomplished. It was exciting to hear such beautiful works for the first time. The evening's pièce de résistance, however, was Ravel's Tzigane, a composition that is a true melding of Hungarian and classical Western traditions. The writing tests the limits of a violinists technical abilities and sensibilities. Starting with a long, slow and sultry introduction the work develops into a wild set of variations culminating in a

whirlwind finale. It is an audience pleaser par excellence, and Tamsin lost no opportunity to display her formidable technical and interpretive talents. The entire performance was sensational, but, for me the most impressive part of the piece was the opening, featuring sustained notes that filled St Peter's with an incredible richness. It was a truly remarkable demonstration of the fabulous acoustics of our church.

### **The Queen's Six**

The final concert of a season is always something special, even in this season, when it seemed one concert was better than the next.. Formed from among the Lay Clerks of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, the ensemble is known for the subtle blending and balance of their voices in performances of works extending from the High Renaissance to contemporary pieces, many of which have been arranged by the members. Their programme included works by English (Bird and Bennett), French (Perotin and Poulenc) and German (Bach) composers and concluded with songs made famous by Aznavour, Bacharach and The Beach Boys. At times the intermingling of their voices was almost hypnotic, which the Q6 balanced with rhythmically dynamic arrangements.

### **Looking Forward**

We are already occupied with shaping the spring and autumn seasons in the coming year. Appreciating that it will be very difficult to scale the heights achieved in our last season, we are preparing some very exciting developments for our audiences. The January issue will cover the spring 2018 season, and reveal some of the details of the three-year plan we are preparing.

All of us at Friends of Music are extremely grateful for the support that the members of St Peter's have given Eaton Square Concerts. We could not continue with our wonderful concerts without your attendance and donations. Thank you.

CARL ANTON MULLER Hon ARAM

# CHILDREN'S PAGE

**On December 26 we remember  
Stephen the first Martyr  
Read the story in Acts 7: 54 - 60**



BREAK the  
CODE!

What did Stephen say, just as he was  
being stoned to death?

△	⌌	⌌	⊙

⊙	⌌

⊕	⌌	⊙

⌌	⊐	▽	⊐	▽	▽	⊐	⌌

⊙	⌌	⊙	⌌

⌌	⊙	⊕

⌌	⌌	⌌	⊙	⊕	⌌	⊙

⊙	⌌	⊐	▽



KEY

⌌	▽	⊙	⊐	⌌	⌌	⊙	△	▽	⊕	⌌	⌌	⌌	⌌	⊙
A	B	D	E	G	H	I	L	M	N	O	Q	R	S	T

# RECIPE FOR WINTER

## Winter Minestrone with Pesto Croûtes

### Ingredients

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped, 100g unsmoked lardons or chopped streaky bacon
- 2 large carrots, chopped
- 2 sticks celery, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped or crushed
- 400g can chopped tomatoes
- 1l vegetable stock
- 2 tsp chopped sage leaves, or 1 tsp dried
- A few cabbage leaves, shredded
- 400g can haricot beans
- Handful chopped parsley

### For the Pesto Croûtes

Slices of crusty bread

3 tbsp olive oil

1 tbsp pesto

### Method

1. Heat the oil in a large pan, add the onion and lardons or bacon and fry for about 5 minutes until the onion is starting to brown.
2. Tip in the carrots, celery, potato and garlic, stir well and cook for a few minutes.
3. Add the tomatoes, stock and sage, and bring to the boil, stirring.
4. Reduce heat to simmer and cook partly covered for 30 minutes, stirring in the cabbage after 15 minutes.
5. Drain and rinse the beans and add to the pan with the parsley.
6. Season and serve with pesto croûtes, or crusty bread.

7. For the pesto croûtes: Cut 3-4 slices of crusty bread in chunks, about 2cm thick. Tip into an ovenproof pan.
8. Mix the olive oil and pesto, then add to the bread, tossing it with your hands until the croûtes are evenly coated.
9. Bake in a moderate oven for about 10 minutes until crisp.



# ST PETER'S CHURCH EATON SQUARE

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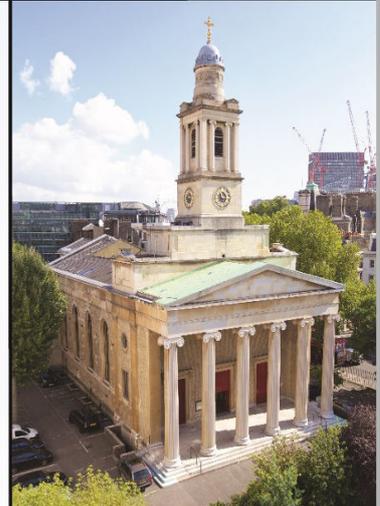
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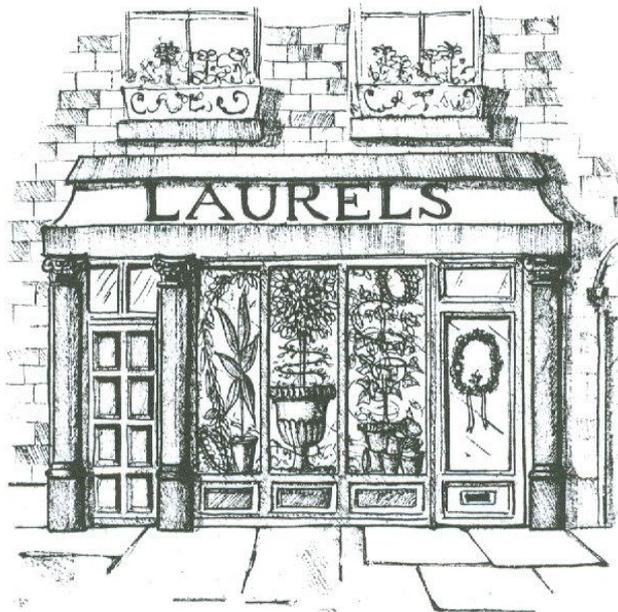
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*Magazine compiled by Olivia Reed*



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# Worship at St Peter's

## Sundays

Holy Communion	8.15 a.m.
Family Eucharist	9.45 a.m.
Sung Eucharist	11.15 a.m.

## Daily

Morning Prayer	8.00 a.m.
Evening Prayer	5.00 p.m.
Daily Eucharist	12.30 p.m.
Wednesdays - Morning Prayer	7.30 a.m.
Eucharist	8.00 a.m.
Fridays at St Peter's School *	9.10 a.m.

\*during term time only

**For other acts of worship please see inside this magazine or on the Church notice boards**



**St Peter's Church  
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*Cover picture taken by the Vicar*