

Parish Magazine of St Peter's Church

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Sunday Services: 11.15am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School
[Children start in church, returning at Communion to receive a blessing]
6.30pm Evening Prayer - see diary page for

details

Weekday Services:

Monday-Friday : 5.00pm Evening Prayer

Thursday: 10.30am Holy Communion

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals by arrangement with Father Paul.

On Saturdays the church is open from 10.15 to 12 noon for visitor to view the church and meet some of the members.

The Gallery Choir sings at the 11.15am service and rehearses on Thursdays at 8pm at St Saviour's, Eton Road. Details from Father Paul.

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from *Parish Pump*

Editorial

Celebrate summer with the first edition of our new parish magazine. This is your magazine and we welcome submissions for consideration. Please send them to Judy East by email if possible to judy.east@blueyonder.co.uk, or by post to 48 Southfleet, Marsden Street, NW5 4DD.

Meanwhile in this issue you'll find articles on Common Worship - it's taken 8 years to complete and the statistics at the end of the article are quite astonishing, not least because anyone bothered to work them out!

There are prayers and poems, Children's pages and a Diary page. Let us know what else you'd like to see.

DIARY FOR JUNE & JULY

SUNDAY 1st June - Trinity 2

11.15am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School
6.30pm

Tuesday 3rd June 8.00pm Bible Study

SUNDAY 8th June - Trinity 3 [Environment Sunday]

11.15am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School
6.30pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 11th June St Barnabas 8.00pm Bible Study

SUNDAY 15th June - Trinity 4

11.15am Parish Eucharist with Blessing of Palms
and Sunday School
6.30pm Alternative Worship

Monday 16th - Sunday 22nd June is Refugee Week www.refugeeweek.org.uk

Tuesday 17th 8.00pm Bible Study

Friday 20th - Sunday 22nd Retreat Association National Quiet Days

Details www.retreats.org.uk

<http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk>

SUNDAY 22nd June - Trinity 5

11.15am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School
6.30pm Evening Prayer

Monday 24th June St John the Baptist

Tuesday 25th June 8.00pm Bible Study

Saturday 28th June Ordination of Deacons at St Paul's Cathedral

SUNDAY 29th June - Trinity 6/St Peter and St Paul

11.15am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School
6.30pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 30th June 8.00pm Bible Study

Thursday 3rd July St Thomas the Apostle

SUNDAY 6th July Trinity 7

11.15am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School
6.30pm Alternative Worship

Tuesday 8th July 8.00pm Bible Study
Saturday 12th July Diocesan Fairtrade Day

SUNDAY 13th July - Trinity 8

11.15am Parish Eucharist with Blessing of Palms
and Sunday School
6.30pm Celebration of Wholeness and Healing

Tuesday 15th July 8.00pm Bible Study

Friday 18th - Sunday 20th July National Justice and Peace Conference
'hear My People Cry' at Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

SUNDAY 20th July : Trinity 9

11.15am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School
6.30pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 22nd July St Mary Magdalene 8.00pm Bible Study
Friday 25th July St James the Apostle

SUNDAY 27th July - Trinity 10

11.15am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School
6.30pm Evening Prayer



FATHER PAUL WRITES.....

This is our first issue of a new bi-monthly magazine, which will be a focus for news at St Peter's and other matters of interest. It will be available on-line on St Peter's website - www.spbp.org.uk – as well as in hard copy. We hope you find it a welcome resource.

After the exciting season of Easter, Ascension and Pentecost, the church calendar has now entered what it calls, rather unpromisingly, 'ordinary time', when we simply get on with a regular pattern of prayer and worship without the 'highs' of special festivals. As Easter was so early this year, we seem to have been on a permanent 'high' since December(!), so it will be good to have a spiritual change of gear that gives some more space for reflection.

At Peter's we have much to reflect on just now. As I write, we are on the threshold of an agreement with the Central School of Speech and Drama whereby our Church Halls, which have been derelict and redundant for some seven years, are finally to be renovated. The School will take over management of the Halls, bringing them back to use, and having main usage of them for some years, before handing them back to St Peter's. But St Peter's will also have use of the buildings as soon as they are in working order, mostly on Sundays, but also for some complete weekends and other evenings, as well as at Christmas and Easter holidays and for the whole month of August. You should see the contractors moving on to the site early in June. This is very exciting, and will open many possibilities for our own growth, as well as the prospect of a healthy collaboration with a major local educational establishment.

Development and growth are what we seek and pray for as a church, but with good fortune like this - and with buildings generally - comes *responsibility*, and the need for good management and stewardship. Currently the roof and ceiling of the South Aisle of the church itself is in need of repair, both outside and in. We are looking at options as to how to get this repaired as soon as possible, but it's also emerging that we are going to need a building project for the renewal of the whole church building as we enter its 150th year in 2009. This is challenging, but we are a growing church once again and the care of our Grade II listed building has

to be a key strand of our Christian witness and service in Belsize Park.



A recent example of the potential of this service was the success of the concert given by 'The Yale Spizzwinks' and held in the church on May 20th, which thrilled and entertained a good turnout of various newcomers to the church as well as regular members. We want to see more of these community events at St Peter's, and love to meet new folk, whether in our services or elsewhere.

St Peter's and its priest are here for all who live in its parish, regardless of religious affiliation or none. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can ever be of help.

May God bless you,

Paul Nicholson

Celebrations as 'Festivals' marks Common Worship's completion

The concluding volume of the largest liturgical publishing project ever carried out in this country was published this Spring. 'Common Worship: Festivals' is a comprehensive liturgical resource for use in the Church of England, containing material to help churches celebrate saints' days and other festivals and holy days.

People remembered in the book's rich collection of material range from Alban, who became the first recorded British Christian martyr after he gave shelter to a Christian priest fleeing from arrest in around the year 250, to Josephine Butler, the social reformer who played a major role in improving conditions for women in education and public health before her death in 1906.

'Common Worship' is the biggest project ever undertaken by the Liturgical Commission, supported by Church House Publishing. From the sample booklet printed in the spring of 2000, to this final volume published in the

spring of 2008, almost 60 different publications have been completed - an average rate of nine separate items each year.

Somewhere in the region of 1.6 million printed items have been produced in total, plus more than half a million information leaflets and booklets distributed to parishes at the turn of the millennium.

To give an idea of its scale, for the standard volume alone - which includes comprehensive material for morning, evening and night prayer; Holy Communion and Holy Baptism - the printers used:

** 2500 miles of paper, weighing 300 tonnes;*

** 190 miles of ribbon;*

** enough binding material to cover 4.5 football pitches. Laid end-to-end, all 1.6 million items would stretch 335km (based on an average A5 height of 21cm), lining the roads for the distance between Lambeth Palace and Bishopthorpe Palace, the offices and homes of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York respectively*

WE CAN DO IT TOGETHER

CO₂ and the CofE

A Meeting of the partners of *Together*, dedicated to reducing the UK's carbon footprint was held at Lambeth Palace . The Church of England is the only major religious organisation involved in this rapidly expanding partnership.



The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London welcomed leaders from business, government and civil society to Lambeth Palace on Tuesday 13 May for a Climate Change round table.

The event was organised by the *Together* campaign, to mark its first anniversary and the round table discussion was chaired by Jon Snow of Channel 4 News. At the event representatives of the *Together* coalition of

business and civil society groups affirmed their ongoing commitment to promoting more green choices for consumers and better environmental responsibility within their organisations. The Church of England is one of *Together's* founding supporters.

Bishop Chartres, chairman of the Church of England's environmental campaign *Shrinking the Footprint*, said there was a moral imperative to act "both for our children and the poorest of the world."

Dr Williams who has just returned from a visit to Rome by train said climate change was a pressing issue that could not be ignored. Speaking after the event, Bishop Chartres added:

"We are all determined that our children will not say to us in 20 years time – why didn't you do more about the greatest challenge of the 21st Century?"

Dr Williams commended the event:

"I support the aims of *Together* in highlighting how every section of society - from business and government to individuals and civil society- has a role in combating climate change. The Church of England and all people of faith have a central role to play in this. It is no coincidence that only last year the Environment Agency asked 25 leading environmentalists and scientists to list the 50 things they thought could help save the planet and they rated the actions and leadership of faith communities as number 2 - second only to saving energy. By practising what we preach and by putting our own house in order, the Church and all people of faith can make our own contribution to ensuring the safe stewardship of our planet for the generations to come."

Together, which is facilitated by NGO The Climate Group, is a climate change campaign focused on enhancing consumer engagement in green issues - promoting practical things everyone can do, which also aims to make everyday lives easier and more affordable. It is supported by the Church of England and a number of leading companies including Tesco, M&S, O2, Sky, British Gas, B&Q, Barclaycard, More Than and National Express. Representatives of these businesses attended the event, along

with several new supporting partners including the National Trust, WWF and Coca-Cola. Government was represented by DEFRA Minister Phil Woolas and Number 10 adviser Michael Jacobs.

From the Diocese of London website 22/05/08
<http://www.london.anglican.org/>

COMMEMORATING THE SAINTS

June 11th Barnabas

Are you going to Cyprus on holiday this year? If so, spare a thought for the Cypriot who played such a key role in the New Testament.

He was Joseph, a Jewish Cypriot and a Levite, who is first mentioned in Acts 4:36, when the early church was sharing a communal lifestyle. Joseph sold a field and gave the money to the apostles. His support so touched them that they gave him the nickname of Barnabas, 'Son of Encouragement'.



Barnabas has two great claims to fame. Firstly, it was Barnabas who made the journey to go and fetch the converted Paul out of Tarsus, and persuade him to go with him to Antioch, where there were many new believers with no one to help them. For a year the two men ministered there, establishing a church. It was here that the believers were first called Christians.

It was also in Antioch (Acts 13) that the Holy Spirit led the church to 'set aside' Barnabas and Paul, and send them out on the church's first ever 'missionary journey'. The Bible tells us that they went to Cyprus, and travelled throughout the island. It was at Lystra that the locals mistook Barnabas for Zeus and Paul for Hermes, much to their dismay.

Much later, back in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul decided to part

company. While Paul travelled on to Syria, Barnabas did what he could do best: return to Cyprus and continue to evangelise it. So if you go to Cyprus and see churches, remember that Christianity on that beautiful island goes right back to Acts 13, when Barnabas and Paul first arrived.

In England there are 13 ancient church dedications and not a few modern ones. Barnabas the generous, the encourager, the apostle who loved his own people - no wonder he should be remembered with love.

SUMMER SOLSTICE

Sol + *stice* come from two Latin words meaning 'sun' and 'to stand still'. As the days lengthen, the sun rises higher and higher until it seems to stand still in the sky. The Summer Solstice results in the longest day and the shortest night of the year. The Northern Hemisphere celebrates in June, and the Southern Hemisphere celebrates in December.

A Canticle for Brother Sun

Praised be You, My Lord, in all Your creatures,
Especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who makes the day and enlightens us through You.
He is lovely and radiant and grand;
And he heralds You, his Most High Lord. *St Francis of Assisi*

God in All

He inspires all,
He gives life to all,
He dominates all,
He supports all.
He lights the light of the sun.
He furnishes the light of the night.

He has made springs in dry land.
He is the God of heaven and earth,
of sea and rivers,
of sun, moon and stars,
of the lofty mountain and the lowly valley,
the God above heaven,
and in heaven,
and under heaven. St Patrick

Fun in the good, clean sand

As the holiday season approaches, you'll want to find a clean and pleasant beach to enjoy. Why not check these out at: www.goodbeachguide.co.uk, published by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS). It provides you with details on water quality and sewage discharges at more than 1,000 UK beaches.



ARCHBISHOP CHAMPIONS THE POOR

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, has called on the government to do more to protect the poorest and most vulnerable from the likely consequences of an economic downturn.

Speaking in the House of Lords the Archbishop highlighted the fact that government targets on alleviating poverty, particularly child poverty, risked not being met. Dr Williams warned that in a period of economic decline the poorest in society, who carry a higher proportion of personal debt, were most at risk.

In the debate, called by the Archbishop, he suggested ways in which government might help low income families avoid entering into cycles of unsustainable debt. This could be done by improving financial education in schools, enforcing tighter controls on doorstep credit agencies and by helping to foster responsible alternatives to doorstep lending, such as those offered by Credit Unions.

The Church of England launched its 'A Matter of Life and Debt' campaign in January 2008 with the aim of providing guidance and support for those seeking to balance household budgets and get help with debt problems. It can be accessed online at: www.cofe.anglican.org/debt/

Evelyn Underhill, Mystic, died on 15th June 1941 and is buried in St John's churchyard, Hampstead.

Immanence

I come in the little things,
Saith the Lord:
Not borne on morning wings
Of majesty, but I have set My Feet
Amidst the delicate and bladed wheat
That springs triumphant in the furrowed sod.
There do I dwell, in weakness and in power,
Not broken or divided, saith our God!
In your straight garden plot I come to:
About your porch My Vine
Meek, fruitful, doth entwine; Waits, at the threshold, Love's
appointed time.

I come in the little things,
Saith the Lord:
Yea! on the glancing wings
Of eager birds, the softly pattering feet
Of furred and gentle beasts,
I come to meet
Your hard and wayward heart. In brown bright eyes
That peep from out the brake, I stand confest.
On every nest
Where feathery Patience is content to brood
And leaves her pleasure for the high emprise
Of motherhood—
There doth My Godhead rest.

I come in the little things,
Saith the Lord:
My starry wings
I do forsake,
Love's highway of humility to take:
Meekly I fit My stature to your need.
In beggar's part
About your gates I shall not cease to plead—
As man, to speak with man—
Till by such art
I shall achieve My Immemorial Plan,
Pass the low lintel of the human heart.

CHORAL SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH

When this month The International Church Music Festival, which attracts choirs from the US and Europe, is held in Coventry (20 - 22nd June), you can be sure of one thing: just singing the music makes the singers feel better.

A Swedish psychologist has researched the effect that choral singing has on a person - and concluded that it is very good indeed. Dr Maria Sandren, from the University of Stockholm, found that choral singing "had strong effects on the well-being, in that positive emotions increased significantly, and in turn, negative emotions radically subsided. Choral singers, particularly women, are happier, more alert and relaxed after a rehearsal."

Other recent research seems to say that content is also important: " a number of singers referred to the religious character of the music, and the impact which it had on them."

The Gallery Choir rehearses every Thursday at 8pm at St Saviour'. Maybe for your health's sake, you should join!



THE THREAD OF GOD'S LOVE AND THE BOOK OF KELLS

In 563 an Irish monk was forced to leave his homeland because of a conflict that had led to a misuse of power and even bloodshed. On Pentecost Sunday he arrived on the island of Iona off the north-west coast of Scotland with twelve companions. There he began a new way of life founded on Christ's mercy and forgiveness of the past, and so created one of the great centres of faith and mission in the Christian Church. His name was Columba, and we keep his feast day on 9 June.



His monastery on Iona started as a small cluster of wooden buildings with a church and a guesthouse. Around were fields of crops and cattle and bees. But under Columba's guidance, it grew, and from Iona monks were sent into Scotland as one arm of a missionary advance that reached down through England to France and across Europe.

That outreach was an amazing achievement. But just as amazing was the consolidation of monastic life on Iona that resulted two centuries later in the Book of Kells. This text of the four Gospels was begun by scribes and artists in the library of Iona. It grew into one of the masterpieces of Celtic art that was taken to Kells in Ireland to escape the Viking invaders who ravaged the island.

Along with the text of the Gospels, there are illustrations of Jesus, Mary and the four evangelists, together with decorations at once intricate and fantastic: patterns that interweave and interlace across the page with an odd face here and a weird creature there.

The design is in brilliant detail, and you can follow the lines as they weave in and out. This delight in patterns is evident in lots of Celtic art.

It is good to imagine Columba on Iona meditating on the thread of God's grace woven into his life as he looked back to his years in Ireland and his pilgrimage to Iona. It might have seemed at one glance a complicated interweaving of events and experiences, and then perhaps as he looked again, he would see God's love threading its way through that history and redeeming both it and him.

It is the same for us. As we look at our lives, they may seem complex and involved patterns of events and circumstances taking us here and there. As we ponder those patterns, then we can begin to see a thread woven into the patterns that guides and leads us on. And as we stand back, all the patterns and threads seem to make sense as we spot that guiding thread. Just as we can stand back from the designs of this page and see God's love spelling out the name of Christ, our Lord.

The manuscript takes its name from the Abbey in Kells that was its home for centuries. Today it is on permanent display at the library of Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. The library usually displays two of the current four volumes at a time, one showing a major illustration and the other showing typical text pages.

You can see images from the Book by Googling 'Book of Kells' and following the links offered.