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\* from *Parish Pump*



*Did you know conkers in a room deter spiders?*

## DIARY FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October – Trinity 18

11.15am Parish Eucharist  
6.30pm Celebration of Healing and Wholeness

### Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>

8pm Hampstead Christian Study Centre. Rabbi Rachel Montague. Details page 12

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October – St Luke the Evangelist

11.15am Parish Eucharist  
6.30pm Holy Communion (BCP)

### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>

8pm Hampstead Christian Study Centre. Prof Paul Badham. Details page 12

*Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> British Summer time ends – clocks go back an hour*

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Last after Trinity / Bible Sunday

11.15am Parish Eucharist – Celebrant and Preacher, The Revd. Dennis Bury  
6.30pm Evening Prayer

### Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>

8pm Hampstead Christian Study Centre. Revd Robin Griffiths  
Details page 12

*Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Ss Simon and Jude, Apostles*

### Friday 30<sup>th</sup>

**7.30pm at The Embassy Theatre : Jeremy Brock on Screenwriting.** *A talk by the creator of screenplays including 'Mrs Brown' and 'Charlotte Gray'. Entrance free but please book through the theatre to ensure there are enough seats : [boxoffice@cssd.ac.uk](mailto:boxoffice@cssd.ac.uk) / 020 7722 8183*

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November – All Saints Day

11.15am Parish Eucharist  
4pm *at St Saviour's, Eton Road* A Service to Commemorate the Departed  
6.30pm Open Prayer

*Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> All Souls Day*



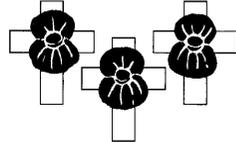
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
8pm Hampstead Christian Study Centre. Brian Cuthbertson.  
Details page 12

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>  
7.30pm Friends of St Peter's. Speaker Sally Barnes. See page 6

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance

#### Sunday

11.15am Parish Eucharist  
5pm Service of Readings and Music,  
led by the choir  
6.30pm Celebration of Healing  
and Wholeness



Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>  
8pm Hampstead Christian Study Centre. Fr Gerard Sheehan.  
Details page 12

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>  
**7.30pm Anniversary Eucharist with The Very Revd. John Halls, Dean of Westminster**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>  
**6.00pm Handel's Oratorio, 'Saul' Oxford and Cambridge Musical Club. Entrance free**

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November – 2<sup>nd</sup> before Advent

11.15am Parish Eucharist and Baptism of Benjamin Large  
6.30pm Holy Communion (BCP)

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>  
8pm Hampstead Christian Study Centre. Speaker to be announced

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – Christ the King

11.15am Parish Eucharist – Celebrant and Preacher,  
Rev. Canon Richard Truss  
6.30pm Evening Prayer



### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>

7.30pm Faiths of Belsize. Speaker Rabbi Rodney Mariner.  
See page 6

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>  
8pm Hampstead Christian Study Centre. Revd Stephen Tucker.  
Details page 12

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>  
7.30pm Friends of St Peter's. Speaker Canon Richard Truss. See  
page 6

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>  
5.15 The Hall School – Advent Carol Service

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November – Advent 1

11.15am Parish Eucharist – Celebrant and Preacher,  
The Revd. Claire Wilson  
6.30pm Contemplative Prayer



Monday 30<sup>th</sup> St Andrew

### Advance notices

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December: next PCC Meeting

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December at St Peter's Church: **Three Squared** present music  
by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven, for soprano voice, original string  
instruments and square piano. Entrance, £5

*Evening Prayer is usually said in church Monday to Friday at 5pm*

*There is a weekly Bible Study meeting on Tuesday evenings*

*See the weekly notice on the church door for occasional variations to these  
arrangements, or St Peter's Website, [www.spbp.org.uk](http://www.spbp.org.uk)*

## From the Vicar

As I write, schools and churches will have just celebrated, or are about to celebrate, 'Harvest'. This is much easier to do meaningfully in a rural setting, where the harvest has literally been 'brought in', and the crops really are something to celebrate. In our more metropolitan setting, what you end-up with is often little more than 'a load of shopping', sometimes still in its supermarket carrier-bags! However, the exercise is a good one – reminding us all of the goodness of creation, and teaching us to be thankful.

But the 'good earth', as well as producing crops which feed us, can at times erupt in shockingly violent ways, as in the recent Indonesian earthquakes and tsunami – leaving victims without food or fresh water. Ancient religious interpretation of such phenomena was often that these were punishments from God, but you won't find too many expressions of that view in our churches today. It's best that we acknowledge that such tragedies occur, and keep humble silence before the force of nature – whilst doing all we can to save lives, and to relieve the suffering they cause.

For some people this, not unnaturally, calls into question the idea of a loving God: 'how can he allow such awful things to happen?'. In his book exploring the tenets of the Christian Faith, 'Tokens of Trust', Rowan Williams turns this question the other way round, and asks, 'would a world with a perpetual safety net really be a world at all – a place with its own integrity and regularity?'. He suggests that for there to be such integrity and regularity required the creation of a world of creatures with minds of their own, and processes which are allowed freedom. Trust in a loving God comes about, not from the belief that he has guaranteed our safety, but from faith that, come what may, he is with us and our destiny lies with him.

St Peter's has its own special harvest over the next months in its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events, and please look in the dairy to see what's happening, and when. Jeremy Brock – the son of a former St Peter's vicar – is speaking about Screenwriting, from his distinguished experience in that field, on

30<sup>th</sup> October, and we're delighted that this event is being hosted by the Central School of Speech & Drama, in their Embassy Theatre.

Following the wholesome experience of Mark Tully's excellent talk to us, last month, on India's religious plurality and tolerance, and what we can learn from it, momentum grew for a few more talks on the topic of 'Faiths of Belsize Park'. Do watch out for this series, as well as the musical, and other events, between now and the end of the year.

*Paul Nicholson*

### **St Peter's Church – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events 2009**

#### **Jeremy Brock on Screenwriting**

*a talk by the creator of screenplays including*

*'Mrs Brown' and 'Charlotte Gray'*

The Embassy Theatre (Central School of Speech & Drama)

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm

*Entrance free but please book through the theatre to ensure there are enough seats : [boxoffice@cssd.ac.uk](mailto:boxoffice@cssd.ac.uk) / 020 7722 8183*

#### **Anniversary Eucharist**

*with The Very Revd. John Halls, Dean of Westminster*

St Peter's Church, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm

#### **Handel's Oratorio, 'Saul'**

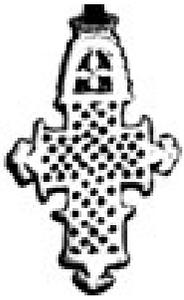
*Oxford and Cambridge Musical Club*

St Peter's Church, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 6pm – Free Entry

#### **Three Squared**

*present music by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven, for soprano voice, original string instruments and square piano*

St Peter's Church, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm – Entry, £5



# FAITHS OF BELSIZE



### Date to be confirmed

Dr Behanu Kassayie from St Gabriel's will speak about the history and liturgy of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.

### Monday 23rd November at 7.30pm

Rabbi Rodney Mariner will speak about the history of the Belsize Square Synagogue which is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year.

Other speakers to be announced.

These talks will be informal with no charge.

They will take place in the chapel at 7.30pm with coffee afterwards.



# FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S

### Wednesday 4th November at 7.30pm

Sally Barnes will share her memories of being at St Peter's.

### Wednesday 25th November at 7.30pm

Canon Richard Truss will remember his years as vicar of St Peter's.

Arrangements as above

## Marriage, Divorce and Children *a sermon preached on 4<sup>th</sup> October*

Over the last decades there has been a merciful loosening of the tight interpretative bonds that used to bind the understanding of this passage [Mark 10:2-16 – the Gospel for 4<sup>th</sup> October, in which Jesus condemns divorce] - bonds that if they had stayed in place would have condemned countless people to remain in unhappy marriages, would, for instance, have disqualified me - as one married twice - from fulfilling a role as priest, not to mention the many others who could only have kept their particular sexuality hidden, and secret.

It seems certain that the 'divorce' allowed by Moses had, by Jesus' time, become merely a charter for men to rid themselves of 'inconvenient' wives, and this may explain Jesus' apparently 'hard-line' teaching. But in this context, it's interesting that we move from consideration of marriage and divorce, to little children.

What precisely is it about these children that Jesus is commending – why is it 'to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs?' (Mk.10:14) There has perhaps been in the past an over-sentimentalised interpretation of Jesus' elevating of children as beacons of how to receive his kingdom. Those of us with any experience of children know they can be fearfully canny, and shamelessly manipulative of their parents or guardians!

And yet we see a tacit answer to what renders children especially open to God's kingdom in the tears shed by Plymouth parents outside the 'Little Teds' Nursery, having been told that they cannot know definitively whether or not their child was abused there. The stunned silence of many of us as we heard the news break, at the end of last week, of what depravity was unleashed on these tiny children, also speaks volumes. That silence, I believe, comes partly from a certain awe, borne out of our experience of adult relationships, at the sheer potency of human sexuality – a potency which, if misdirected, can lead to the most abominable abuse and violation.

We have become more open about sexuality in recent years, and more relaxed about sexual morality. Sexual scandals, when we hear of them – instead of the outrage they might once have caused - often raise little more than a shrug of the shoulders, or a snigger. But the openness of children, which Jesus commends as fertile ground for the Kingdom of God, can never be acceptable ground for sexual license.

Even allowing for the liberalisation in our understanding of sexual orientation, and our acceptance that people will have sexual fantasies, when it comes to two human beings together there is an unassailable truth in the principle that Jesus quotes, from the book of Genesis, that ‘the two shall become one flesh’ (Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:8). This, after all, is the reason many adult relationships flounder, when they are not based on mutual respect for the sanctity of personhood – why the ending of relationships is scarcely without pain. No wonder the far greater confusion and trauma caused to young lives that become bound-up with grown-up predators. They deserve our prayers and our continued vigilance.

*Paul Nicholson*

#### **Ready Steady Slow .... the Advent countdown begins**

Now you can ponder the planet with the Church of England's 2009 Advent campaign, and enjoy some creation time-out. The online Advent calendar [www.whywearewaiting.com](http://www.whywearewaiting.com)

(from November 29 but take a look now and sign up) will have daily videos, podcasts, thoughts and challenges on environmental issues linking with the vital UN Climate Change talks in Copenhagen this December. It urges you to slow down - for the planet's sake - this Advent.

#### **A Pitiful Old Life or an Excellent Short One?**

I'm not scared of death.  
I invite it,  
Don't fight it.  
If my life comes to an end at the age of sixteen,  
So what?  
Who says sixteen is a short life?  
For it may be possible I have lived more than those  
Thrice my age.  
What I fret about most  
Is parting from life  
Without having shared it with as many as possible.  
Dying with no dignity,  
Without having tried to fight,  
Having been selfish.  
Dying without having suffered,  
Lost and learned,  
Fallen and risen.  
Makes me think  
Death shall take care of itself  
So I shall care for the living.

*Christina Correa Lafeber*  
*[written when she was 16]*

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### **Operation Christmas Child 2009 – time to pack your shoe box!**

Last year the generosity of adults and children throughout the UK meant that more than 1.2 million disadvantaged children in parts of Africa, Central Asia and Eastern Europe were able to have a Christmas present – a Christmas shoe box full of small gifts from a stranger (here) who cared enough to send it (there).

Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest children's Christmas appeal and began nearly 20 years ago. It enables anyone here in the UK to directly impact the life of a disadvantaged child overseas.

If you would like to consider buying small gifts and packing another shoe box this year, here's what to look for at the shops over the next few weeks:

- **TOYS** : small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), etc.
- **SCHOOL SUPPLIES** : pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.
- **HYGIENE ITEMS**: toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.
- **A PERSONAL NOTE**: In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)

**DO NOT INCLUDE:** Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snowglobes or glass containers; aerosol cans

For more information on labels and wrapping and our nearest collection point, please contact: <http://www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk/>

*Father Paul will be blessing shoeboxes at St Saviour's on 15<sup>th</sup> November, after which they will be taken to a collection point.*

### **St Luke the Evangelist** [18<sup>th</sup>]

To St Luke, a gentile, we owe the beautifully written Gospel of Luke, and the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician, a disciple of St Paul, a companion on some of his missionary journeys, and an inspired writer.

Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ. His gospel contains some of the most moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. This, with his emphasis on poverty, prayer and purity of heart, make up much of his appeal to the Gentles, for whom he wrote.

Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner.

In Acts, Luke is remarkably good at linking sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. A principal theme of his Acts is how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Luke is the patron saint of doctors, surgeons and artists (due to his picturesque style of writing). His symbol is an ox, sometimes explained by reference to the sacrifice in the Temple at the beginning of his Gospel. In England 28 ancient churches were dedicated to him.

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### **Sweet dreams!**

When British Summer Time ends on 25th October, why not seize the moment and get your bedtime routine organised for the winter ahead.

It seems that one in five of us sleep badly, wake early, and so feel irritable and tired as each day begins. Experts call this 'junk sleep', and warn that we can't expect to be as productive at work, as emotionally stable in our relationships, or even as slim as we would be if we got a proper seven to seven and a half hours a night. Another depressing thing: if you don't get

enough sleep, you will age faster. The changes in your hormone functions will be similar to those which come with ageing.

So – how to sleep better? If your problem is very bad, visit your doctor to make sure you are medically okay. Then, here are some tips to help you prepare for sleep: Think of your bedroom as a sanctuary from the world. Aim to make it spacious, quiet and peaceful? Take out the TV. Move out the work papers. Put away the mess. Use soft lighting, and hang thick curtains to protect from light.

What time do you go to bed? Make it the same time every night, and aim for some exercise about 4 hours beforehand. Walking, jogging or swimming in the early evening is great for you – the exercise gets rid of the stress of the day, and helps you to unwind and relax.

Turn off the TV and computer at least an hour before bed, and listen to relaxing music or read instead. Have a warm bath, review the day mentally and let it go.

Reading a Psalm before you sleep will help focus your mind on God and his love for you, and will remind you of the spiritual dimension in life. God is your refuge, and wants you to turn to him for help. Do so, and then turn off the light!

And here's a prayer to get you in the right frame of mind *from the Leonine Sacramentary, 5th century...*

O God, who divides the day from the night, separate our deeds from the darkness of sin, and let us continually live in your light, reflecting in all that we do your eternal beauty.

O God, who gives the day for work and the night for sleep, refresh our bodies and our minds through the quiet hours of night, and let our inward eyes be directed towards you, dreaming of your eternal glory.

### **Family Bible surprise**

A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. "Mum, look what I found," the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?"

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

### **Feel sorry for their teachers....**

TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

MARIA: Here it is.

TEACHER: Correct. Now class, who discovered America ?

CLASS: Maria.

TEACHER: John, why are you doing your maths on the floor?

JOHN: You told me to do my multiplications without using a table.

TEACHER: Winnie, name one important thing that we didn't have ten years ago.

WINNIE: Me!

TEACHER: Clive , your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

CLIVE : No, sir. It's the same dog.

## Make waves for climate change

Thousands of eco-minded Brits are expected to flow through the streets of London on Saturday 5 December. They will be taking part in a 'human wave' of support for action on climate change. The event comes just ahead of crunch talks at the UN climate summit in Copenhagen.

The Wave, a carnival-style street procession, will begin at 1pm from the Embankment in London. It is being organised by the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition.

The family friendly event is encouraging people to wear blue clothing and bring blue fabric and banners to create a 'human wave' that will flow along the Thames Embankment towards Westminster. A finale will take place at 3pm as The Wave encircles the Houses of Parliament.

The Stop Climate Chaos Coalition represents 11 million members across 100 UK organisations, from the Women's Institute and RSPB to Christian Aid and Friends of the Earth.

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## The gender pay gap starts with your pocket money

Girls get paid less than boys even in childhood: parents give boys 10 per cent more pocket money than girls, right up to the age of 15.

New research has found that girls under 16 are given an average of £3.42 pocket money a week, while boys in the same range get £3.80. This means that boys are given £19.76 more a year than girls.

The Co-operative Investments Child Trust Fund also found that with the onset of recession, parents are making their children (of both sexes) carry out chores for their weekly allowance. And yes, you guessed it – often the whole girls are asked to do housework, while boys work in the garden or wash the car....

## How to carve the perfect pumpkin lantern

Here are some tips to make the most of your pumpkin this month.



1. The shape. Pumpkins come both short and round as well as tall and thin. Decide on the pattern of face you will want to carve, and choose your shape of pumpkin accordingly. If you like big toothy grins, better get a wide pumpkin!
2. The ripeness. Choose one with hard skin, which your fingernail will dent but not puncture. Avoid bruised or dented pumpkins, unless the marks can be incorporated into the character of the pumpkin you have in mind.
3. The hollowing. At home, begin by laying out sheets of newspaper, because you have a messy job ahead. Choose a medium length knife with a thin serrated blade, and cut out a hole near the top around the stem. As you cut, it will help if you angle your knife slightly upwards. This makes the lid and hole slightly cone-shaped, which stops the lid from falling into the pumpkin later on.
4. The scraping. Dig out your pumpkin with a large spoon. Make sure the pumpkin is perfectly flat on the bottom.
5. The face. Use a crayon to draw on the face. It can easily be wiped off if you go wrong, but in the meantime, will give you some guidance. Now, cut out the design, pushing out the pieces of pumpkin wall as you go along.
6. The preserving of your masterpiece! Vaseline does this well – it seals in the moisture, and slows down the growth of mould inside. Popping your pumpkin into the fridge each night also will help.
7. The illumination. A small plain white votive candle in a glass holder works best.
8. The setting. Pumpkins need a flat, stable surface away from anything that can catch fire. A table in a conservatory works well. If you are using a windowsill, make sure that curtains and blinds are well out of the way, and that the cat or kids won't knock it off.

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## The essential Jane Eyre

My love behaved  
A bit erratic;  
Our nuptial day  
Brought truth dramatic:  
He had a wife,  
Mad, in an attic.

I sought my love  
Again, to find  
An awful fire  
His home had mined,  
Kipped his wife  
And left him blind.

I fled! I roamed  
O'er moor and ditch  
When life had struck  
Its lowest pitch,  
An uncle died  
And left me rich.

Reader, guess what  
I married him.  
My cup is filled  
Up to the brim.  
Now we are one  
We play, we swim.

The power we share  
Defies all pain,  
We soar above  
Life's tangled plain.  
He Mr Rochester  
Me Jane.

*I've cherished this since Open University days. If anyone knows who wrote it I'd be glad to hear.*