



**St IGNATIUS**  
feast day October 17th

Born in Syria, Ignatius converted to Christianity at an early age and eventually became bishop of Antioch. A tradition arose that he was one of the children whom Jesus had taken in his arms and blessed. Ignatius called himself 'God Bearer'.

Ignatius is responsible for the first known use of the Greek word 'katholikos' meaning universal and whole to describe the church, he wrote: "Wherever the bishop appears, there let the people be; as wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church.

In the year 107, the Roman Emperor Trajan visited Antioch and forced the Christians living there to choose between death and denying Christ. Ignatius would not deny his Lord and so was condemned to be put to death in Rome.



Ignatius bravely met the lions in the Circus Maximus in Rome; dying

and living as a witness to his belief.

**LIONS in the BIBLE**

Not just in the arena in Rome, there are quite a few lions mentioned in the Bible...

1. An angel shut the lions' mouths so that they couldn't eat him (Daniel, chapter 6)
2. Who will lead the lion, wolf, lamb, goat and calf? (Isaiah, chapter 11)
3. He killed the lions or bears that threatened his father's flocks (1 Samuel, chapter 17)
4. Who is like a roaring lion looking for someone to eat? (1 Peter, chapter 5)
5. He killed a lion on a day when it had snowed (2 Samuel, chapter 23)
6. The first creature was like a lion, what were the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> creatures like? (Revelation, chapter 4)



**On which day do lions eat people?**  
Chewsday.

**What did the lioness say to her cubs when she taught them to hunt?**



'Don't go over the road till you see the zebra crossing.'



1.Daniel 2.A little child 3.David 4.the devil 5.Benaiah, son of Jehoiada 6. A calf, a face like a man and a flying eagle.

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**Sunday Services:** 11.15am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School [Children start in church, returning at Communion to receive a blessing]  
6 - 7pm PrayerSpace

**Weekday Services:**  
Thursday: 10.30am Holy Communion  
Evening Prayer: check times on weekly pewswheats

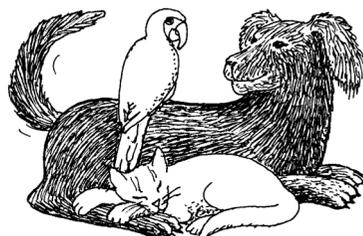
**Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals** by arrangement with Father Paul.

Magazine material to be sent to [judy.east@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:judy.east@blueyonder.co.uk) or given to Father Paul, please

## Contents

Diary for October and November	3
Father Paul writes	6
Autumn at St Peter's—Kenneth Robbie	7
Sermon—Father Paul	8
Westminster Abbey – Kenneth Robbie	11
Calling all volunteers—Kenneth Robbie	12
Mission without Borders—Harry and Lin Graham	12
In memory of C S Lewis	14 *
Donald Barnes Memorial Lecture	15
A thought about Copts—Helen Braithwaite	16
HOST UK	16
Prisons Week	18 *
Samaritans 60 years on	19 *
Childrens Page	20*

\* from *Parish Pump*



## SAMARITANS CELEBRATE 60 YEARS OF CONFIDENTIAL PHONECALLS

This month, 2nd November, sees the 60th anniversary of the very first phonecall to the Samaritans.

The idea for a confidential crisis phone-line that desperate people could use came from a vicar, Chad Varah, following the suicide of a young girl of 14 in one of his parishes. He was appalled by the senseless loss of life, and the idea of offering help to those in such need was born. When he moved to St Stephen's in London in the summer of 1953 he knew the time had come for him to launch what he called a "999 for the suicidal". He was, in his own words, "a man willing to listen, with a base and an emergency telephone."

The first ever call to the new service was made on 2nd November 1953 – and hence this date is recognised as Samaritans' official birthday. The service received lots of press coverage and on 7th December 1953 the Daily Mirror coined the term "Telephone Good Samaritans". Although Samaritans is not a religious organisation, the name has stuck and become synonymous with the idea of people being there for others struggling to cope.

From that first phonecall in the autumn of 1953 the workload increased so rapidly that Chad Varah had to turn to volunteers for help. Soon he said that "they were doing the clients more good than I was."

It was in February 1954, that Chad Varah officially handed over the task of supporting the callers to the volunteers. Samaritans as we know it today was born. The service today still operates on Chad's guiding principles of confidential, non-judgmental support.

## PRISONS WEEK - 17 -23 NOVEMBER – WILL YOU PRAY?

Prisoners are easy to forget about – after all, they live behind thick walls and high fences, and are never seen. But inside prisons there are tens of thousands of damaged people in desperate need of God’s love and grace in their lives. Outside prisons there are hundreds of thousands of family members of prisoners, who are totally innocent, yet whose lives have also been badly damaged.

And so it was in 1975 that Prisoners’ Week was launched by a number of prison chaplains and other Christians who were involved in work with prisoners and their families. The aim was to encourage churches across the country to use the third Sunday in November to pray for prisoners and their families. By 1995 it was clear that those who work in prison care also needed support, and so it became Prisons Week – when the churches are asked to remember ALL those involved in the field of prison care, prisoners families- victims of crime-prison staff and many volunteers.

So on the third Sunday of this month, please will you join with us in praying for everyone connected to the prison system? That ranges from the needs of prisoners and their families, to the victims of offenders, to prisons staff and all those who care. This is reflected in the Prisons Week Prayer:

Lord, you offer freedom to all people.

We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care.

Heal those who have been wounded by the activities of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another.

Help us to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ

In his strength and in His Spirit, now and every day.

Amen.

More info at: [www.prisonsworld.org](http://www.prisonsworld.org)

## DIARY FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

At the time of printing St Peter’s is without a Children’s Minister, so the weekly Children’s Club is currently suspended. When an appointment is made it will re-commence and will be publicised on the church notice boards.

Thu 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion  
11.15am Coffee and Croissants  
6.45pm Belsize Community Choir  
Sat 5<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Autumn Music Festival - Concert 1  
[www.belsizefestival.co.uk](http://www.belsizefestival.co.uk)\*



### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October – Trinity 19

11.15am Parish Eucharist  
4.00pm Autumn Music Festival - Concert 2\*

Thu 10<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion  
11.15am Coffee and Croissants  
\*5.15pm Choral Evensong sung by the choir of  
*The Hall School*\*  
6.45pm Belsize Community Choir

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October – Trinity 20

11.15am Parish Eucharist  
6 -7pm PrayerSpace

Thu 17<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion  
11.15am Coffee and Croissants  
6.45pm Belsize community Choir

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> – St Luke

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October – Trinity 21

11.15am Parish Eucharist Celebrant & Preacher  
*Fr. Mark Speaks*  
6 -7pm PrayerSpace

Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> 2.00pm Classical Babies (monthly concerts for babies & toddlers – Adult entry £10)

Thu 24<sup>th</sup> NO HOLY COMMUNION OR COFFEE (St Gabriel's Ethiopian Festival)  
 6.45pm Belsize Community Choir  
 Sat 27<sup>th</sup> British Summer time ends. Clocks go back an hour



**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October – Last after Trinity**

11.15am Parish Eucharist *with the Baptism of Betsy Enterkin*  
 6-7pm PrayerSpace

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Simon and Jude, Apostles

Thu 31<sup>st</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion  
 11.15am Coffee and Croissants  
 6.45pm Belsize Community Choir

**NOVEMBER**



**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Advent**

11.15am Parish Eucharist *Celebrant & Preacher Mark Speaks*

**\*4.30pm All Souls Commemoration Service:**

*All who intend to come are invited, in advance of the service, to submit names of those they wish to be named, and for whom candles to be lit\**

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> \*7.30pm The Revd. Canon Lucy Winkett gives the Donald Barnes Memorial Lecture: *“Prophetic Imagination: Living with What Is, in the Light of what is Promised”*

Thu 7<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion  
 11.15am Coffee and Croissants  
 6.45pm Belsize Community Choir

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November – 3<sup>rd</sup> before Advent (Remembrance Sunday)**

11.15am Parish Eucharist *with Act of Remembrance*  
 6-7pm PrayerSpace



Invitations can be for a day, a weekend, or 3 days at Christmas. Sharing Christmas with someone who has little idea what Christmas is can be really special – and for the guest, much better than being on a deserted university campus. Invitations are urgently needed from volunteer hosts, no matter how far they live from a university. To find out more, please see [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org) 0207 739 6292. Thank you.

Margaret Stevens, HOSTUK

**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**

Very lively little Dora had returned from Sunday school, where she had been for the first time. “And what did my little girl learn this morning?” asked her father indulgently.  
 “That I am a child of Satan,” was the beaming reply

**REAL-LIFE NOTES LEFT FOR MILKMEN...**

When you leave my milk, knock on my bedroom window and wake me because I want to turn my mattress and you could give me a hand.

Please knock. My TV's broken down and I missed Coronation Street last night. Maybe we could talk about what happened over a cup of tea?

My daughter says she wants a milkshake. Do you do this before you deliver, or do I have to shake it at my end?

Please send me a form for cheap milk, as I have a baby two months old and did not know about it until a neighbour told me.

Sorry not to have paid your bill before, but my wife had a baby and I've been carrying it around in my pocket for weeks.

Please leave no milk today. When I say today I mean tomorrow, as I wrote this note yesterday.

## A THOUGHT ABOUT THE COPTS

The Copts are a very early group of Christians in Egypt. It was the St Mark the Apostle who went there and converted them. Their numbers have grown over the years so that they now make up one tenth of the population. But what kind of lives can they expect to have in this, the 21st century? Surrounded as they are by Muslims and suspected of taking sides against them, it is little wonder they have become the victims of anti Christian attacks.

This is what happened to them recently. The town of Nazla in the province of Faijoun has two Coptic churches and a monastery. As word spread that some of the police who had assaulted a sit-in by supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood were Christians, an enraged mob began its attack on Nazla's main Coptic church. The destruction was systematic and total. Every valuable item was carried away from this newly built Church of the Virgin. Then, room by room, the raiders fire bombed the building and destroyed it totally.

No one was seriously hurt. When the Coptic Pope, Tawardos II, appeared next to Egypt's Defence Minister announcing the coup it was a bewildering moment. Whose side was he on? Whose side could he be on? Sadly the truth began to emerge. The good people of Nazra were grateful it was only property not people that got hurt. We do not know what the future holds for our fellow Christians in Egypt. We can only pray that the present situation will quieten soon and the people of Nazra will be able to start rebuilding their beautiful church. Our thoughts are with them.

*Helen Braithwaite*

## HOST UK

Could you offer someone a home far from home for just a day or two? HOST, a well-established charity, is hoping to hear from people who enjoy making others feel at home, and who would love to meet interesting young adults from other parts of the world who are currently studying at universities in the UK, and who want to understand this country better.

One host wrote: 'It is a great to welcome these students and make them feel wanted. They get to see a good side of life in Britain in contrast to what they might learn from the media. It is also fun getting to know someone from another country.'

Thu 14<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion  
11.15am Coffee and Croissants  
6.45pm Belsize Community Choir

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November – 2<sup>nd</sup> before Advent

11.15am Parish Eucharist  
NO EVENING PRAYERSPACE

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Classical Babies (monthly concerts for babies & toddlers – Adult entry £10)

Thu 21<sup>st</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion  
11.15am Coffee and Croissants  
6.45pm Belsize Community Choir  
Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> \*7.30pm Belsize Music Academy Concert\*

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November – Christ the King

11.15am Parish Eucharist  
6 -7pm PrayerSpace  
7.30pm Party for St Peter's Volunteers

Thu 28<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion  
11.15am Coffee and Croissants  
6.45pm Belsize Community Choir

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> *Andrew, the Apostle*  
2.00pm Memorial Service for Robert Patrick Heazell & Julyan Frances Heazell

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December – Advent

11.15am Parish Eucharist *Celebrant & Preacher, Fr. Mark Speaks*  
6 -7pm PrayerSpace

There are weekly *Creative Wizzkids* Arts Classes for toddlers in the church on Wednesday mornings in term-time, and mixed –age Holiday Clubs each morning Mondays to Fridays in school holidays and at half term. For further information see the website: [www.creativewizzkids.com](http://www.creativewizzkids.com) or ring 020 7794 6797

## VICAR'S LETTER

Just as St Peter's Church seeks increasingly to keep a balance between its prayer and worship, hospitality to others, and events for the benefit of the wider community, so the Christian Gospel itself has a holistic concern for the total human condition. Underlying Jesus' teachings and healings is a passionate concern for the vulnerable, the needy and the disadvantaged. For any church now, because of rising costs and external pressures to prove 'viability', it's possible to become focussed solely on staying in existence, and losing that outward-facing concern for others. One way we combat this is through the regular donations to charities, made through our 'coin collection' (though *notes* are always welcome too!) – a separate collection from our offerings for the church itself. But our awareness of needy communities has also been enriched by the contact we have with people serving some of them. We keep in our prayers *Aleric Dunsmore-Rouse*, who worshipped with us while on leave three years ago, but who works for the Overseas Missionary Fellowship in Japan, and sends us a monthly newsletter. More recently we've been delighted to be joined regularly by *Harry and Lin Graham*, who both work for 'Mission without Borders'. Christian 'Missionary Work' has many past associations – not all of them good, and has sometimes displayed crass insensitivity and arrogance. But when the holistic concern and love of Jesus Christ is shown and shared, only good can come about. Lin has kindly contributed a piece on MWB for this issue.

The prayer and worship part of St Peter's life -though our numbers are not large and it only takes up a proportion of the total use made of our building - continues to be at the centre of everything we do. It's not just a Sunday thing, and that's why on most weekdays you'll hear our bell rung at some point in the day. Around my domestic/parental responsibilities, a pattern of daily prayer has emerged, though there can be weekly variations, which you'll always find on the porch door or the website. Tuesday daytime prayer is at 1.15pm, and Evening Prayer is said on Wednesdays at 7pm, and on Thursday and Friday at 5. And then there's our weekly Thursday service of Holy Communion at 10.30am (always followed by coffee & croissants!). All midweek prayer and worship is held in the intimate setting of our Lady Chapel. You are always welcome to join us!

*Father Paul*

**The Hampstead Christian Study Centre**  
founded in 1976,  
is inaugurating an annual lecture in memory of

**The Revd Prebendary Donald Barnes**  
who was one of its founder members

The lecture will be given by

**The Revd Lucy Winkett**  
Rector of St James's Church, Piccadilly  
on

Prophetic imagination: with what is,  
in the light of what's promised

at  
St Peter's Church,  
on  
Wednesday 6 November 2013 at 8.00pm

Tickets (£5) at the door.  
Refreshments will be available after the lecture.

St Peter's, Belsize Square, is the church where  
Donald was vicar for 17 years.  
Directions to the church can be found  
on: [www.spbp.org.uk](http://www.spbp.org.uk)

mas in absolute darkness. We had no electricity and I was feeling ill; our house was cold and there was nothing to remind us of Christmas – no food on the table, no presents, not even any sweets for the children and no love, just abandonment... Then this year the *MWB* parcel came like a flash of light into the darkness of our lives.” She was then able to say, “As we are celebrating Christmas for the very first time in our lives, we praise the Lord for his precious gift that he gave to the world.”

Instead of dreading Christmas, 30,000 people like Meruche and her girls will no longer go hungry and will now know that someone cares for them this Christmas.

If you think you would like to help with a donation, no matter how small, have a word with Lin or Harry. They will both be very happy to tell you more. Or take a look at [www.mwbuk.org](http://www.mwbuk.org).

*Harry and Lin Graham*

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## **SOME SAYINGS OF C S LEWIS – WHO DIED 50 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH**

God cannot bless us until he has us. When we try to keep within us an area that is our own, we try to keep an area of death. Therefore, in love, he claims all. There’s no bargaining with him.

I was ... living, like so many atheists or antitheists, in a whirl of contradictions. I maintained that God did not exist. I was also very angry with God for not existing. I was equally angry with him for creating a world.

It was not for societies or states that Christ died, but for me.

A man can’t always be defending the truth; there must be a time to feed on it.

If you want a religion to make you really feel comfortable, I certainly don’t recommend Christianity.

## **AUTUMN AT ST PETER’S**

**Two concerts organised by local musicians** Ian Jewel (viola) and Carol Slater (violin), who will be joined by Deborah Shah (piano), Pal Banda (cello) and Sue Dent (horn) and outstanding young Russian pianist Sergey Basukinsky. And a jazz concert:

### **Saturday 5 October, 7.30pm**

The first concert will include Brahms *Piano quartet in G Minor* with the famous gypsy finale. £12 on the door / £6 concessions

### **Sunday 6 October, 4.00pm**

The second concert at will include Brahms *Horn Trio* and *G Major Violin Sonata* and Schumann works for Viola. £12 on the door / £6 under 18s.

### **Sunday 6 October, 8.00pm**

This free Outdoor Jazz Concert will be held in Belsize Terrace opposite Artigiano restaurant. If it rains, the concert will take place in St Peter's.

### **Wednesday 6 November, 8.00pm**

St Peter’s hosts the first **Donald Barnes Memorial Lecture**: See page.....

### **Saturday 9 November, 1.30pm**

A lunchtime recital by **Ruth Muffett (piano)** and **Nicholas Lane (piano)** The programme will include works by Fauré, Debussy, C P E Bach, John Stanley and J B Loeillet. A free recital. Refreshments will be available.

**Saturday 23 November, 7.30pm** with pre-concert performance (solo piano) at 7:00pm

**London Soloists Philharmonia** with Peter Limonov, conductor

Erika Kobayashi, piano and Kana Ito, piano

Programme includes Ravel *Concerto for Piano & Orchestra, G-major*, and Grieg *Piano Concerto, op16*

Tickets £15. Available at the door and from: [rsvp.desk@ymail.com](mailto:rsvp.desk@ymail.com).

This evening is organised by MCS Young Artists Fund.

**Saturday 7 December, 11.00am – 2.00pm**

**St Peter's Christmas Fair** with books and cards, craft jewellery, Christmas decorations, bric-à-brac, tombola, home made cakes and marmalade, teas and coffee, mulled wine and mince pies. Free entry.

Proceeds go to St Peter's garden fund.

*Kenneth Robbie, Churchwardem*

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## SERMON

*Philemon v. 1-21; Luke 14:25-33*

“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers

and sisters, yes, even life itself, cannot be my disciple” *Luke 14:26*

I didn't exactly relish the task of preaching on today's Gospel. To our ears, talk of 'hating' the people we would naturally hold most dear is surely hateful – an outrageous injunction which, as it stands might easily repel those who already find little relevance in the claims of Jesus Christ. I was talking the other day with a young Christian who came to faith at St Saviour's in the last few years whilst she was a student in London, and I shared with her the fact that my heart sank when I saw this text for today. But we both agreed that it's necessary, whether in private prayer life, or in public preaching, not to 'bury' passages like this – like bad news, but to hold them in tension and engage with them patiently. After all, these are words associated with Jesus; it just happens that in this version of Luke's they are particularly challenging.

The opposites of 'love' and 'hate' have taken on more emotive meanings in our own times. In popular thinking at least, the meaning of 'love' has perhaps narrowed to the limited fields of attraction and romance, along with the bonds of family love. Familial love is of course a very special bond, which itself isn't static, but has the power to grow and deepen – I only have to think, as a once slightly reluctant second-time father, of the consolation James and Sam have increasingly brought me, and of what good mates they've become. 'Hatred' now to us carries a clear meaning of intense dislike, or even of hostility. But from early in the Hebrew Bible there are in-

Harry first became involved when in 1981 the organisation consulted him as a solicitor specializing in charity law. As time went by, he became more involved as a Board member, first on the UK Board, then International.

Much to their surprise, there came a time when Lin and he felt God was calling them to work full-time in the Church of England and in 1996 Harry was ordained and they moved to a parish in the North West. But there was another surprise for them. In 2002 *Mission Without Borders* asked Harry to work for them full-time.

*Mission Without Borders* has changed a lot over the last 50 years or so. After the collapse of the Iron Curtain, *MWB* were able to work openly with the people of the one-time underground churches in Eastern Europe. As the television cameras went in too, the world saw the terrible deprivation of the thousands of children, neglected in state 'orphanages' no better than warehouses. The cameras then moved onto something else, but *Mission Without Borders* stayed. In countries with no real welfare system and where corruption is rife, it is still particularly children and the elderly who are the most vulnerable. Even amongst the most loving parents despair can set in when they cannot feed their own children. *MWB* through employing only indigenous staff and working through local churches brings not only physical relief to these forgotten people, but also hope. Working together with supporters from the West, many people's lives are completely changed and families become self-sufficient.

Harry says, “It is so moving when you meet someone whom you know the Mission has helped through from the horrors of abandonment in an orphanage to gaining self-respect and dignity. For an abandoned person of any age to know that they are loved and valued by God is life-changing.”

One of the many projects carried out by *MWB* is Operation Christmas Love. So as we prepare for Christmas, *MWB* staff and volunteers are buying and packing good basic foods, such as flour, sugar and oil into 30,000 boxes for distribution to the poorest families. For many it's simple contents will change their despair into hope. In addition there's sweets and little treats for the children.

Meruche, an unemployed widow with two daughters is typical of many who are helped by *MWB*. She explained last year, “We spent the previous Christ-

## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

St Peter's depends on its volunteers for many things: preparing services, reading and interceding, assisting in the Eucharist, welcoming, serving coffee and washing up, gardening, flower arranging, laundering and cleaning, counting and banking money, serving on the Parochial Church Council and more besides. We will celebrate volunteering in all its aspects in a **drinks party** in the church on **Sunday 24 November** from 7.30 to 9.00pm. This is a social evening for all existing volunteers, for everyone who has been a volunteer and for anyone who might be interested in becoming a volunteer. The PCC hopes that everyone in the congregation will fit into one of these categories! Do come, even if it's for only one drink. It's a free evening and conviviality is guaranteed.

*Kenneth Robbie, Churchwarden*

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## MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS

You may have seen Harry and Lin Graham on a Sunday from time to time sitting up towards the front of St Peter's on the right hand side. On the August Bank Holiday weekend, you may also have noticed Harry presiding at the morning services both at St Saviour's and St Peter's. But Harry's full-time job is the CEO and Chairman of *Mission Without Borders International*, a Christian charity with an interesting history and a successful present.

*Mission Without Borders* started life in 1960 smuggling Bibles and material help when the Cold War was at its most intense. In Eastern Europe, a rigid political system had demanded strict loyalty, and those who dared to disagree suffered imprisonment and death. Literally millions of Christians were persecuted for their beliefs. Many paid with their lives and still do in various parts of the world.

Now *Mission Without Borders* raises funds in 11 countries around the world and continues to focus its help on Eastern Europe - especially Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine.

stances where 'love' and 'hate' are put alongside each other to give 'hate' more a sense of 'loving less than'. Perhaps the particularly uncompromising way Jesus' words are conveyed in Luke betray signs of the early persecution of Christians, in which families were sometimes riven apart, but his original meaning would have been that even our natural family ties should be seen in the context of the overall claims of God.

The hymn we sang before the Gospel was a poem written as a 'Hymn to God the Creator' by W.H.Vanstone, an Anglican Priest, who on his retirement from parish work in the 1970s, wrote his first book, which was the fruit of both his considerable learning and of reflections borne out of his experiences in ministry over many years. He entitled the book 'Love's endeavour, loves expense' – quoting a line from that poem we sang, which he placed at the very end of his book. I read 'Love's endeavour' early on in my first post as an ordained curate, and I found it inspirational. One of its main themes is the close connection between the Love of God and his work as **Creator**. Vanstone argues compellingly that flowing from this connection, creativity and love are closely allied in all human affairs as well. He uses the analogy of the patience, devotion, and total commitment required for any serious creative artist in producing or interpreting a work of art – whether it be of literature, drama, dance, music, painting or any other kind. In the poem this is summed up in the words that immediately follow 'love's endeavour, love's expense':

Love that gives gives ever more,  
Gives with zeal, with eager hands,  
Spares not, keeps not, all outpours,  
Ventures all, its all expends.

More evidently drawing parallels with human relationships, his next verse continues

Drained is love in making full;  
Bound in setting others free;  
Poor in making many rich;  
Weak in giving power to be.

Some struggle with what they perceive to be a kind of masochism in the traditional theology of the cross, and in Jesus' insistence that his disciples must carry the cross, but I believe Vanstone's linking of love to the creative instinct, as something to be nurtured in discipline and self-giving helps to stress the positive, in showing the evident benefits for ourselves and for others, as we might share in the love and creativity of God himself. By this stage in the poem it comes only as inevitable that the ultimate radical act of self-giving is portrayed:

Therefore He Who Thee reveals  
Hangs, O Father, on that Tree  
Helpless; and the nails and thorns  
Tell of what Thy love must be

From the moment of our birth, the love between parents, children and siblings is hopefully – in all but tragically exceptional circumstances – the most natural, accessible and comforting love there can be. But partly for that reason, relationships between loved ones can be prone to dysfunctionality on various levels. I'm not speaking of the evil of outright cruelty and abuse, but of emotional manipulation; playing on guilt, perhaps, to get what one wants, or colluding in emotional blackmail out of a desire to feel needed and loved. Often in wedding addresses I find myself warning couples against the assumption that 'Love is all you need', as though it were something simple and easy. True love is costly, and whatever glimpse we may get of love through our human relationships, our best hope for permanence and stability in those relationships is to acknowledge that cost, and open ourselves above all to the ways of the self-giving love of God, shown for ever in the cross of Christ.

*Paul Nicholson*



## WESTMINSTER ABBEY

The name of our parish church honours not only the Prince of the Apostles but also our historic connection with the Collegiate Church of St Peter at Westminster. The church was built in the 1850s on land given by the Dean and Chapter of the Westminster Abbey, who remain patrons of the benefice.



The current Dean, Dr John Hall, presided at the Eucharist for our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009. And recently, at the beginning of the Arts Week, we had the pleasure of receiving Canon Vernon White, the Abbey's Canon Theologian. Canon Jane Hedges takes a continuing interest in our welfare, and we have a regular place in the Abbey's cycle of prayer.

On **Saturday 19 October**, there is a chance for everyone to take our prayers to the Abbey on the day of the National Pilgrimage to the Shrine of St Edward the Confessor. It is a day reserved for pilgrims, and a free day for all who wish to take part. The Abbey opens its doors at 9.00am; a Festival Eucharist with the Bishop of Norwich follows at 11.30am; and Evensong is at 3.00pm. Inbetween the services, pilgrims will be able to pray at the Shrine and elsewhere in the Abbey and spiritual counselling will be available. This annual day at the Abbey is a richly rewarding experience for the many people who attend. Tickets are not required.

Looking further ahead, a group from St Peter's will have the great pleasure of a guided tour of the Abbey after Evensong on **Wednesday 15 January 2014**. Evensong that day is at 5.00pm; the tour starts at 6.00pm and lasts an hour and a half; and we will then have supper in the dining room of The Albert in Victoria Street. The tour of the Abbey is free (we will give a donation), but please let me know in advance if you wish to join the group because places are limited. The supper will be moderately priced. It will be a special evening, a celebration of the presence of St Peter in Belsize Park and Westminster.

*Kenneth Robbie*