

**ST PETER'S
EATON SQUARE
Parish Magazine**



**December 2015
& January 2016
Free of Charge**

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VICAR'S NEWSLETTER



For each of us there will be distinctive things which remind us powerfully of the coming of Christmas. Smells are among the most evocative of our sensations, and the smell of pine trees, of mulled wine or clementines for many of us trigger Christmas thoughts and memories. So many films are also powerful reminders of Christmas: among those which I have loved are White Christmas, Miracle on 34th Street, Love Actually, The Muppet Christmas Carol and Elf! Christmas music

ranges from the beautiful, like the Nutcracker, to the bad, like Noddy Holder shouting 'So here it is Merry Christmas', as well as the carols we all know and love, but the tunes help to provoke in us memories of Christmases we have spent as children and as adults. A valuable recent addition to my stock of Christmas music is an Indian version of Jingle bells, played raga style on a Sitar!

In my mind I also associate Christmas with particular books, and at a recent meeting of the Youth Group I talked to our young people about how I had discovered the power of the Incarnation by reading Tolstoy's short story 'Where Love is, there God is Also', which tells the tale of Martin the shoemaker. Left to my own devices in my early teens I had started to find out about the Napoleonic wars and read about the disastrous invasion of Russia by Napoleon in 1812. After that I began to look for 19th Century Russian literature in our school library, and to spend my

pocket money on Russian novels when I could. Stirred as are many of us in our teens by an awakening sense of the frailty, beauty and sanctity of human life (this is the age for passionate commitment to important causes), and a fascination with death, loss and the macabre (my friends were into punk rock, or Leonard Cohen) I read Dostoevsky and was deeply moved to see how the Russian people had suffered. I read some of Tolstoy's short stories about the conditions experienced by the peasantry in his own time, and I read his story about Martin the shoemaker. That story was the first thing which really made me think about God and it led me to read more, to read the gospels, and to decide to become a Christian myself a few months later. Since then it has continued to inspire me, and to join up my thoughts about God with the writings of people from other traditions too, like Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore, who shared very similar insights.

This is Tolstoy's story, in a nutshell: Martin had suffered very much, and had lost all the people he had loved so much. Encouraged by a Christian friend to pray for the presence of God to come to him, one night Martin asked God to visit him. The next day he expectantly waited for the company of the Messiah, looking out of his basement window at the shoes of those passing by. Martin's day was filled with several chance meetings, and he acted instinctually to care for those he encountered - an elderly man clearing snow in the freezing cold, an abandoned mother with a sickly baby, a hungry child in rags, caught stealing an apple out of desperation. He helps each of these people, but at the end of the day when he sees his New Testament on the table he feels sad that the Messiah did not come. Yet, later, he had a vision in which Christ tells him that he had indeed come, but that Martin had not realised it - in the old man, the woman and her baby, in the hungry boy. His soul leapt as he then read, "For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in.... Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me".

The Incarnation of Christ, our great Christmas Feast, is an opportunity to remember the Christ child born long ago. But it is also a chance to recognise Christ's coming today, all around us, in the people who need our care and love, and even in us. Whether they are refugees or strangers, infants, or frail older people, our neighbours or colleagues, the lonely or abused, weary shop assistants or visitors struggling on the Underground, Christ comes to us in frail humanity and allows us the privilege of serving him in the people we meet. May Christ be born in us this Christmas.

VICAR'S NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2016

At the end of January I will be flying to Delhi to spend ten days visiting ***Saakshar***, the slum educational project which Rachel and I have supported over the last twelve years. After we both visited them in 2009 we registered a British charity called Saakshar School Appeal to raise funds (and reclaim Gift Aid) for their work, and you can read all about it here: www.saaksharschoolappeal.uk.

India has over 200 million people living in poverty, more than any other nation, and many of them live in the ever growing cities. Delhi, with over twenty million residents, is the most polluted city in the world and air pollution there is estimated to cause over 10,000 deaths a year with high rates of asthma and lung cancer among Delhi's children, women and its poor labourers. Those who spend much of their lives working on polluted streets and construction sites in conditions which are unsafe and with work which is paid by the day and available only to the fit are most vulnerable, but air quality is the least of their worries. There is dense smog in Delhi during the winter and as temperatures can fall to around freezing, poor people burn rubbish to

keep warm, much of it plastic waste, beside every road, resulting in choking smog. Even in November my weather app described the weather conditions not as ‘Sunny’, ‘Rainy’ or even ‘Smog’, but simply as ‘Smoke’.

The communities where Saakshar (‘literate’) works are slum and slum resettlement colonies, and the people who live there are mostly illiterate day labourers who are intimidated by authority and the world of the professional classes, who have usually not sent their children to school. State schools are in any case poor in Delhi, and the experience of the children from these lowest social groups at school is not easy - they are used to being badly

treated for their low caste and social status, and even for those who have attended school, there is a high drop



out rate. Parents cannot support their children’s learning and often need their help with cleaning work, other trades or at home to look after younger children. Girls in particular often end up with very little formal education, and are vulnerable to all sort of exploitation, burdens and ill treatment.

Saakshar has transformed the main community where it works, Nasirpur slum, and now three quarters of the children there attend school every day, after a year of pre-school preparation les-

sons with Saakshar and its teachers, and then ongoing support



throughout their schooling to help them keep up with children from more secure homes.

Now as some of the first chil-

dren to join Saakshar are reaching the end of their time at government schools, Saakshar is providing mentoring, English lessons, computer hardware and software, beautician and tailoring training for those who need help into the world of work, and guidance

as others take up correspondence study, the only real option available to the poor. Several of these



teenagers now have good employment, which is transforming the

day to day opportunities and expectations for their families and other children. Saakshar has four schoolrooms in total, with the other three working in slum resettlement colonies. The bulk of the £12,000 they need a year is provided by our charity, Saakshar School Appeal and I visit them each year, meeting children and parents, teachers and staff, and interviewing young people about their experience. In February I will circulate a link to my report following the visit. While in Delhi I will also meet the Delhi Brotherhood Society and see the United Society sponsored project which we are supporting as one of our St Peter's Christmas Charities.

www.saaksharschoolappeal.uk

Ralph

FROM JULIE



What Christmas Means to Me

During last week's youth group meeting we were asked to think about what Advent and Christmas means to us. Various answers were given – presents, holidays, fun with family, a beautiful tree and a good lunch. . . After a while, one young person said, 'Advent makes me think about the beginning of faith, the start of everything.' Now I found this answer quite profound and I think it sums up well the 'real meaning of Advent.'

I love the Advent season. The weather turns cold and everywhere there are signs of Christmas. And with thoughts of Christmas come memories of childhood, family and home. Even with all the busyness of Christmas, life seems to slow down. And Advent is all about slowing down. It is a time of new beginnings and a time for waiting.

But what are we waiting for this Advent?

Before we answer let's reflect a moment on the idea of waiting.

I think most of us would agree that waiting is complicated in our contemporary world. We are used to instant information and instant gratification. We have come to expect quick answers and quick results. It is, after all, difficult to wait, especially when we don't know why we are waiting?

So why are we waiting this Advent? The closest I have come to finding an answer was a Christmas spent several years ago in Morocco. The experience of spending Christmas in a country with no signs of the usual materialism or holiday frenzy cleared my eyes to see the 'real meaning' of Christmas. The words of the Christmas story read in the little international church jumped from the page and came to life. Sharing a Christmas lunch with Muslim neighbours and enjoying Iftar, the breaking of the fast meal, with them the following evening opened my eyes to God's hospitality, his presence to us in places and people we may find surprising.

We so often limit God to our understanding, to our particular tradition, to our political and theological views. But Christmas in Morocco helped me see that God is much bigger than any of those things. His love and his grace extend far beyond anything we can grasp. And this is what Christmas is about: God going beyond what we can understand, God incarnate, God becoming one of us.

So what are we waiting for this Advent season?

We are, of course, awaiting the birth of Jesus. Advent, however, is not merely a time to look back to a past event. We also look forward with anticipation for the future. You may have heard the saying, 'we live in the now and not yet.' We see God's kingdom in glimpses but not in full. We know how the world should be but are deeply aware of the present reality. And yet, it is right here, in our present reality, where our hope is found. God is with us today.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Julie Khoury". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Julie" and last name "Khoury" clearly distinguishable.

Please support St Peter's Christmas Charities

This year we will be donating the collection from our Christmas services and the profit from the sale of our Christmas cards to the work of the Children's Society, Refugee Action Network and the work of United Society in Delhi.

The Children's Society works in the UK with disadvantaged children. Their mission 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. The Children's Society works closely with government, education and local initiatives to tackle the neglect and poverty of children.

Please attend our Christingle service on Sunday the 6th at 4 pm where all donations will be in aid of the Children's Society.

Refugee Action is a local charity that seeks to welcome and help refugees in London through 'giving basic support and helping them to build safe, happy and productive lives.' Refugee Action works with government and local initiatives to aid the current asylum crisis project through providing legal advice, encouraging community development, helping to prevent asylum homelessness and aiding in the education of refugee children and minors.

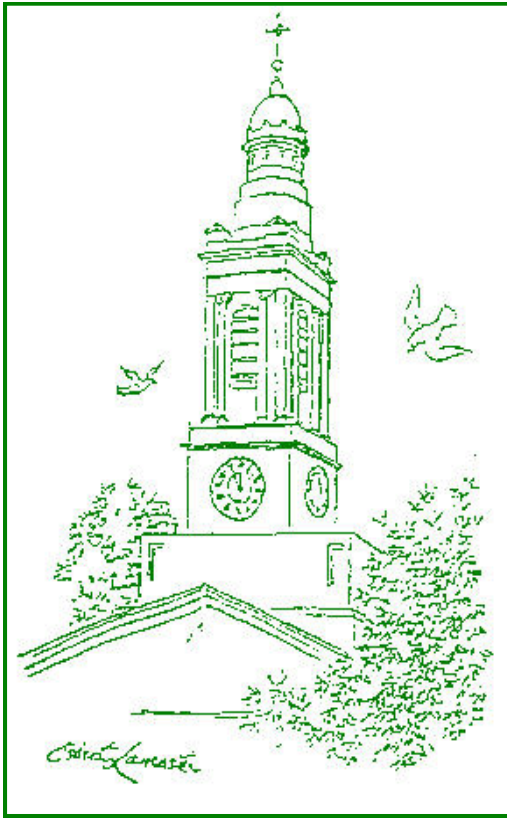
Fr Ralph has been supporting the work of United Society in Delhi for a number of years. He writes of his experience, "I spent a week studying in Delhi in January 2003, and had the pleasure of visiting the Delhi Brotherhood Society, an Anglican mission set up by Cambridge University long ago. Our host was a very learned and wonderfully energetic monk, Brother Monodeep. He took us to meet social activists in a large slum called Kusumpur, and my encounter with the struggling people there, and the passion which Monodeep communicated for the rights and needs of

India's slum dwellers led me to begin to support our own Saakshar charity in another smaller slum on my return. Last year I was delighted to see that Brother Monodeep and the Delhi Brotherhood are developing their work with India's poor in partnership with 'Us', formerly USPG, and are running a programme to provide help and support for vulnerable women through a 24 hour helpline: in communities where dowry deaths, sexual harassment, domestic violence, rape, exploitation of female workers and kidnapping are common, Delhi Brotherhood Society works with women who daily face violence and discrimination. Calls are answered by the DBS-run Women's Community Council which can then bring a range of supports and interventions. I hope to visit the project when I am in Delhi in January 2016. I am very pleased that this vitally important work is being supported by St Peter's."

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Julie Khoo". The signature is written in dark ink on a plain white background.

PARISH NEWS



November at St Peter's got off to an exciting start with the baptism of Mehlyk Jokene at the Sung Eucharist on Sunday the 1st, All Saints Sunday. Parents Elly and Diane (who were married at St Peter's) hosted their family and friends after the service in the Parish Hall with amazing cake and delicious food. The following day we held a deeply moving All Souls Eucharist when we remembered those whom we love but see no longer. The week continued with a training session for Sidesmen who we now call 'welcomers' led by Revd Julie, in

order to emphasise to all of us the importance of the welcome we offer. The week also saw two concerts in the church. The first was our last Eaton Square Concert of the season, a fantastic evening with the outstanding clarinetist Julian Bliss, accompanied by James Baillieu on the piano. The second was a superb choral concert by Grey Coat Hospital School, attended by many appreciative parents and families.

At the end of that week the church hosted a whole day event for Anglican Catholic Futures on Saturday 7th, with clergy and laity from a wide area gathering to consider the future of inclusive Catholic faith within the Church of England. Peter Bradley, the Dean of Sheffield, gave an inspiring and challenging keynote address, encouraging churches like our own to be courageous in representing a positive and life affirming Christian faith. There was discussion, a lunchtime Eucharist and Solemn Benediction at the end of the afternoon.

The following week Revd Julie and Fr Ralph were taken on a site visit to the new Nova developments at Victoria, the three new buildings being built by Land Securities at Victoria. They include a residential building on Buckingham Palace Road, very close to St Peter's, which contains 175 apartments, which will be handed over to its new residents in 2016. On Friday the 13th of November we also welcomed the family and friends of Robert Enslow at a Memorial Service to celebrate Bob's life. The service brought together many people from different parts of his life, with an address by Fr Desmond Tillyer and prayers led by Fr Alan Chidwick.

The month continued with a guest preacher at the Sung Eucharist on Sunday 15th, Harriet Crabtree, the Director of the Inter Faith Network, who spoke to mark the beginning of National Inter Faith Week. At the last meeting of our Faith Group before the New Year we read and discussed the Book of Revelation. The PCC also met, and many groups within the church have been meeting too. Fliers were distributed for coming services over Advent and Christmas, beautiful Christmas cards were produced and went on sale, and banners for Advent and Christmas hung outside to welcome people to our services. The outreach group has been busy, and Thursday Fellowship Group and The Poppets have been meeting too. The Youth Group met twice, including a trip bowling at Queensway. We kept the Feast of Christ the King as our Stewardship Sunday, following which every member of our electoral roll and Mail list will be given or sent a Stewardship pack, inviting everyone to increase their giving and pay to St Peter's by Standing Order. At the end of the month, Eaton Square School came to enjoy their Nativity Service, and we began the season of Advent with a wonderful Advent Carol Service. It was a full month with many moving and important events. Much of this information and other things which are of interest to our congregation are now distributed on a weekly email.

Looking Ahead

As we move into December, we look forward to our festive services in Advent and then Christmas - highlights will be the Christingle Service at 4pm on Sunday the 6th, the Nativity Play during the Family Eucharist on the 13th, and then our Christmas Carol Service (at 6pm) on the 20th, before the normal Christmas services, the Crib Service (at 4pm) and Midnight Eucharist (at 11pm) on Christmas Eve and three services on Christmas Day. We will also be celebrating a wedding on December 19th, and will rejoice with Luke Ibbetson and Nicola Oxlade. Throughout December there will be many concerts too, and charity carol services, as well as St Peter's School's end of year Christmas Carol Service. After Christmas the main service on Sunday the 27th will be a joint Parish Eucharist, and in the following week the church will be closed as in previous years, giving staff and clergy at the church some time off. As January gets underway we will begin Confirmation classes, ready for our confirmation service at the start of March, and look forward to the start of another excellent season of Eaton Square Concerts.

Ralph

PICTURE FOR DECEMBER

The Adoration of the Shepherds
Ciro Ferri 1634 -1689



CHILDREN'S PAGE FOR DECEMBER

The Birth of Jesus



1. Who first told Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus? (Luke 1:26-38)
2. Where else was the coming of the Messiah foretold? (Isaiah 7v14)
3. Why did Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem? (Luke 2:8-20)
4. Who was Jesus' cousin, born six months before Jesus? (Luke 1:57-80)
5. Why was Jesus born in a stable? (Luke 2:7)
6. Who were the first men to see the baby Jesus? (Luke 2:8-20)
7. How did the wise men from the East find the birthplace of Jesus? (Matthew 2:1-12)
8. The Magi (wise men) brought gifts for the baby Jesus; what were they? (Matthew 2:1-12)
9. What was the name of the Jewish king who feared that Jesus would be a threat to his throne? (Matthew 2:1)
10. What did the king do to ensure that Jesus would be killed? (Matthew 2:16)
11. How did Joseph get his family to safety? (Matthew 2:13-15)
12. Did Jesus come to save the Jews or did he come to save the whole world? (Acts 10vv34,35)

READINGS FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY 2016

**Sunday, 6 December:
Second Sunday of Advent**

Baruch 5: 1-9

Canticle: Benedictus

Luke 3: 1-6

**Sunday, 13 December:
Third Sunday of Advent**

Zephaniah 3: 14-20

Psalm 146 4-10

Luke 3: 7-18

**Sunday, 20 December:
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Micah 5: 2-5a

Canticle: Magnificat

Luke 1: 39-45

**Thursday, 24 December:
Christmas Eve**

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Titus 2: 11-14

Luke 2: 1-14

**Friday, 25 December:
Christmas Day**

Isaiah 52: 7-10

Hebrews 1: 1-4

John 1: 1-14

**Sunday, 27 December:
First Sunday of Christmas
John, Apostle and Evangelist**

Exodus 33: 7-11a

John 21: 19b-end

Sunday, 3 January:

Epiphany

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Ephesians 3: 1-12

Matthew 2: 1-12

Sunday, 10 January:

Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 43: 1-7

Acts 8: 14-17

Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

**Sunday, 17 January: Second
Sunday of Epiphany**

Isaiah 62: 1-5

1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

John 2: 1-11

**Sunday, 24 January: Third
Sunday of Epiphany**

Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10

1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a

Luke 4: 14-21

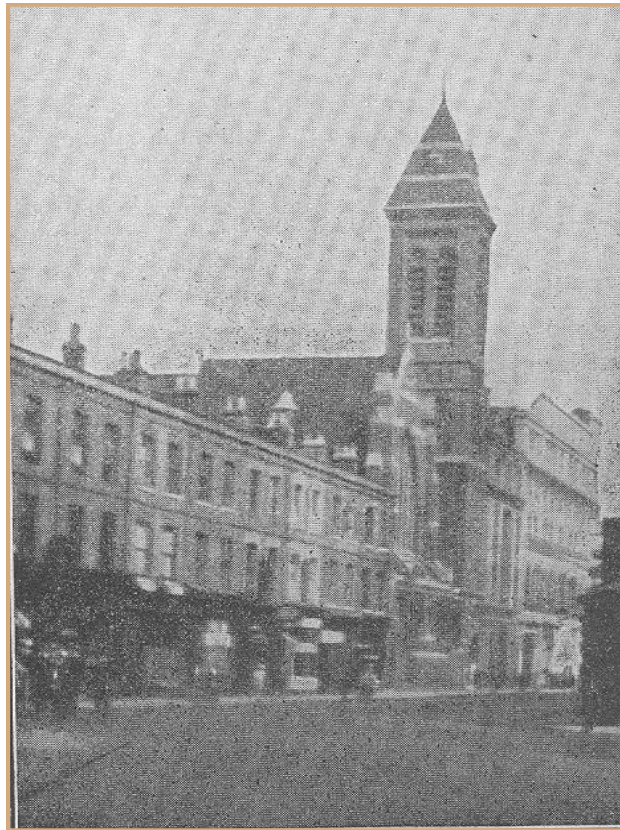
**Sunday, 31 January:
Presentation of Christ in the
Temple (Candlemas)**

Malachi 3: 1-5

Hebrews 2: 14-end

Luke 2: 22-40

FROM THE MAGAZINE DECEMBER 1935
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST



Impressions and Expressions

Conversations in books consist of many thousands of words which the ordinary person would never dream of using.

Still less pronounced and pronounceable are those ubiquitous exclamations, leaping at us from the printed page, 'pooh', 'pshaw' or 'tut'. No one ever says 'pooh' in the singular, and I doubt if anyone ever says 'pooh pooh', Doctors, strangely, are usually accredited with a constant use of both pooh and tut, in the plural, but no doctor has ever said them to me, just as no doctor has ever told me to say ninety-nine.

I can never be sure whether tut is not meant to represent that unspellable mixture between a hiss and a cluck which very old nannies make to very young babies, or which is usually uttered to express disapproval. It is a good deal easier done than said

and consists in applying what is almost the tip of the tongue to the alveolar ridge and removing it with a simultaneous intake of breath. It is always accompanied by some or other expression in the eyes and usually indicates speechlessness. It is sometimes spelt ts-ts, sometimes tch, and even tchk.

Pshaw is a very difficult thing to say. I once tried to say it the whole way down Victoria Street, and was no better at the end than the beginning. It expresses, I believe, the utmost scorn, and it must be scorn so utmost that the natural human being never needs to express it. It is probably derived from the Greek, psyche, the mind or soul, indicating either the complete mindlessness of the person scorned, or the deprivation, through astonishment, of the senses in the scornful.

Comment:

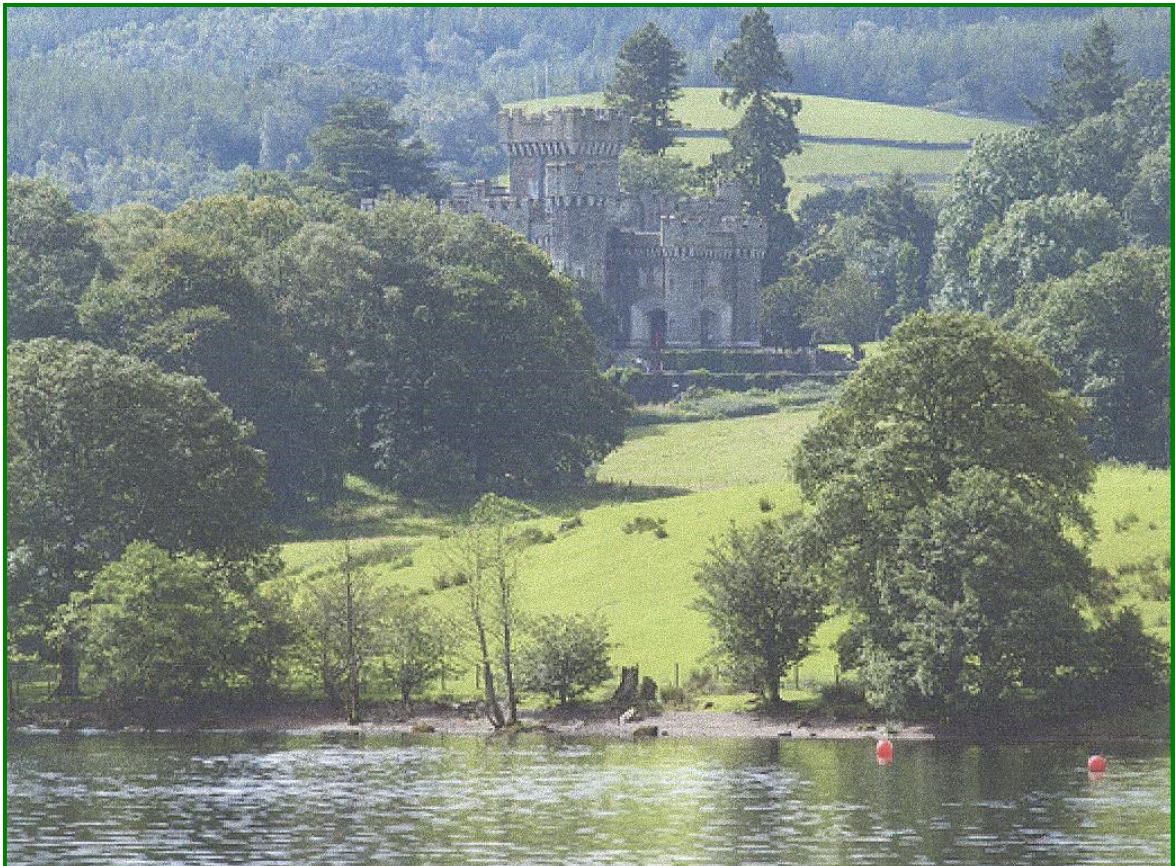
It is nice to see that this normally very serious magazine sometimes had lighter articles. The written form of interjections remains a challenge, even though the words themselves change. “Pshaw!” is now extinct even in literary works; “Tut” or the unspellable noise it represents still clings on, as does “ugh”. The latest addition to the list is “Phwoar”. This is now recognised by the Oxford English Dictionary but it is not recommended to try saying it while walking the length of Victoria Street.

Extract chosen and commented by Valerie Smith

SALLY BOOTH MEMORIAL

Members of the congregation made commemorative donations in tribute to Sally Booth. Together with contributions of other friends and family, the total raised come to £3,605, a reflection of the love and affection felt for Sally. Because of Sally's close link with Wray Castle, near Lake Windermere a new seat will be made in cast-iron by a local blacksmith and will be placed in the parkland. With the remaining money it is proposed to plant a Cedar of Lebanon in the grounds.

We continue to hold Sally and her family in our prayers.



Wray Castle with Lake Windermere

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM

1 November - Mehlyk Isaiah Jokene
29 November - Angelica Hagen

CHRISTMAS CARDS



The St Peter's Christmas card, are on sale now. The cards are quite large and beautifully printed, with the image of the Advent Angel from the window which can be seen in the Verger's Vestry. They will be sold in packs of 6 cards for £4, with discounts for larger quantities. The proceeds of the sale of the cards go towards our Christmas charities

BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the Book Club
will be on Wednesday, 16 December 2015
at 7.00 pm at 54 Chester Row,
the book we will be discussing is
"Travels with my Aunt" by Graham Greene.
Please come and join us.

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.

Tu 1		For victims of economic hardship
W 2		For those working in local retail
Th 3		For all attending Carol Services at St Peter's
F 4		For our Prayer Board Requests
S 5		For the Churchwardens
Su 6	The Second Sunday of Advent	For the Parish
M 7	Ambrose, bishop, teacher of the faith, 397	For all called to lead worship
Tu 8	The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	For children
W 9	<i>Ember Day</i>	For vocations
Th 10		Of Requiem
F 11		For our Prayer Board Requests
S 12		For the victims of abuse
Su 13	The Third Sunday of Advent	For the Parish
M 14	John of the Cross, poet, teacher of the faith, 1591	For all spiritual guides
T 15		For persecuted Christians
W 16		For the Metropolitan Police

CALENDAR CONTD

Th 17	<i>O Sapientia</i>	For our growth in wisdom
F 18	<i>O Adonai</i>	For our Prayer Board requests
S 19	<i>O Radix Jesse</i>	For the homeless
Su 20	The Fourth Sunday of Advent	For the Parish
M 21	<i>O Oriens</i>	For the lonely
T 22	<i>O Rex Gentium</i>	For inter-faith relations
W 23	<i>O Emmanuel</i>	For the Church's mission agencies
Th 24	Christmas Eve	In thanksgiving for the Incarnation of the Son of God
F 25	CHRISTMAS DAY	In thanksgiving for the Incarnation of the Son of God
S 26	Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr	For the Parish
Su 27	John, Apostle and Evangelist	For our continual formation by the Gospel
M 28	The Holy Innocents	For all in authority
T 29	Thomas Becket, archbishop, martyr, 1170	
W 30		For the Archbishop of Canterbury
Th 31		In thanksgiving of the blessings of 2014

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

ST PETER'S EATON SQUARE

A beautiful and inclusive church, renowned for our music, choir and all-age welcome, at the corner of Eaton Square and Hobart Place, just a few minutes from Victoria Station



We warmly invite you to join us to celebrate
ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

In addition to our regular Sunday services
we have special services during this holy time,
including our Parish Carol Service on 20th December,
Family Crib Service and Midnight Mass on 24th December,
and our celebrations on Christmas Day

www.stpetereatonsquare.co.uk - Registered Charity No. 1133033

CELEBRATE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WITH US AT
ST PETER'S EATON SQUARE

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER - ADVENT SUNDAY

8.15am BCP; 9.45am Family Eucharist; 11.15am Sung Eucharist
Music: Missa Canonica, O Heiland, reiss die himmel auf, Op.74ii: *Brahms*
6pm Advent Carol Service – A beautiful service of Music and Readings for Advent

DECEMBER

SUNDAY 6TH - ADVENT 2

8.15am BCP; 9.45am Family Eucharist; 11.15am Sung Eucharist
Music: Missa Maria Zart: *Obrecht*, Alma redemptoris mater: *Josquin*
4pm Christingle Celebration

SUNDAY 13TH - ADVENT 3

8.15am BCP; 9.45am Family Eucharist with Nativity Play; 11.15am Sung Eucharist
Music: Missa Susanne un jour: *Lassus*. Übers gebirg Maria geht: *Eccard*

FRIDAY 18TH

9.30am in Church – St Peter's Eaton Square CE Primary School Carol Service

SUNDAY 20TH - ADVENT 4

8.15am BCP; 9.45am Family Eucharist; 11.15am Sung Eucharist
Music: Missa Ad placitum: *Le Jeune*. Conditor alme siderum: *Dufay*
6pm Parish Christmas Carol Service

THURSDAY 24TH - CHRISTMAS EVE

4pm Christmas Crib Service for children and families
11pm Midnight Mass
Music: Missa Queramus cum pastoribus: *Morales*. Queramus cum pastoribus: *Mouton*

FRIDAY 25TH - CHRISTMAS DAY

8.15am BCP; 9.45am Family Eucharist; 11.15am Sung Eucharist
Music: Missa Puer natus est: *Tallis*. Verbum caro factum est: *Sheppard*

SUNDAY 27TH - FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

8.15am BCP; 10.30am Parish Eucharist

JANUARY

SUNDAY 3RD - THE EPIPHANY

8.15am BCP; 9.45am Family Eucharist; 11.15am Sung Eucharist
Music: Missa Pastores quidnam vidistis: *Clemens*. Magi veniunt ab oriente: *Clemens*

SUNDAY 10TH - THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

8.15am BCP; 9.45am Family Eucharist; 11.15am Sung Eucharist
Music: Messe, op.4: *Saint-Saëns*. Videntes stellam: *Poulenc*

Our Christmas collections will be donated to St Peter's Christmas charities:
Us (United Society's work with vulnerable women and children in Delhi),
Save the Children, and Refugee Action London (refugee children's education).

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.

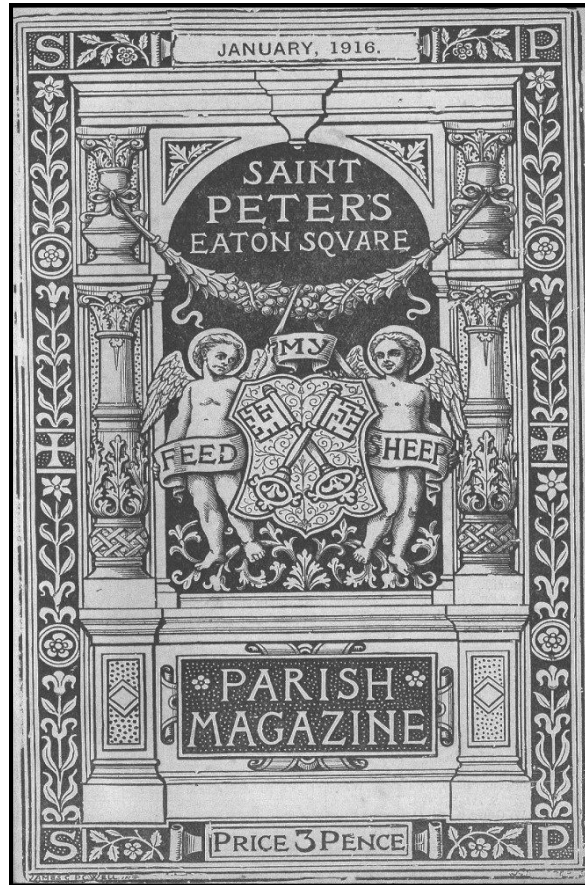
F 1	The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus	For the Parish in the Year of our Lord 2016
S 2	Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishops, Teachers, 379 and 389	For the bishops of the Church
Su 3	The Epiphany	In thanksgiving for the revelation of Christ to all nations
M 4		For all returning to work
T 5		For Syria
W 6		For the Standing & Resources Committee
Th 7		For St Peter's School
F 8		For our Prayer Board Requests
S 9		For the parish staff
Su 10	The Baptism of Christ	For the Parish
M 11		For the PCC
T 12	Aelrex of Hexam, Abbot of Rievaulx	For men and women in the monastic life
W 13	Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers	For the charity. Friends of the Elderly
Th 14		For charity Z2K
F 15		For the charity The Passage
S 16		For the charity Kidscape

CALENDAR CONTD

Su 17	The Second Sunday of Epiphany	For the Parish and for the unity of Christians
M 18	<i>Beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	For the unity of Christians: The Anglican Communion
T 19		For the unity of Christians: the City of Westminster
W 20		For the unity of Christians: the Roman Catholic Church
Th 21	Agnes, Child Martyr at Rome, 304	For the unity of Christians: the Churches of the Reformation
F 22		For the unity of Christians: the Orthodox Churches
S 23		For the unity of Christians: the new Churches
Su 24	The Third Sunday of Epiphany	For the Parish
M 25	The Conversion of Paul	For our continual conversion to Christ
T 26	Timothy and Titus	For mission
W 27		For our friends
Th 28	Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1274	For those who have taught and formed us
F 29		For our Prayer Board Requests
S 30	Charles, King and Martyr, 1649	For those whom we find it difficult to love
Su 31	The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany	For parents

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

FROM THE MAGAZINE - JANUARY 1916



And what about the State?

Well, undoubtedly the average Englishman feels certain we must win, because we are fighting for what God undoubtedly approves. Undoubtedly the national conscience is clear that we and our Allies are fighting on the side of Right, and therefore we are bound to win. But in this connection we shall do well to reflect that the greatest victory was won by sacrifice.

And therefore the answer to this query must largely depend on the answer to our third query - viz., Is the war bringing us nearer to God?

No doubt the war is teaching us that the price of victory is sacri-

fice, even greater than has yet been paid.

We are far more alert and conscious of this truth than we were last New Year's Day. Our worthiness to win depends not only on our readiness as a nation to pay the price in the way of sacrifice, but also on our readiness to use victory to the highest ends. Victory, if attained, will involve a tremendous responsibility. It will be a great trust for the future well-being of the civilised world - a trust too great even for our Allies and ourselves - a trust which probably demands something like a Concert of the Nations.

These are big questions, and they demand stiff thought and earnest prayer.

Comment:

We hear a great deal about the gung-ho, jingoistic attitude of church and state during the First World War. It is therefore interesting to see this thoughtful analysis – part of a larger article that looks also at what the Church of England needs to do to be worth preserving – focusing on duty and service and seeking more self-knowledge and knowledge of God's will.

Extract chosen and commented by Valerie Smith

SAINT FOR JANUARY

Basil of Caesarea, also called Saint Basil the Great (Greek: Ἅγιος Βασίλειος ὁ Μέγας, Hágios Basíleios ho Mégas; 329 or 330 – January 1 or 2, 379), was the Greek bishop of Caesarea Mazaca in Cappadocia, Asia Minor (in modern Turkey). He was an influential theologian who supported the Nicene Creed and opposed heresies of the early Christian church. His ability to balance his theological convictions with his political connections made Basil a powerful advocate for the Nicene position. In addition to his work as a theologian, Basil was known for his care of the poor and underprivileged. Basil established guidelines for monastic life which focus on community life, liturgical prayer, and manual labour. Together with Pachomius, he is remembered as a father of communal monasticism in Eastern Christianity. He is considered a saint by the traditions of both Eastern and Western Christianity.

Basil, Gregory of Nazianzus, and Gregory of Nyssa are collectively referred to as the Cappadocian Fathers. The Eastern Orthodox Church and Eastern Catholic Churches have given him, together with Gregory of Nazianzus and John Chrysostom, the title of Great Hierarch. He is recognised as a Doctor of the Church in both Eastern Orthodoxy and in the Roman Catholic Church. He is sometimes referred to by the epithet "Ουρανοφαντωρ" (Ouranofantor), "revealer of heavenly mysteries".

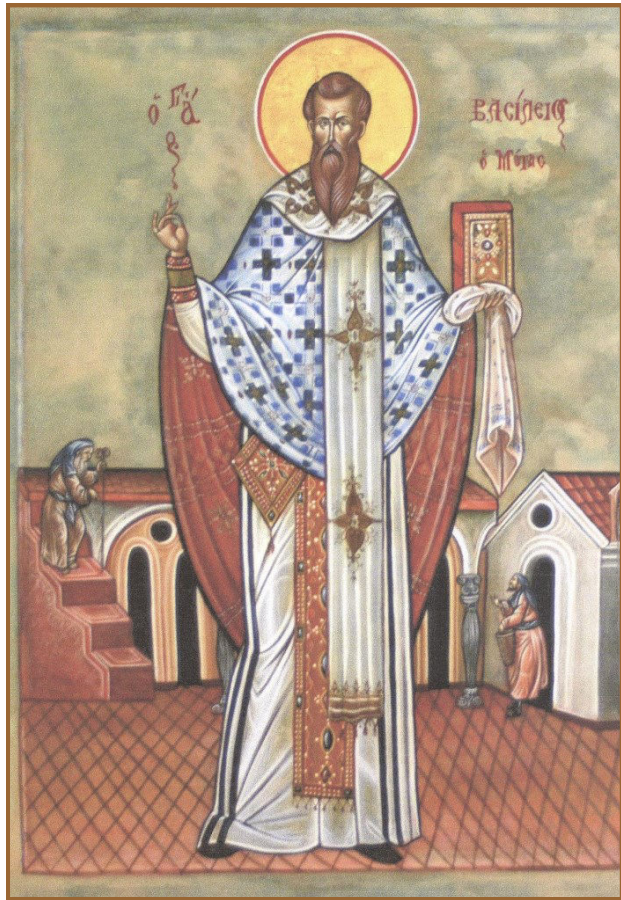
Basil was born into the wealthy family of Basil the Elder, a famous practitioner of rhetoric, and Emmelia of Caesarea, in Pontus, around 330. His parents were renowned for their piety. His maternal grandfather was a Christian martyr, executed in the years prior to Constantine I's conversion. His maternal grandfather's widow, Macrina, herself a follower of Gregory Thaumaturgus (who had founded the nearby church of Neocaesarea), brought up Basil and his four siblings (who also can be venerated

as saints): Macrina the Younger, Naucratus, Peter of Sebaste and Gregory of Nyssa.

Basil was educated in Caesarea Mazaca in Cappadocia (modern-day Kayseri, Turkey) around 350-51. There he met Gregory of Nazianzus, who would become a lifelong friend. Together, Basil and Gregory went to Constantinople for further studies, including the lectures of Libanius. The two also spent almost six years in Athens starting around 349, where they met a fellow student who would become the emperor Julian the Apostate. Basil left Athens in 356, and after travels in Egypt and Syria, he returned to Caesarea, where for around a year he practised law and taught rhetoric.

After his baptism, Basil travelled in 357 to Palestine, Egypt, Syria and Mesopotamia to study ascetics and monasticism. He distributed his fortunes among the poor, then went briefly into solitude near Neocaesarea of Pontus (the modern Niksar in

Turkey) on the Iris. Basil eventually realised that while he respected the ascetics' piety and prayerfulness, the solitary life was not the call he would answer. Basil instead felt drawn toward communal religious life, and by 358 he was gathering around him a group of like-minded disciples, including his brother Peter. Together they founded a monastic settlement on his family's estate near Annesi (modern Sonusa or Uluköy, near the confluence of the Iris and Lycos Rivers). His widowed mother Emmelia, sister Macrina and several other women, joined Basil and devot-



ed themselves to pious lives of prayer and charitable works. Here Basil wrote extensively about monastic communal life. His writings became pivotal in developing the monastic traditions of the Eastern Church. In 358, Basil invited his friend Gregory of Nazianzus to join him in Annesi. When Gregory eventually arrived, the two of them collaborated in editing Origen's *Philocalia*, a collection of Origen's works. Gregory then decided to return to his family in Nazianzus.

Basil attended the Council of Constantinople in 360. He at first sided with Eustathius and the Homoiousians, a semi-Arian faction who taught that the Son was of *like* substance ("homoiousios") with the Father, neither the same nor different from him. The Homoiousians opposed the Arianism (a nontrinitarian belief that asserts that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, created by God the Father, distinct from the Father and therefore subordinate to the Father) of Eunomius but refused to join with the supporters of the Nicene Creed, who professed that the members of the Trinity were of *one* substance ("homousios"). Basil and Gregory Nazianzus spent the next few years arguing against the Arian heresy, which threatened to divide Cappadocia's Christians. In close fraternal cooperation, they agreed to a great rhetorical contest with accomplished Arian theologians and rhetors. In the subsequent public debates, presided over by agents of the Emperor Valens, Gregory and Basil emerged triumphant. This success confirmed for both Gregory and Basil that their futures lay in administration of the Church. Basil next took on functional administration of the city of Caesarea. Eusebius is reported as becoming jealous of the reputation and influence which Basil quickly developed, and allowed Basil to return to his earlier solitude. Later, however, Gregory persuaded Basil to return. Basil did so, and became the effective manager of the city for several years, while giving all the credit to Eusebius.

In 370 Eusebius died, and Basil was chosen to succeed him. He was consecrated bishop on June 14, 370. His new post as bishop of Caesarea also gave him the powers of exarch of Pontus and

metropolitan of five suffragan bishops, many of whom had opposed him in the election for Eusebius's successor. It was then that his great powers were called into action. Hot-blooded and somewhat imperious, Basil was also generous and sympathetic. He personally organised a soup kitchen and distributed food to the poor during a famine following a drought. He gave away his personal family inheritance to benefit the poor of his diocese.

His letters show that he actively worked to reform thieves and prostitutes. They also show him encouraging his clergy not to be tempted by wealth or the comparatively easy life of a priest, and that he personally took care in selecting worthy candidates for holy orders. He also had the courage to criticise public officials who failed in their duty of administering justice. At the same time, he preached every morning and evening in his own church to large congregations. In addition to all this, he built a large complex just outside Caesarea, called the Basiliad, which included a poorhouse, hospice, and hospital, and was described by Gregory of Nazianzus as one of the wonders of the world.

Basil is remembered as one of the most influential figures in the development of Christian monasticism. But historians also recognise that his legacy extends also to the Western church, largely due to his influence on Saint Benedict. Patristic scholars assert that Benedict himself recognised this when he wrote in the epilogue to his Rule that his monks, in addition to the Bible, should read 'the confessions of the Fathers and their institutes and their lives, and the Rule of our Holy Father, Basil.' Basil's teachings on monasticism, as encoded in works such as his *Small Asketikon*, were transmitted to the west during the fourth century.

St Basil was given the title Doctor of the Church for his contributions to the debate initiated by the Arian controversy regarding the nature of the Trinity. Basil was responsible for defining the terms "ousia" (essence/substance) and "hypostasis" (person/reality), and for defining the classic formulation of three Persons in one Nature. His single greatest contribution was his insistence on the divinity and consubstantiality of the Holy Spirit with the

Father and the Son.

In Greek tradition, he brings gifts to children every January 1 (St Basil's Day) — unlike other traditions where Father Christmas arrives either on December 6 (Saint Nicholas Day) or on Christmas Eve (December 24). It is traditional on St Basil's Day to serve vasilopita, a rich bread baked with a coin inside. It is customary on his feast day to visit the homes of friends and relatives, to sing New Year's carols, and to set an extra place at the table for Saint Basil.

According to some sources, Saint Basil died on January 1, and the Eastern Orthodox Church celebrates his feast day together with that of the Feast of the Circumcision on that day. This was also the day on which the General Roman Calendar celebrated it at first; but in the 13th century it was moved to June 14, a date believed to be that of his ordination as bishop, and it remained on that date until the 1969 revision of the calendar, which moved it to January 2, rather than January 1, because the latter date is occupied by the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. On January 2 Saint Basil is celebrated together with Saint Gregory Nazianzen.

The Church of England celebrates Saint Basil's feast on January 2.

Comment:

The deep and practical concern of St Basil for the poor is shown in this passage urging radical generosity: The bread you do not use is the bread of the hungry, the garment hanging in your wardrobe is the garment of a naked person, the shoes that you do not wear are the shoes of one who is barefoot, the money you keep locked away is the money of the poor, the acts of charity that you do not perform are so many injustices that you commit."

Saint chosen by Richard Carter and commented by Valerie Smith

PICTURE FOR JANUARY

*The Conversion of St Paul -
Nicolas-Bernard Lepicie 1767*



ST PETER'S LITURGICAL CALENDAR 2015/2016

2015-2016	Festival/Holy Day	Worship
Sunday 29 November	First Sunday of Advent	Morning worship at normal times. Advent Carol Service 6.00pm
Thursday 24 December	Christmas Eve	Crib Service 4.00pm Eucharist of Christmas Night 11.00pm
Friday 25 December	Christmas Day	Holy Communion 8.15 am Family Eucharist 9.45 am Sung Eucharist 11.15 am
Sunday 3 January	The Epiphany	Morning worship at normal times.
Sunday 10 January	The Baptism of Christ	Morning worship at normal times.
Sunday 31 January	Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)	Morning worship at normal times.
Wednesday 10 February	Ash Wednesday	Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes at 8.00 am; 12.30 pm; 7.00 pm
Sunday 6 March	Mothering Sunday	Holy Communion 8.15 am; Parish Eucharist 10.30 with Confirmation - Bishop of London
Sunday 20 March	Palm Sunday	Holy Communion 8.15 am; 9.45am Family Eucharist Procession of Palms 11.15 Sung Eucharist
Thursday 24 March	Maundy Thursday	The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday 7.00 pm

Friday 25 March	Good Friday	The Story of Good Friday 10.00am The Liturgy of Good Friday 2.00pm
Saturday 26 March	Easter Eve	Easter Vigil 8.00pm
Sunday 27 March	Easter Day	Holy Communion 8.15 am Family Eucharist 9.45 am Sung Eucharist 11.15 am
Thursday 5 May	Ascension Day	Sung Eucharist 7.00 pm
Sunday 8 May	The Dedication of St Peter's Eaton Square	Morning worship at normal times
Sunday 15 May	The Day of Pentecost	Morning worship at normal times
Sunday 22 May	Trinity Sunday	Morning worship at normal times
Thursday 26 May	Corpus Christi	Sung Eucharist 7.00 pm
Sunday 26 June	Peter the Apostle - Parish Patronal Festi- val	Holy Communion 8.15 am Parish Eucharist 10.30 am followed by Parish Lunch
Sunday 2 October	Michael and All Angels	Morning worship at normal times
Sunday 9 October	Harvest Thanksgiving	Holy Communion 8.15 am Parish Eucharist 10.30 am
Sunday 30 October	All Saints Sunday	Morning Worship at normal times
Wednesday 2 November	All Souls' Day	Sung Eucharist 7.00pm
Sunday 13 November	Remembrance Sunday	Morning worship at normal times
Sunday 20 November	Christ the King	Morning worship at normal times

EATON SQUARE CONCERTS

The 18th season of our series was remarkable for several reasons: the sustained excellence of the performances by the exceptionally talented performing artists; the breadth and variety of the programmes they played; and the consistently enthusiastic audiences. Most seasons have memorable high points, particular performances or even entire concerts, which stand out for one reason or another. Our autumn series this year achieved a consistency of performance excellence, which I cannot recall Eaton Square Concerts having reached in aggregate in prior seasons. We even broke attendance records, as our audience grew in number and appreciation. It was a great season in all respects.

The opening concert on October 1st was a triumph. The legendary pianist **Janina Fialkovska** attracted a large audience, which was completely enraptured by her playing, especially her selection of works by Chopin. She is understandably acclaimed for her performances and recordings of Chopin. Her programme was well balanced with a fine lyrical performance of Beethoven's rarely played Sonata No. 12 and an exciting interpretation of Schumann's playful and technically challenging *Faschingsschwank aus Wien* (Carnival Scenes from Vienna).

The second concert in the series featured the **Sacconi Quartet**, which has established itself as one of the leading ensembles of their generation. Their programme was both challenging and diverse. They opened with Schubert's Quartetsatz, a single movement of a planned quartet that Schubert never completed. It is nevertheless a masterpiece of the repertoire, and a severe test for any string quartet to play. The Sacconi performed it beautifully with a crackling energy. The Carl Neilson String Quartet No. 1 in G minor, an early work seldom played in our concert halls, offered a satisfying contrast with its rich romantic lines played with great panache by the ensemble. The high point of the evening was undoubtedly the simply stunning perfor-

mance of the Sibelius String Quartet in D minor, Op. 56. The ensemble played with such mastery and intensity that a listener could not have failed to be deeply moved.

The **Sitkovetsky Piano Trio** programme was unusually varied, ranging from an early work by Saint-Saens to the early 20th century landmark by Ravel, as well as the revolutionary ‘Dumky’ trio by Dvorak. The contrasting compositional styles of the works and the demands they placed on the trio’s musicians’ technical abilities and expressiveness created the impression that we were hearing three different ensembles, so immersed were the three musicians in the different musical languages. Listening to them perform, it was clear why they have achieved such an outstanding international reputation at such an early stage in their careers.

The fourth concert in the series featured the highly regarded **Joyful Company of Singers** performing what many consider to be Sergei Rachmaninov’s major work, The All Night Vigil. Under the direction of Peter Broadbent, who founded the a cappella choir in 1990, the singers gave a beautiful and highly moving performance of musical settings of texts taken from the Russian Orthodox All Night Vigil liturgy. The composition draws heavily upon traditional church music. St. Peter’s was the perfect venue for such a deeply spiritual work. The programme also included shorter works by Sibelius and Taverner, which were admirably performed.

Julian Bliss, the young and imposingly gifted clarinettist, provided a wonderful finale to the season. His programme included the well-loved works by Poulenc (Sonata for clarinet and piano in B flat), Weber (Grand Concertant, Op. 48) and Brahms (Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 120). Showing off his virtuosic talents, he also played Debussy’s *Premiere Rhapsodie* written to test clarinet students at the Academie and *Olah*, piece inspired by Brancusi’s sculpture *Bird in Flight*; the composition imitated bird sounds to create a sense of flight. Despite many in the audi-

ence's expectations, it turned out to be one of the most popular pieces he played. Julian Bliss provided a veritable musical tour de force, and he was ably supported by James Baillieu, who is a fine young pianist with a burgeoning reputation.

- - - - -

As you can well imagine, planning for the spring 2016 season has reached advanced stages. Some details remain to be defined, but the main elements are in place, as you can see from the poster. We at Friends of Music and Ikon Arts Management have high hopes for the scheduled artists, and we expect the season to be among the best we have prepared. We hope you will join us and bring your family and friends to enjoy some of the finest chamber music available anywhere in London.

- - - - -

Friends of Music needs your support to be able to continue producing the outstanding Eaton Square Concerts. If you are not already a member of our Friends Programme, I appeal to you to join to ensure that Friends of Music can continue making wonderful music available to all. For those who are members I offer my thanks and the thanks of the many members of our audience, who attend without charge through a programme administered by the Westminster Arts Council. Your continued support is much appreciated. Applications for renewing membership or becoming a member can be found on the table at the rear of the church or received by calling 7288 6511.

CARL ANTON MULLER

CHILDREN'S PAGE FOR JANUARY

They were amazed!

The Holy Spirit told Simeon to go into the temple. There he spotted the baby Jesus and **KNEW** God's special time to rescue the world had come! Now Simeon could die in peace! He told Mary and Joseph that Jesus was specially chosen by God to bring peace, light and glory but also destruction and sorrow.... They were amazed!

Why was Simeon so important? Read more in Luke 2: 22-35



KEPT
PROMISE!
GO IN
PEACE!
YOUR
SALVATION!
A LIGHT!
BRING
GLORY!
A SIGN!

*Part of what Simeon
said over Jesus*



THE FAMILY SERVICE CHOIR

If you are interested in joining the Family Eucharist Choir, please email Amy Evans: alpevans@hotmail.com. Places are available in all voice parts. Rehearsals take place every Sunday at 9.15am in the Parish Hall and members do not have to be available to sing every week. The choir welcomes singers from a variety of musical backgrounds and levels of experience. If you enjoy singing, get in touch! Amy



RECIPE FOR DECEMBER

Sticky Orange Upside-down Cake

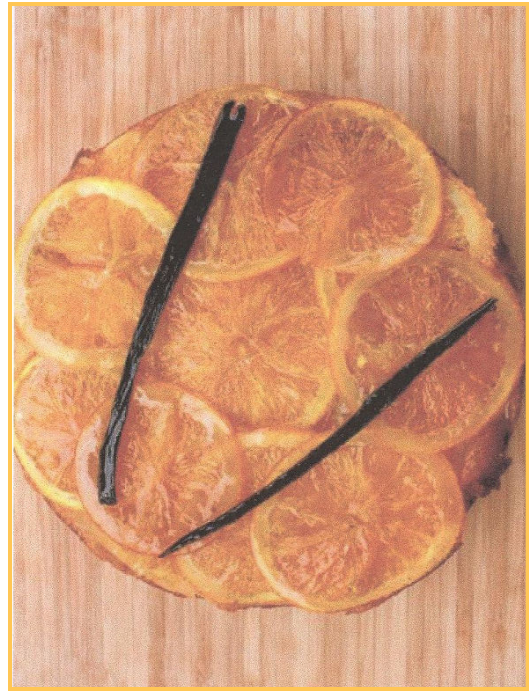
Ingredients

(Sticky Orange Topping)

- 220g castor sugar
- 125ml water
- 1 vanilla pod, split
- 2 oranges, very thinly sliced

(The Cake)

- 4 large eggs
- 220g castor sugar
- 5ml vanilla extract
- 150g self-raising flour
- 150g butter, melted
- 110g ground almonds



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 160°C, 180°F or Gas Mark 4
2. For the sticky orange topping. Place sugar, water and vanilla in a 2.5 litre 20cm non-stick frying pan that is oven proof, over a medium heat. Stir continuously until the sugar has dissolved. Add the orange slices and simmer until soft, for about 15 minutes. Remove from the heat and set aside.
3. For the cake: place eggs, sugar vanilla in a bowl of an electric mixer and whisk until thick, pale and about tripled in volume, about 8-10 minutes.
4. Sift the flour over egg mixture and fold through.. Fold through the melted butter and ground almonds.
5. Pour the cake mixture over the oranges and bake for about 40-45 minute.
6. Turn out on a platter to serve.

ROOM HIRE AT ST.PETER'S

Have you thought of hiring one of St Peter's rooms for your business or social events?

The Parish Hall is an excellent venue for receptions and larger formal business meetings. It is a carpeted area, with a view down over the church. There is a kitchen with cooking facilities, hot cupboard, fridge/freezer and dishwasher.



The Meeting Room is suitable for lectures and formal meetings of a medium size. There is a small kitchen, with tea and coffee making facilities.



The Committee Room is ideal for small formal or informal meetings. It has tea and coffee making facilities.



*For more information, phone the Parish Administrator
weekday mornings on 020 7235 4482,
or email admin@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk
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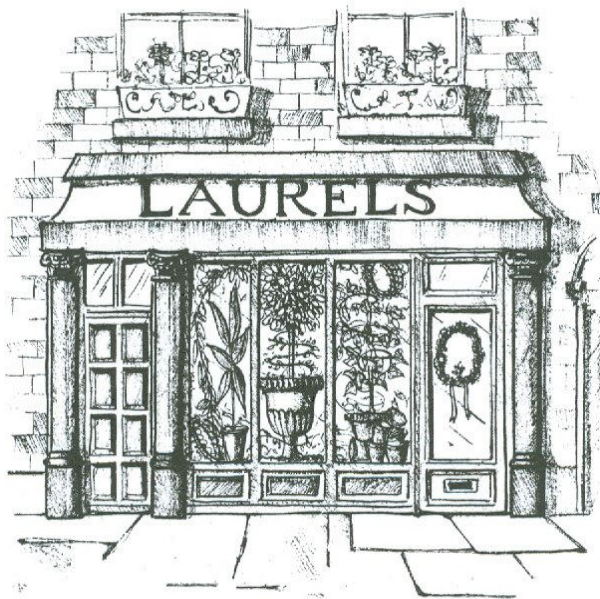
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* Also Diocesan Synod

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Chair: Peter Wilde

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Chair: the Vicar

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St Peter's
Eaton Square
Parish Magazine



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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	7.30 a.m.
Evening Prayer	5.00 p.m.
Daily Eucharist	12.30 p.m.
plus Wednesdays	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



www.stpetereatonsquare.co.uk

020 7235 4482; admin@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk