

St Peter's Parish Magazine



August & September
2026

Content

From Fr Jonathan.....	3
From the Parish Magazine 1926 & 1936.....	8
Searching for St Peter.....	10
St Hildegard of Bingen.....	12
Saints for August and September.....	16 & 17
Welcome Fr Carlos.....	18
Our partner parish in New York.....	19
Calendar of Intentions.....	22-25
Parish News.....	27 & 28
From Bailey Wilcock-Picknett.....	29
Review.....	33
St Peter's Faith Group.....	36
Service of Thanksgiving for Sacha Cucos.....	37
Recipe.....	38
Children's Pages.....	40 & 41
Our common life.....	42

From Father Jonathan



Dear friends

As we go to print for this edition of the magazine the Church is celebrating and commemorating the lives of Mary, Martha and Lazarus, companions of Jesus. In Mary and Martha we see the twin aspects

of our own discipleship, both contemplative and active - and in his friendship with Lazarus we see the sheer compassion of Jesus, incarnating the compassion, mercy and love of God.

August is traditionally a quiet month in central London parishes such as St Peter's as many take welcome holidays out of town. St Peter's has been particularly quiet over the past few Sundays. I hope that, wherever August finds you, it will be a time of refreshment and recreation for you and those you live.

We shall be using September very much as a "back to Church" month at St Peter's as we gather ourselves together after the summer and rebuild our community life with more social events and activities beyond our Sunday worship. On Sunday 13th September we shall once again be blessing children's and young people's backpacks and them as they begin new terms and academic years in their schools, colleges and universities. Everyone else is warmly invited to bring a symbol of their work or their life more generally as together we rededicate our lives both as individuals and as a community.

At the end of July we bade farewell to Mother Jennifer and her family as they move on to their new life and ministry at the Charterhouse. We thank them for all they have brought to our life together since they

joined us in May 2025 and wish them every blessing for all that is to come.

Over the summer and into the early autumn we shall be beginning the recruitment process for a new Assistant Priest, who in the terminology of the Diocese will serve as Associate Vicar. Please do pray that we will be given the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in discerning the right person to fill this role.

It was very good at Petertide to be in St Paul's Cathedral for Fr Carlos' ordination to the diaconate by +Emma, acting Bishop of London. We much look forward to him continuing his ministry here as he serves as self-supporting assistant curate at St Peter's.

Parish Hall, kitchen and lift

In terms of the fabric of the building, work began this week to replace the upstairs new kitchen and to redecorate and replace the floor covering in the Parish Hall. Work begins to install the new lift in September and will take several weeks. As you may recall, this has all been made possible through the award of Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) from Westminster City Council. We remain hugely grateful to our ward councillors and to the Belgravia and Victoria Neighbourhood Forums for all their support in gaining this generous grant funding.

Portico and Tower works

As we go to press we are still awaiting the outcome of our application to the Heritage Fund for high level works to the tower and initial works to the portico as Phase 1 of our whole project Doors Wide Open. This will also involve us utilising a significant portion of our own reserves as we take these urgent works forward and as your PCC we act prudently and responsibly.

We were disappointed, although not surprised, not to have been successful in our application to Historic England for the first round of their new grants. There were over 1100 applications for this initial round, only one of which was successful from the Diocese of London. Priority went to historic buildings on the Heritage at Risk Register within areas of social and economic deprivation.

We are glad to continue working with our new architect Kathryn Harris of Nick Cox Architects and her team who have a strong track record in working with heritage and ecclesiastical buildings such as our own.

Holidays and Holy Days...

The origin of our word 'holiday' comes from a day taken from religious observance – literally a 'holy day'. There are plenty of holy days coming up during August and September.

The most important of these include the Transfiguration of Our Lord on 6th August and the Principal celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, often kept as her assumption or dormition, on 15th August, and which we shall continue to observe the day after on Sunday 16th August. August continues with St Bartholomew the Apostle on the 24th and the Martyrdom of St John the Baptist on the 29th. In September we have the Triumph and Exaltation of the Holy Cross in the 14th, St Matthew the Apostle on the 21st and St Michael and All Angels on the 29th (full marks to those who recognised the significance of the Michaelmas daisies on the cover of this magazine!).

All of these, together with the lesser commemorations, are the way in which the church year continues to sanctify time through our personal daily prayer, the Divine Office of Morning and Evening Prayer and our daily celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

New Family Eucharist Choir Director

We are delighted that Jennifer Spencer-McDaid has joined us as our new Family Eucharist choir director. Jennifer is a well-known face at St Peter's, as she has served for a number of years as a regular Dep. In September we shall be having a concerted effort to recruit to the choir and to encourage our children to enjoy singing and join a new children's choir. Look out for details from September.

Schools in the Parish

It has been good to be involved in the life of all the schools within St Peter's parish. We have, of course, our own St Peter's Church of England Primary School. It was great to see the end of term Year 6 performance, to wish them all well and to present them with their bibles as they go off to their new schools and also to entertain the staff for an end of year summer party on the Vicarage roof terrace. The Knightsbridge Kindergarten had their end of term graduation in the church and it was lovely to host Eaton House's end of term performance. At Westminster City School it was an honour to be at their end of year Celebration of Achievement in the College Gardens at Westminster Abbey and to lead their end of year service at St Margaret's, Westminster. I feel a particular familial link with Westminster City School as my father, originally from Battersea, was educated there.

News of St Peter's members

Phoebe Hilary, Rosa da Silva, Kevin West, Keith Gubbin and David and Deborah Chapman continue to receive holy communion at home. They are most grateful for the love and prayers of all at St Peter's and send everyone their warmest greetings and the assurance of their prayers.

Cleveland Clinic London

I continue to serve as the coordinating chaplain at our neighbouring Cleveland Clinic Hospital. It is good to be able to remember patients there in our prayers at St Peter's and to welcome them and their relatives when they are able to come to church. The Clinic is currently expanding a little further into 40 Grosvenor Place as they build a new cancer unit.

Parishioners moving away

We wish Georgii Lesnichelenko and Alexandra Markelova and Kamila, Mark and Leo every blessing as they move back to St Petersburg to be near their family. You may remember the then Baby Leo playing a very human Baby Jesus in a Christmas Nativity Play a few years ago. Rebecca Bryant, Ada and their family are moving to Cheltenham to be near family and we wish them every blessing and happiness too.

St Peter's men's group

We had a very good launch of our new St Peter's men's group with a visit to the Cask and Ale in Pimlico the other evening. This very informal social group will be meeting from time to time and I am most grateful to Jeremy Vernon-Evans for coordinating this.

As we enjoy the summer and approach the autumn there is so much to look forward to at St Peter's. I much look forward to sharing with you in all that is to come.

With my love, thanks and prayers, as always.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "R Jonathan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

From summer magazines 1926

From the Vicar's letter for July

This is the last issue of the Magazine in so extensive and, as I think, interesting form. We have in the last few years made experiments because the Magazine as I inherited it did not pay... We tried a more ambitious form which did not take on. Last year we tried a magazine which was not so ambitious but it was dealt a death blow at the Meeting in the Schools in March. We were advised to be more modest in our form and as is done in some parishes distribute it free, securing our expenses by advertisements, but this has not been found possible. So in future there can be little but parochial news as we have to reduce the size to an extent which will be covered by sales and subscriptions and advertisements but this has been found not possible. Many people ask: "Why have a magazine?" I think the answer is twofold. First, it enables me to get things known in the parish, and secondly, a Magazine is the only record of the Parish and often some question arises which is only settled by reference to the files of Magazines of past years.*

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting*

COMMENT: The parish at this time faced severe financial difficulties and economies were being sought everywhere. Looking at the magazines for the following year it seems that the drive for more advertisements was successful and allowed more scope than had been feared. Though we are not constrained by the same financial difficulties we do sometimes ask ourselves 'Why do we continue to have a magazine?' For those on our mailing lists the online newsletter gives week by week information and of course major events are covered on our website. However, not everyone thinks to check the website while paper copies are readily available and are regularly picked up by visitors, as well as by those members of the congregation who prefer hard copy. The point of record is an interesting one. Certainly when I was updating the parish history the old magazines helped to put flesh on the bones of the bare facts. **Valerie Smith**

From the Parish Magazine

August/September 1936

I am very sorry that through lack of space the page of Intentions at Holy Communion can no longer have a place. They represent to my mind a very valuable part of our life, the corporate Intercession of the Parish centring in the daily Eucharist. They served to bring together day by day our worship and the needs of the world. They helped to educate us in prayer and intercession and to bring our worship into living touch with the world. We ought to expect, when we come to Holy Communion to be reminded of the world and its happenings so that we can lift them up into the Intercessions of "the High Priest of our Profession. If the page of Intercession is no longer in the magazine, yet I hope that the suggestion of the incorporation of the world's needs with our prayer may remain. For it is the great contribution which we as Christians can alone bring. Can we get beyond the self-centredness of much of our praying....Are we prepared to give the time and the thought and the study which intercession demands? We have "come to the Kingdom for such a time as this".

COMMENT: Previously there had been a page for many years in every magazine showing the mass intentions for the day. Although it took up only one page, magazines printed in booklet form require pages to be in multiples of four so a single item can cause a disproportionate increase in the size of the magazine. The daily intentions have been long since restored to the magazine and enable all of us, even when we cannot be present in church, to join our prayers with the daily worship and expand the range of our prayers. Intentions are now, as in 1936, for world and diocesan and parish as well as local and individual concerns. If you don't already try following along with them. **Valerie Smith**

Searching for St Peter

It is obvious when you think about it; (I'm not sure why I hadn't before) that the names Petroc and Peter are linked. Petroc is the Welsh form of the Ancient Greek "Petros" which meant stone or rock. As we know from Matthew 16:18 Simon Peter was the rock on which Jesus built His Church.

Which brings me to the church of St Petroc in Padstow on the North Cornish coast where we have spent several summer holidays. Strictly speaking, St Petroc has nothing to do with St Peter, our patron saint, so I am stretching my "Searching For ..." net even wider than usual. He just happened to have a similar name. Petroc was a saint in his own right. He was born in South Wales around 468 - the second son of a chieftain. After studying at an Irish monastery, he and a band of followers set out across the sea to spread Christianity. The winds and tides took him to North Cornwall. He founded his own monastery at Padstow and built a church there in 518. The whole monastery was destroyed by Vikings in 981. A new church was eventually built around 1100 and the base of the current church tower dates from that time.

The Norman church was later replaced with the current one in 1425. The church has a square stone 14th century font featuring the twelve disciples - three on each side - including of course our own St Peter. It also has a commemorative wall plaque to a Dr Marley whose father was a friend of Charles Dickens. The author often made-up names for his characters like Gradgrind in *Hard Times* and Mr Micawber in *David Copperfield* but Marley in *Christmas Carol* was given the name of a real-life person.

St Petroc has another legacy beyond the 1,500 years since the founding of his church. The place where he originally landed in Cornwall was not called Padstow at the time.

It was called Llanwethinoc meaning the church of Wethinoc, who was an earlier religious figure. It then became known as Petrocstow (Petroc's Place) which in time became (you're getting ahead of me now!) Padstow. Peter's town. **David Stanley**



St Hildegard of Bingen

c.1098 – 17 September 1179

When Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed Hildegard of Bingen a Doctor of the Church on 7 October 2012, he was doing something that had taken rather longer than it should. Hildegard had been informally venerated as a saint since her death in 1179, listed in the Roman Martyrology since the sixteenth century, and recognised by scholars across many disciplines as one of the most remarkable minds of the Middle Ages. She was a theologian, mystic, composer, poet, scientist, physician, preacher and correspondent of popes and emperors — and she accomplished all of this from within the walls of a Benedictine convent in the Rhineland, in an age that offered women of religion little formal authority and no public voice. She became the fourth woman to be declared a Doctor of the Church, with the title *doctor propheticus* — the Prophetic Doctor.

She was born around 1098 in Bermersheim, in the Rhineland, the tenth child of a noble German family. In accordance with a custom of the time by which a tenth child might be offered to the Church as a kind of tithe, she was entrusted at the age of about eight to Jutta of Sponheim, a noblewoman who had withdrawn to live as an anchoress attached to the Benedictine monastery of Disibodenberg. Under Jutta's guidance she learned Latin, studied scripture, and was formed in the Benedictine tradition of prayer and labour. Other women gathered around Jutta, and what had begun as a solitary anchorhold gradually became a small community. When Jutta died in 1136, Hildegard — then in her late thirties — was unanimously elected to succeed her as *magistra*, or mother superior.

She had been receiving visions since childhood, luminous experiences she described as perceiving “the living light” and “the reflection of the living light.” For decades she confided them only to Jutta and to Volmar, the Benedictine monk who served as her

confessor and secretary. Then, in 1141, came a vision of a different order: a direct divine command to write down and make public what she had seen. She resisted — she would always insist on her own inadequacy and unworthiness, describing herself as “a feather on the breath of God” — and fell ill. Only when she obeyed and began to write did her health return. Thus began, in her forty-third year, one of the most extraordinary literary and intellectual careers in the history of the mediæval Church.

With Volmar’s assistance, she spent the next decade composing *Scivias* — an abbreviation of *Scito vias Domini*, “Know the Ways of the Lord” — a vast work of twenty-six visions encompassing the whole of salvation history: creation, redemption, the Church, the sacraments, the end of time. When it was submitted for ecclesiastical approval, Bernard of Clairvaux — himself the most powerful churchman in Europe and a future Doctor of the Church — examined it and gave his endorsement. Pope Eugenius III, at the Synod of Trier in 1147–48, read extracts aloud to the assembled bishops, approved the work, and formally authorised Hildegard to write and speak in public. It was an almost unprecedented recognition of a woman’s theological authority, and it came at the highest level the Church could offer.

Two further visionary theological works followed: the *Liber Vitae Meritorum* (Book of the Rewards of Life), composed between 1158 and 1163, and the *Liber Divinorum Operum* (Book of Divine Works), completed around 1173, in which she explored the relationship between God, humanity and the cosmos with a breadth and depth that have led some scholars to see her as the forerunner of later scholastic theology. Alongside these she composed treatises on natural science and medicine — the *Physica* and *Causae et Curae* — which drew on both classical learning and practical observation, and which have attracted the attention of historians of science as well as of theology. Around four hundred of her letters survive, addressed to figures as various as the Emperor Frederick Barbarossa, Pope

Alexander III, Bernard of Clairvaux, and the abbesses of struggling religious communities seeking her counsel.

Her music is perhaps the most immediately accessible part of her legacy to modern audiences. She composed over seventy chants, hymns, sequences and antiphons, gathered in a collection she called *Symphonia armonie celestium revelationum* — the Symphony of the Harmony of Celestial Revelations — whose soaring, wide-ranging melodies are quite unlike the plainer conventions of Gregorian chant. Her *Ordo Virtutum*, a musical morality play setting the struggle of the human soul against the Devil, is the earliest surviving such work from any composer. Her music was sung as far away as Paris in her own lifetime, and it has enjoyed a remarkable revival in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, making her one of the most recorded composers of sacred monophony in the world.

In 1150, in an act of striking independence, she moved her community of nuns away from Disibodenberg — over the vigorous objections of the monks there, who did not wish to lose the prestige and income that Hildegard's growing fame brought them — to a new monastery she founded on the Rupertsberg, a hill above Bingen at the confluence of the Nahe and the Rhine. A second house, at Eibingen across the river, followed in 1165. Her authority in her own community was absolute, her standards exacting, and her management of the community's affairs entirely capable. She also did not hesitate to confront secular power: she rebuked Frederick Barbarossa directly for his support of a series of antipopes, writing to him that he would be defeated by God if he persisted.

In her sixties and seventies she undertook four preaching tours through the Rhineland and beyond, travelling to Cologne, Trier, Liège, Mainz, Metz, Bamberg and Würzburg, preaching in cathedral churches and public squares — something almost entirely without precedent for a woman of her time, and done with full papal authorisation. The final years of her life brought a painful confrontation with her local ecclesiastical authorities. She had

permitted the burial in her monastery's cemetery of a young man who had died after being reconciled with the Church and receiving its sacraments, but who had previously been excommunicated. The authorities imposed an interdict on her community, forbidding the celebration and reception of the Eucharist. Hildegard protested with considerable force, writing at length to the chapter of Mainz and refusing to yield on a matter she was certain was just. The interdict was eventually lifted a few months before her death.

She died on 17 September 1179, at the age of about eighty-one, at Rupertsberg. She was formally canonised — by what is known as “equivalent canonisation,” confirming a centuries-old popular veneration — by Pope Benedict XVI on 10 May 2012, who declared her a Doctor of the Church that October in recognition of “her holiness of life and the originality of her teaching.” She is patron saint of musicians, philosophers, and those working in the natural sciences. Her feast day in the Church of England falls on 17 September.

Richard Carter

Saint for August
St Lawrence



St Lawrence (died 258, Rome) is one of the most venerated Roman martyrs, celebrated for his Christian valor. He is patron saint of the poor and of cooks, comedians, deacons and firefighters

Saint for September
St Giles



St Giles is a 7th-century hermit, patron saint of the disabled, and one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers

Welcome Fr Carlos



It has been wonderful to have had Carlos with us during the two years of his formation for ordination at St Augustine's College and to see him metamorphosise into Fr Carlos at his ordination to the diaconate by +Emma, acting Bishop of London in St Paul's Cathedral on 28th June. It is a real joy for us that Fr Carlos is staying with us at

St Peter's to serve his curacy as a self-supporting minister for the next three years.

28th June was one of the hottest days of the year and in a packed St Paul's Cathedral, particularly so. The heat did not diminish the joy of the wonderful occasion that it was and as the candidates for ordination were ordained under the great dome of the Cathedral before going out through the great west doors onto the steps to a peal of bells ringing out.

The next day was our Patronal Festival as Fr Carlos acted as deacon at the Eucharist for the first time and we celebrated with a parish lunch outside in the church grounds before coming back into church in the afternoon for a beautiful service of Choral Evensong.

We much look forward to all that Fr Carlos will bring to our life together at St Peter's in the years to come. We assure him of our continued prayers as he begins his ordained ministry among us.



Our partner parish in New York has a new Rector



Our partner parish in the Diocese of New York, St Michael's, West 99th Street, have just appointed a new Rector who will join them in September. They have sent us this information from their regular newsletter. We assure Fr Chris and St Michael's of our love and prayers and every blessing as this new chapter begins in their community life.

Fr Chris comes to St. Michael's from Christ Church Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan—one of the leading Episcopal parishes in the country with more than 2,200 members. He served there as Senior Associate Rector for Adult Formation, Evangelism, and Stewardship. During his tenure, he increased participation in adult education, built a thriving small-group ministry, created new

fellowship opportunities, developed comprehensive onboarding processes for newcomers and emerging leaders, and expanded the parish's engagement across Metro Detroit. These efforts, among others, contributed to a period of significant growth, with the parish increasing by more than five hundred members since 2018.

Fr Chris began his ordained ministry at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in San Diego, serving as Canon for Congregational Development. There he developed a national reputation for his innovative, relational approach to evangelism and stewardship. He was named an "Evangelism Catalyst" by the Bishop of San Diego and later served the wider church through leadership roles with The Episcopal Network for Stewardship, Invite Welcome Connect, and, currently, on the faculty of The Institute for Advanced Pastoral Studies, an ecumenical program in adaptive leadership funded by the Lilly Foundation. He is an established speaker at national conferences and has advised nearly one hundred congregations across the country on stewardship, evangelism, and community engagement.

Fr Chris is married to Joseph Bruglio. Together they have twin 9-year-old daughters, Gianna and Aleena, who love singing in the choir and serving in their community.

He holds a bachelor's degree in political science and economics from the University of California, Santa Cruz; a Juris Doctorate from California Western School of Law; and completed his theological education at The School for Ministry – an innovative program that provided seminary education in the context of a service center for the

unhoused. Before answering his call to the priesthood, he built a successful law practice representing small business owners in tax disputes and restructuring, with offices throughout Southern California.

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to St. Michael's staff and clergy — Interim Rector Mthr Margaret Rose, Associate Rector Mthr Julie Hoplamazian (who served as Acting Interim Rector) and Assisting Priest Fr Joseph Wood — for guiding us through this time of transition.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Father Chris and his family to St. Michael's!

To find out more about St Michael's, please see their website <https://www.saintmichaelschurch.org>



Calendar of Intentions August 2026

Date	Day	Mass intention
Sa 1	Feria	Chelsea and Westminster Hospital
Su 2	THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	The Parish and People of God
Mo 3	Feria	Churches together in Westminster
Tu 4	Jean-Baptiste Vianney, Curé d'Ars, priest and spiritual guide 1859	Parish priests
We 5	Oswald, king and martyr, 642	The Iona community
Th 6	TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD	The peace of the world
Fr 7	John Mason Neale, priest, hymn writer, 1866	Sisters of the Community of St Margaret
Sa 8	Dominic, priest, founder of the Order of Preachers, 1221	Dominicans
Su 9	THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	The Parish and People of God
Mo10	Laurence, deacon, martyr, 258	Fr Carlos
Tu 11	Clare of Assisi, founder of the poor Clares, 1253 John Henry Newman, priest ,1890	Anglican Catholic Future
We12	Feria	Cleveland Clinic Hospital
Th 13	Jeremy Taylor, bishop, teacher of the faith, 1667 Florence Nightingale social reformer, 1912	St Thomas' Hospital
Fr 14	Maximilian Kolber, friar, martyr, 1941	Amnesty International
Sa 15	The Blessed Virgin Mary	Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

Calendar of Intentions August 2026

Date	Day	Mass intention
Sun 16	THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	The Parish and People of God
Mo 17	Feria	Metropolitan Police
Tu 18	Feria	Belgravia Neighbourhood Forum
We 19	Feria	Victoria Neighbourhood Forum
Th 20	Bernard, abbot, teacher of the faith, 1153	St Augustine's College
Fr 21	Feria	Victoria Station
Sat 22	Feria	WCC – 64 Victoria Street
Sun 23	THE TWELTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	The Parish and People of God
Mo 24	Bartholomew, the Apostle	St Bartholomew's, Smithfield
Tu 25	Feria	Belgravia Residents' Association
We 26	Feria	London Heritage Quarter
Th 27	Monica, mother of St Augustine of Hippo, 387	All mothers
Fr 28	Augustine of Hippo, bishop, teacher of the faith, 430	Pope Leo
Sat 29	Martyrdom of St John the Baptist	Modern day martyrs
Sun 30	THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	The Parish and People of God
Mo 31	Aidan, bishop, missionary, 651	Holy Island of Lindisfarne

Calendar of Intentions September 2026

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Mass intention</i>
<i>Tu 1</i>	<i>Giles, hermit c 710</i>	<i>Hermits today</i>
<i>We 2</i>	<i>Martyrs of Papua new Guinea, 1901 and 1942</i>	<i>Papua New Guinea</i>
<i>Th 3</i>	<i>Gregory the Great, bishop, teacher of the faith, 604</i>	<i>University faculties and departments of theology</i>
<i>Fr 4</i>	<i>Birinius, bishop, 650</i>	<i>Evangelists</i>
<i>Sa 5</i>	<i>Feria</i>	<i>Royal College of Defence Studies</i>
Su 6	THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	The Parish and People of God
<i>Mo 7</i>	<i>Feria</i>	<i>The Capitular Mass</i>
<i>Tu 8</i>		<i>Westminster Cathedral</i>
<i>We 9</i>	<i>Charles Fuge Lowder, priest 1880</i>	<i>The Bishop of Fulham – acting Bishop in Two Cities</i>
<i>Th10</i>	<i>Feria</i>	<i>London Ambulance Service</i>
<i>Fr 11</i>	<i>Feria</i>	<i>Cardinal Place</i>
<i>Sa 12</i>	<i>Feria</i>	<i>Eaton House School</i>
Su 13	THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	The Parish and People of God
<i>Mo 14</i>	THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS	<i>The visible Unity of Christ's Church</i>
<i>We 15</i>	Our Lady of Sorrows	<i>The Society of Catholic Priests</i>

Calendar of Intentions September 2026

Date	Day	Mass intention
We16	Ninian, bishop, apostle of the Picts, c 432 Edward Bouverie Pusey, priest (188)	Pusey House, Oxford
Th 17	Hildegard of Bingen, abbess, visionary, 1179	Andrew-John Smith and our choir
Fr18	Feria	Westminster City School
Sa 19	Theodore, archbishop, 690	+Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury
Su 20	THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	The Parish and People of God
Mo 21	St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelists	Our PCC
Tu 22	Feria	Local shops and businesses
We 23	Feria – Ember Day	Those preparing for ordination
Th 24	Feria	St Peter's School
Fr 25	Lancelot Andrews, bishop, spiritual writer, 1625	Ecclesiastical Law Society
Sa 26	Wilson Carlisle, founder of the Church Army, 1942	The Church Army College in Mirfield
Su 27	THE SEVENTEEN SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	The Parish and People of God
Mo 28	Feria	Local doctor's surgeries
Tu 29	St Michael and All Angels - MICHAELMAS	St Michael's, Chester Square
We 30	Jerome, translator, teacher of the faith, 420	Bible translators today

Readings for August & September

2 August 2026 Trinity 9 <i>Isaiah 55.1-5</i> <i>Romans 9.1-5</i> <i>Matthew 14.13-21</i>	6 September 2026 Trinity 14 <i>Ezekiel 33:7-11</i> <i>Romans 13:8-14</i> <i>Matthew 18:15-20</i>
9 August 2026 Trinity 10 <i>1 Kings 19:9-18</i> <i>Romans 10:5-15</i> <i>Matthew 14:22-33</i>	13 September 2026 Trinity 15 <i>Genesis 50.15-21</i> <i>Romans 14.1-12</i> <i>Matthew 18.21-35</i>
16 August 2026 The Blessed Virgin Mary <i>Isaiah 61:10-end</i> <i>Galatians 4:4-7</i> <i>Luke 1:46-55</i>	20 September 2026 Trinity 16 <i>Jonah 3.10 - end of 4</i> <i>Philippians 1.21-end</i> <i>Matthew 20.1-16</i>
23 August 2026 Trintiy 12 <i>Isaiah 51.1-6</i> <i>Romans 12.1-8</i> <i>Matthew 16.13-20</i>	27 September 2026 Trinity 17 <i>Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-end</i> <i>Philippians 2:1-13</i> <i>Matthew 21:23-32</i>
30 August 2026 Trinity 13 <i>Jeremiah 15.15-21</i> <i>Romans 12.9-end</i> <i>Matthew 16.21-end</i>	

Parish News

Farewell Mother Jennifer



On Sunday 26th July we said farewell to Mother Jennifer as she moves on from St Peter's to take up the role of Preacher at the Charterhouse. We thank her, Claire, Tilia and Linnea for all that they have brought to the life of St Peter's since their arrival here in May 2025 and we wish them every blessing for all that is to come.

We presented Mother Jennifer with an icon of St Peter, and she very kindly presented us with a new

rope for the clapper on the internal service bell which is rung at the start of every Eucharist. A visitor to the Church had taken the previous chain as a souvenir of the Church and it will be a reminder to us of Mother Jennifer and her ministry among us each time the bell is rung.

Congratulations, Fr Joe!



Many congratulations indeed to Fr Joe Grogan, our former Pastoral Assistant, on his ordination to the priesthood by the Bishop of Willesden. A number of us travelled to his First Mass in St Martin's, Ruislip where he is serving his curacy. The preacher was the Revd Jacqui Miller.

It was a joy to be with him, to receive the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist which he consecrated for the first time and to receive his individual blessing at the end of the liturgy.

Ad multos annos!

From Mixenden to Belgravia

Bailey Wilcock-Picknett



I would firstly like to offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone at St Peter's, Eaton Square, for their wonderful hospitality and warm welcome. Since my return to good old Yorkshire, I have had some time to reflect upon my time in Belgravia and wanted to share some of the many experiences I was privileged to have during my placement.

Before coming to London, I was speaking with my Dean of Pastoral Studies about what placement might be most beneficial for my formation and training. Together, we decided that spending time in a parish with a very different socio-economic context from those in which I have previously ministered would offer both challenge and opportunity. Fr Jonathan kindly agreed to take me on for my placement and, when we first spoke, outlined the wonderfully varied diet of experiences he had in store for me. It is fair to say that I underestimated both the diversity of encounters I would have and the richness of all that I would learn during my time there.

My first interaction with the parish took place alongside Mthr Jenifer as we took Holy Communion to two parishioners. These two formidable pillars of the St Peter's community immediately offered me an insight into the warmth and generosity that characterises the parish. They spoke with great affection of their experiences at St Peter's, explaining that it was the church's strong choral tradition and catholic identity that first drew them in and made them fall in love with the place. Yet it quickly became apparent that it was not simply the beauty of the liturgy that had sustained that love over many years, but the deep sense of community found amongst those who gather faithfully week by week. Even before I had attended my first Sunday service, I had encountered something of the pastoral heart of St Peter's—a community rooted in worship and expressed through relationships of care and belonging.

Alongside the activities taking place within the parish, Fr Jonathan arranged for me to explore the wider Two Cities Deanery and some of the peculiarities that make ministry in London so distinctive. This included opportunities to experience chaplaincy in inner London in a variety of contexts, most notably at St Bartholomew's Hospital and Wellington Barracks, where I had the privilege of speaking with both Mthr Julie and Padre Alex.

At first glance, chaplaincy in these two settings could not be more different. One ministers amidst the vulnerability and uncertainty of illness and healing, whilst the other is rooted within the disciplined and ceremonial life of the Armed Forces. Yet, despite their differences, there was one aspect that was indistinguishable between them: the depth of care shown for those entrusted to them in God's service. Each shared their own understanding of chaplaincy and reflected upon the particular joys and challenges of their ministry. A common theme soon emerged—that chaplaincy often affords the

opportunity to spend more time accompanying God's people than is sometimes possible within parish ministry.

There is, of course, so much unseen ministry that takes place within parish life: the endless stream of administration, safeguarding responsibilities, emails, and meetings that form part of a priest's vocation. Whilst chaplaincy is by no means free from such demands, there is perhaps a different rhythm to the ministry which can allow for greater time spent listening, journeying alongside others, and sharing God's love with those who need it most.

These conversations have given me a valuable head start as I begin to explore chaplaincy placements during my next year at college and have broadened my understanding of the many ways in which ordained ministry can be lived out. It was also a particular joy to experience something of the pageantry attached to Wellington Barracks and the King's Guard—a reminder that ministry is present even in places and institutions that may, at first, seem far removed from the life of the parish church.

My time at St Peter's has reminded me that whilst the contexts in which we minister may differ greatly, the calling remains the same. Whether in a council estate in West Yorkshire, the streets of Belgravia, a hospital ward, or a military barracks, we are called to proclaim the love of Christ and faithfully serve the people whom God has entrusted to our care. This placement has not only broadened my understanding of ministry but has also deepened my appreciation for the many ways in which God's Church embodies his love in the world.

There is so much more that could be said and so many more stories that could be shared from my time at St Peter's. No short reflection could ever fully capture the richness of the experiences I have been privileged to have or the kindness that has been shown to me throughout my placement. Thank you for welcoming a young

ordinand from Yorkshire so generously into your parish life and for the love, hospitality, and encouragement you have shown me. I leave Belgravia immensely grateful for all that I have learnt and for all those who have invested so generously in my formation. Please be assured of my continued prayers for Fr Jonathan, the clergy, and all who worship and serve at St Peter's. May God continue to bless the parish in its ministry and witness and may all who pass through its doors come to know something of the beauty of holiness, the warmth of Christian fellowship, and the boundless love of God.

With love and prayers,

Bailey



Review

THE BURNING GLASS: A PLAY – Charles Morgan

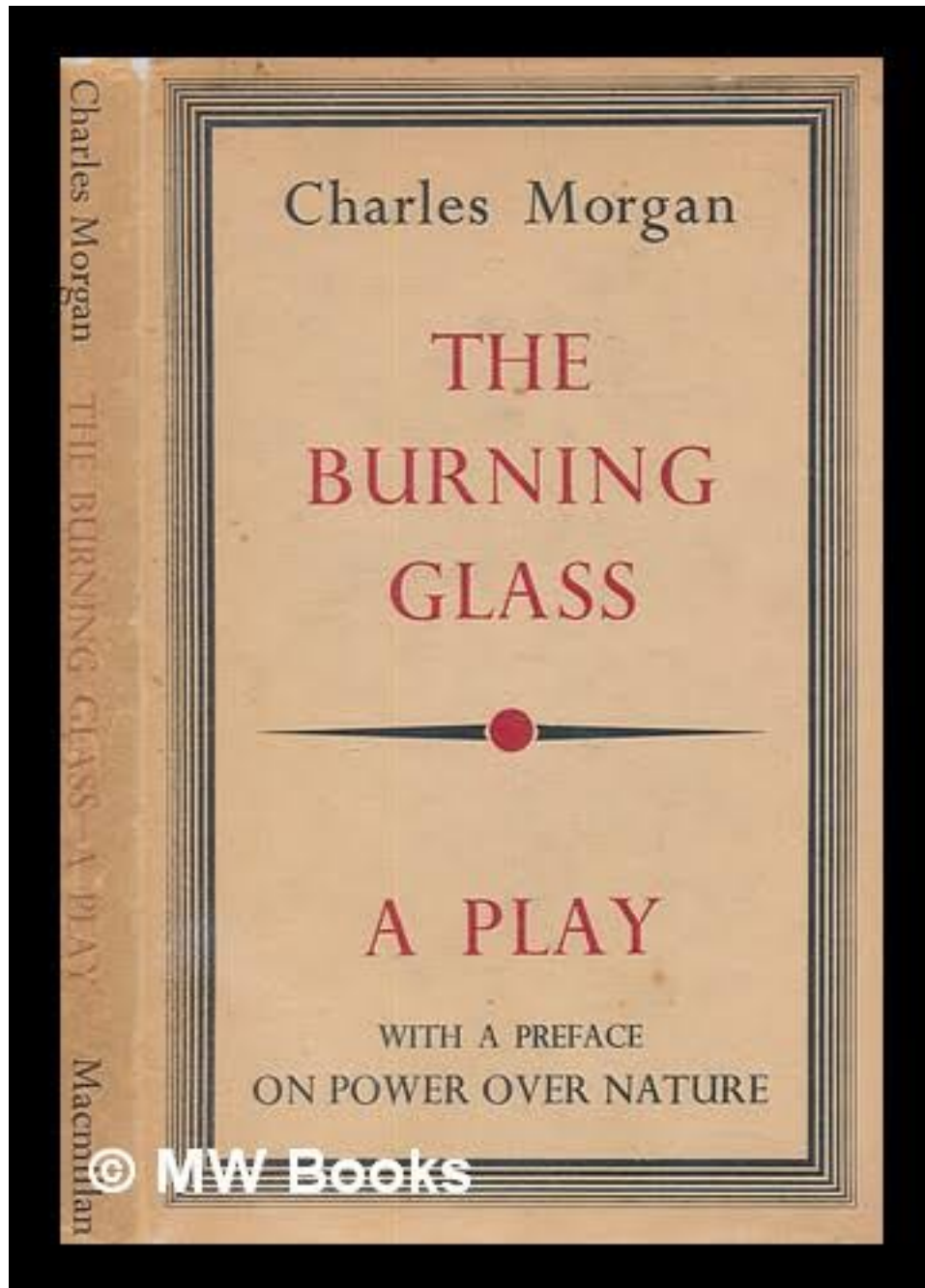
This play, with a lengthy introduction linked to the action and contributing to the development of one of its main themes was printed in 1954 and first performed in London and New York later the same year. It has rarely appeared since then and Charles Morgan is remembered primarily as a novelist and even this play, despite various dramatic elements in its plot, feels more a play to be read than to be acted. It has some interesting and likeable characters, and some intriguing turns of phrase. It is set in a cultivated upper middle class home, suddenly faced with a potentially world changing issue. Why is it still of interest today, beyond its literary merits?

It confronts a similar problem to one we face today, about the uses of AI and its risks, along with its potential usefulness and with the moral and practical concerns which it raises. The main character, Christopher Terriford, is a scientist who has worked on weather control, building on the work of his late scientist father, who makes a discovery, the burning glass; this would enable the rays of the sun to be focused in a way that could generate huge amounts of energy that might be used for the amelioration of life on earth, but could equally well eliminate entire cities. The issue of the use of new scientific discoveries was very much a live one in the early fifties when Hiroshima was a recent memory. Christopher is at first excited and pleased at his discovery and in the tradition of scientific research, which would have been upheld by his father and those of his father's generation who have key roles in the play, wants to publish it so that others can develop it further. On reflection however he is utterly shocked at its potential. The Government of course becomes involved because of the possibilities for attack and defence in war.

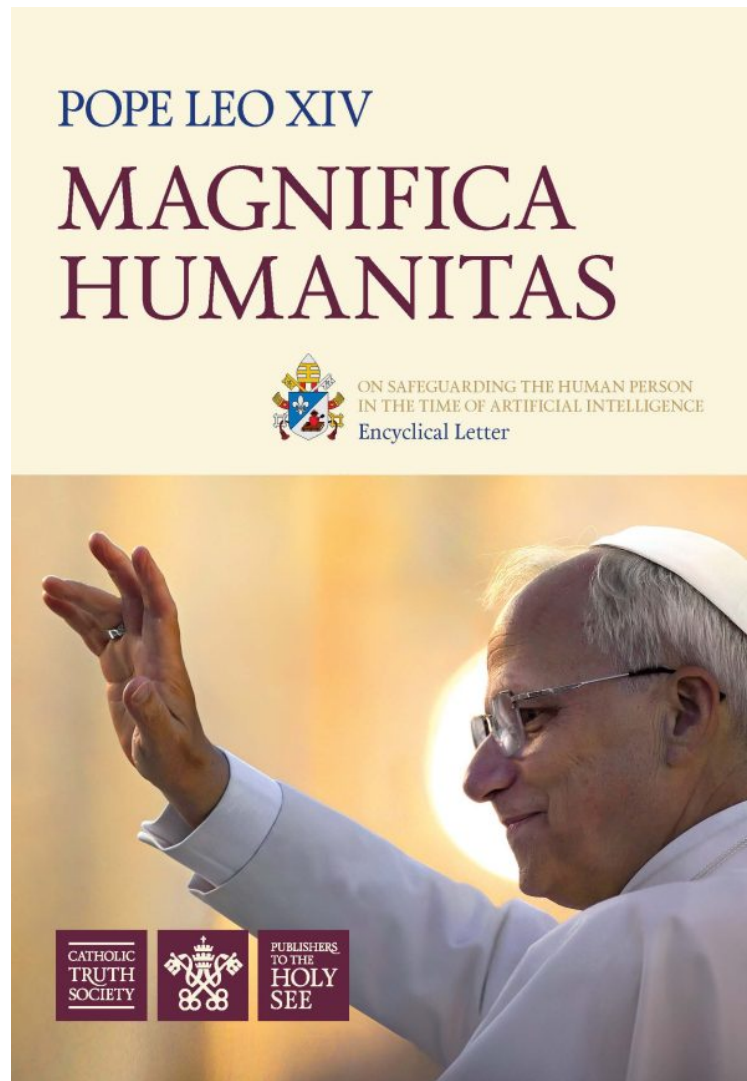
Christopher tells the Government that he will not pass on his research but he will permit the use of the burning glass for certain purposes. Shockingly for the time he was prepared to see it used in war, but not for peaceful purposes. My class was introduced to this play in our O level year, when the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament was at its height and we could scarcely believe what Morgan was saying through Christopher. Commenting of his opposition to the “beneficent” use, he says; “Suppose we could switch on the sun to drive all our engines for us, and boil the bath water, and grow our food and can it, and play our music and can that, and incubate our babies and can them; suppose this huge power over Nature were really on tap in every suburb from Purley to Peru – what then? There can be a blasphemy of applied science. We have reached that point. For five generations man has developed his power over nature.” The Prime Minister intervenes, “Is that wrong?” Christopher replies. “Alone it is. We haven’t developed at the same time our spiritual or our political qualities. We are neither gentler nor wiser than we were. We are like a monstrous giant, one of whose arms has grown and grown.” Christopher had compared what he felt when first contemplating what might have appeared to be the positive results of his discovery to the tempting of Christ by the Devil, who offered ultimate power if only he would fall down and worship him. Christopher’s defence in extremis of the use of the glass to eradicate an enemy whose authoritarian rule would threaten the very basis of a free society. To the Prime Minister’s question to Christopher’s wife Mary about whether war was not the greatest evil, she replies that to corrupt life is a greater evil. 1953 of course marked the last days of Stalin and the development of the Cold War.

We already see many of the benefits of AI, but initial enthusiasm has been tempered by reflection on the risks of its use and overuse and its regulation. The circumstances are now different from the 1950s

but there is the same concern about how far we have the spiritual and political capacities to manage them. **Valerie Smith**



St Peter's Faith Group



We shall be relaunching the St Peter's Faith Group this autumn when Fr Carlos will lead two sessions on the threats, opportunities and challenges of Artificial Intelligence and reflecting on Pope Leo's 2026 encyclical "Magnifica humanities" where he takes as his starting point "AI must serve humanity".

These meetings will be in the Vicarage at 7 pm on Monday 21st September and Monday 19th October.

All warmly welcome

Service of Thanksgiving

for the life of Sacha Cucos

17 October 2005 to 09 May 2026



Sacha & Iona as children at St Peter's



A recent photo of Sacha

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sacha Cucos will take place at St Peter's on Saturday 29th August at 2 pm son of Anastasia Edwards and Stefan Cucos and brother of Iona. Sacha was a pupil at St Peter's School from 2009 and 2017 and spent many happy hours in the Church.

Sacha was studying at Fordham University in New York when he died suddenly and unexpectedly in May this year.

All are warmly welcome at the service, which will celebrate his life and will include traditional hymns, jazz and a Gospel Choir and followed by refreshments in the church

Recipe

SUMMER PUDDING



Ingredients

- 750g/1lb 14oz mixed summer fruit (such as raspberries, red, white and blackcurrants, tayberries, loganberries, blackberries, cherries and blueberries)
- 185g/6½oz caster sugar
- 1 medium loaf good-quality white bread, slightly stale
- 2 tbsp cassis or blackcurrant cordial

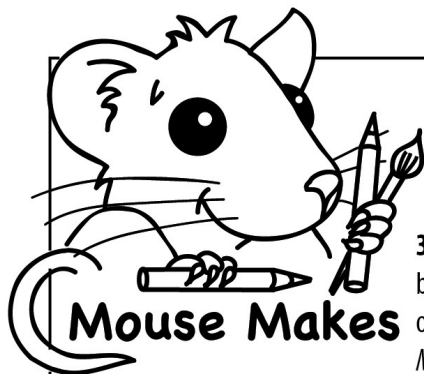
Method

1. Place the fruit in a pan. pour the sugar over the fruit and stir gently to mix together.
2. Cover the pan with a tea towel or cling film and leave for 3-5 hours. Place the pan over a moderate heat and bring gently up to the boil.
3. While the fruit is simmering, cut the bread into thin slices and remove the crusts.

4. When the juices are beginning to flow, raise the heat slightly and simmer for about 2-3 minutes. Then turn off the heat and stir in the cassis or blackcurrant cordial.
5. Cut a round out of one slice of bread to fit the bottom of the bowl, then cut the remaining slices into triangular wedges.
6. Dip one side of the bread circle into the juices in the pan containing the fruit, then place the circle in the bottom of the pudding basin, juice-side down. Do the same with the bread triangles, dipping one side of the bread into the juices before placing them around the edge of the bowl, with the dipped side facing outwards. The tips of the bread triangles will be sticking up from the top of the bowl at this stage.
7. Once the bowl is completely lined with the juice-soaked bread (be sure to plug any gaps with small pieces of bread if necessary), spoon all of the fruit and its juices into the pudding basin. Trim the tips of bread from around the edge. Cover the top of the fruit with more wedges of bread. Place the pudding basin on a plate to collect any juices.
8. Find a saucer that fits neatly inside the bowl. Place it on top to cover the upper layer of bread, then weigh the saucer down with weights - bags of rice, tins of baked beans, or whatever comes to hand. Let it cool, then place in the fridge overnight.
9. The next day, remove the weights and the saucer. Run a thin blade around the edges, then invert the basin onto a shallow serving plate.

Turn the pudding out, cut into thick slices and serve the summer pudding with cream.

Children's Pages



Mouse Makes

1. To which city did God send Jonah?

Jonah 1:1-2



2. Where did Paul travel to after seeing a vision?

Acts 16:9-10

MOAB

5. Which town did Naomi and Ruth travel to after leaving Moab?

Ruth 1:22



6. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after being persecuted in Antioch?

Acts 13:51

4 across

After Paul was stoned, where did he travel to with Barnabas?

Acts 14:19-20

LYSTRA

4 down

Where was Saul travelling to when Jesus appeared to him?

Acts 9:3



EGYPT



JERUSLEM

7 across

Where did the Church in Jerusalem send Barnabas?

Acts 11:22

JOURNEYS

7 down

Where did Noah's ark come to rest after its journey?

Genesis 8:4

9. To which city did Philip travel to proclaim Christ?

Acts 8:5

10. To which river did people travel out to to be baptised?

Mark 1:5

11. After a five day journey where did Paul arrive?

Acts 20:6

GALILEE

12. Which sea did Moses walk through to get away from the Egyptians?

Exodus 15:4

8. To where did Mary and Joseph flee to get away from Herod?

Matthew 2:13



13. Where did Paul travel to after he left Athens?

Acts 18:1

JUDEA



a	n	y	o	n	e	h	p	a	i	n	z	m
d	a	p	e	o	p	l	e	m	s	v	l	e
h	e	u	b	c	e	o	n	a	h	k	d	s
o	o	s	t	h	h	a	j	z	l	s	e	e
u	b	c	e	h	q	f	i	e	w	e	k	d
s	l	e	a	r	o	t	r	d	d	r	d	x
e	o	n	l	p	v	r	p	i	d	v	o	j
f	v	t	b	i	e	e	i	a	e	a	z	e
a	e	u	n	d	e	r	s	t	a	n	d	s
i	s	r	a	e	l	v	n	y	y	t	d	u
t	r	i	c	k	y	l	e	a	d	e	r	s
h	r	o	m	a	n	s	z	d	u	l	v	m
q	i	n	v	a	d	e	d	x	o	m	g	k

Romans
loves
pain
healed
asked
leaders
people
anyone

Jesus
help
invaded
friends
understand
amazed
servant
tricky

faith
believed
centurion
authority
house
deserves
Capernaum
Israel

Our Common Life	
Vicar Fr Jonathan Kester 020 7235 4242 07539 332408 frjonathan@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk	Parish Administrator Sheila Matthews 020 7235 4482 admin@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk
Assistant Curate Fr Carlos Remotti-Breton 07528 677682 frcarlos@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk	Bookkeeper Susan Redwin 020 7235 4482 finance@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk
Honorary Assistant Priest (weekdays) Fr Herbert Bennett revherbert.bennett@gmail.com	Verger/Facilities Coordinator Colin Chadwick 07365 002204 verger@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk
Licensed Lay Minister Dr Judith Richardson 07907 459693	Director of Music Andrew-John Smith 07545 009607 music@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk Assistant Director of Music (Choral Eucharist Organist) Dan Moulton
Churchwardens Samantha Singlehurst sammiefromlondon@hotmail.com 07930 826475 Ekanem Peers empeers@yahoo.co.uk	Family Eucharist Deputy Director of Music To be appointed Director Family Eucharist Choir Jennifer Spencer-McDaid
Hon Treasurer John Hilary jhilary@gmail.com	Resources Committee Convenor: Richard Carter
P.C.C. Secretary Valerie Smith Vasmith440@gmail.com	Formation Group Convenor: Fr Jonathan Kester
	Transformation Group Convenor: Fr Carlos Remotti-Breton

Our Common Life

Standing Committee Chair: Fr Jonathan Kester	Electoral Roll Officer Dr Judith Richardson richardson_judith@hotmail.com 07907 459693
Hospitality Co-Ordinator Raana Khatabakhsh	Communications Group Valerie Smith
Parish Magazine Editor Phoebe Hilary	Safeguarding Officer Raana Khatabakhsh safeguarding@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk
School Headteacher Jane Carrington 020 7641 4230	Children's Champion
	Bible Reading Fellowship Please contact Parish Office for more information
P.C.C. Members The Churchwardens ex officio Richard Carter Rulaca Cimpoiasu Stephen Couttie Della Dunsin Jane Franes Oliver Grant John Hilary Raana Khatabakhsh Alasdair Locke Sergio Marques Nicolas Moore David Propert Ekanem Peers Judith Richardson Valerie Smith James Watson	Deanery Synod Richard Carter 020 76414230 Valerie Smith vasmith@btinternet.com Ekanem Peers empeers@yahoo.co.uk Judith Richardson 020 3268 0055
	Lay Eucharistic Ministers Jane Booth Raana Khatabakhsh Lee Marshall Evelyn Olugboja David Propert Laura Propert Valerie Smith

Sunday Morning Services

Holy Communion BCP	08:00 am
Family Eucharist	09:30 am
Choral Eucharist with our world-class choir	11:00 am

Weekday Eucharist

Each day Monday to Friday	12.30 pm
also Wednesday	08.00 am

Morning Prayer: Monday - Friday at 08:00am
(Excluding Wednesday)

Evening Prayer:
Monday - Friday at 5.00pm

We are open for private prayer Monday – Friday
8.00am – 5.00pm