

St Peter's Parish Magazine



February &
March 2025

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From Fr Jonathan



Dear friends

As this edition of the magazine goes to press, we are about to celebrate the great Festival of Candlemas – the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. This Feast of light brings the great Christmas and Epiphany seasons to their conclusion. Whereas the shops were quickly tidying away or reducing Christmas items to sale prices and putting out hot cross

buns and Easter eggs on Boxing Day, in the Church the great season of the incarnation and manifestation of Christ has continued and the Christmas crib in the form of an Epiphany house has remained in church in front of the principal altar.

Yet Candlemas marks a decisive turning point in the church year. It has two faces – one which looks backwards and one which looks forward. In recognising in the eyes of the infant Christ the presence of God's eagerly anticipated Messiah, the old and wise man Simeon had a prophecy for Mary, the Mother of God. Turning to her he said, "this child is set for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword shall pierce your own soul also". (Luke 2:34,35). Whilst Candlemas looks back to the dawning and bright rays of salvation in the birth of Christ, it also looks forward to all that we shall prepare for in the season of Lent – to the passion of Christ and his life-giving and liberating death on the Cross and that the light and hope that springs from that salvific act of self-emptying love.

New service times on Sundays

Following our consultation on service times, Candlemas on 02 February also marks the beginning of our new service times which shifts everything forward by 15 minutes as we continue to offer the range of services that St Peter's is so well known for, whilst also having chance as your clergy to spend time with you afterwards. These new times are as follows:

8 am Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer

9.30 am Family Eucharist

11 am Choral Eucharist

Later on in this magazine you will find details of our Lent programme here at St Peter's. The word "Lent" is derived from an old English word for the "lengthening of days" or the "springtime of the year". In our part of the world at least, Lent coincides with the meteorological season of spring. All around us during Lent new life and growth is springing up from the darkness and cold of the earth and nature is bedecked with fresh hues of colour and light.

The origins of Lent lie in the early church as the final period of preparation for the sacraments of baptism and confirmation which traditionally would take place as the church celebrated the resurrection of Christ at Easter. Before long, however, it was realised that the whole church could benefit from an annual season for the refreshing of faith and, in so doing intentionally reflecting on the new life in which God in Christ is always breaking into the world through the power and the life giving energy of the Holy Spirit.

This Lent at St Peter's our **Lent Course** is going to be based on Fr Charlie Bell's book "Searched me out and known me – Journeying Lent with the psalms". In the psalms we can find reflected the whole gamut of human experience as they

accompany us on our pilgrim journey on earth. We will offer this course on a Wednesday morning at 9 am in Church after the 8 am Eucharist (beginning Wednesday 12th March) and on Zoom on Monday evenings at 7 pm (beginning Monday 10th March). The Zoom link will be in the weekly emailing and pew sheet.

We shall once again be having a **Lent Quiet Day** led by the parish ministry team on Saturday 15th March from 10 am to 4 pm at St Botolph's, Bishopsgate, courtesy of Fr David Armstrong. Full details will be published nearer the time.

On four Thursday evenings in Lent at 7 pm we shall be walking the **Stations of the Cross**, pausing at each station or stopping point on Our Lord's journey to the Cross of Calvary and to being laid in the sepulchre, offering prayer and reflection at each for the life of the church and the world. The service is said, quiet and meditative and will last approximately thirty minutes. Dates may be found in the Lent programme page later in this magazine.

You might like to observe Lent simply by coming to an additional celebration of the **Holy Eucharist during the week**. These are shorter, said services and throughout the year they are offered each day from Monday to Friday at 12.30 pm and also on Wednesdays at 8 am.

There is a brief article further on in this magazine about **spiritual direction** which sprung from an excellent evening on the life and spirituality of St John of the Cross which Fr Desmond recently led for the Faith Group. Perhaps Lent may be a time that you might like to consider adding this spiritual and reflective practice to your life of faith. Spiritual direction or accompaniment is an opportunity to sit down with another person – usually outside the sphere of our everyday lives – and to reflect on the journey of our life and the pilgrimage of our faith. Spiritual directors may be lay or ordained and many have undertaken a course of study to prepare them for this important ministry. If you'd be interested in discovering more about finding a spiritual director, I would be

very happy to chat more to help you find the right person. The London Centre for Spirituality also has a directory of those who offer this ministry.

People sometimes ask me about the **sacrament of reconciliation - or confession** in the Church of England. Like the presence of monks and nuns in the religious life in the Anglican Church, the sacrament of reconciliation can sometimes be one of our best kept secrets! In our Anglican tradition, this sacrament which I am always very happy to offer, is predicated on the basis that “all may, none must, some should”. If you would like to talk more about availing yourself of this great sacrament, please do let me know. For those of us who have received the gift of ordination to the priesthood and who ourselves avail ourselves of this sacrament in our own spiritual lives, the key line in the sacrament is the last one, “Go in peace. The Lord has indeed put away your sins and of your charity pray for me a sinner also”.

Following the success of last year’s pilgrimage to the **Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham** in Norfolk, we shall once again be going on pilgrimage with our friends from St Matthew’s, Westminster and Christ the Saviour, Ealing Broadway from Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th May. If you’d like to join us on this year’s pilgrimage, please let me know as soon as possible.

New life to restore our beautiful building.

As indicated in the last edition of the magazine, we have spent 2024 having to work on some essential matters on the interior of the building to ensure both statutory compliance and the safety of all. New statutory emergency lighting and signage is being installed throughout the building and almost 70 internal doors have had to be compartmentalised with intumescent strips fitted to halt the spread of both fire and smoke. This has been complicated by the various permissions which need to be obtained through parts of St Peter’s being under the system of faculty jurisdiction via the ecclesiastical exemption and part of it

being under Local Authority Listed Building Consents. Westminster has perhaps the highest concentration of historically listed buildings per square mile of anywhere in the country and so this can be a protracted process. On top of this we are in the complicated process of renewing the leases with our crypt tenants and doing some essential works in the residential units on the church roof.

Yet all this cannot mask the fact that St Peter's is in category A of the "**Heritage at Risk Register**" most notable with regard to the tower and portico. This is going to be a major project and one in which there is now the added trepidation of the changes to and capping of the Listed Places of Worship VAT grant scheme. We have now reached the phase where we have a long list of six architectural practices skilled in conservation of buildings such as our own that we are going to invite to tender for the project. These will be whittled down to a short list to interview and thus to select the one we wish to work on the St Peter's project. I have also joined a group of other London clergy with significant building projects afoot that we might also support one another and learn from one another's good practice. We will also be seeking a professional fundraiser as we begin to raise the significant funds that we shall need.

Good news

Many of you will have heard the good news of the appointment of **the Revd Jennifer Midgley-Adam** as the new **Assistant Priest** of St Peter's. Mother Jennifer will be joining us in May and there is an introduction to her later in the magazine.

In November we also joined by **Carlos Remotti-Breton** as a **seminarian/ordinand**. Carlos will be with us whilst he is receiving his formation for ordination at St Augustine's College. Carlos writes about himself later in the magazine.

New Vicar of our neighbouring parish of St Michael's, Chester Square

Our neighbouring parish of St Michael's, Chester Square has a new Vicar in the Revd Jamie Mulvaney. He will be instituted by Bishop Sarah and inducted by the Archdeacon on Thursday 13 March. We offer him and his family and the people of St Michael's the assurance of our prayers as this new chapter begins.

Our partner parish – St Michael's, West 99th Street New York City

Many congratulations to Mother Kate Flexer, Rector of our New York partner parish on her appointment as Rector of St Francis Church in San Diego, California. We wish her, Jim, Frannie and Benjamin every blessing in their new life. We look forward to continuing our partnership with St Michael's under Mother Kate's successor when they are appointed.

This comes with my love and prayers and my sincere thanks for all that each and every one of you brings to our life together at St Peter's.

R Jonathan

Participating at St Peter's -the church Electoral Roll

We are all familiar with the civic electoral roll, on which we register so that we can participate in national and local elections. There is also a church electoral roll which has no connection with the civil electoral roll. This note explains what it is, how it affects us and why it is very important that all those eligible should join it.

Why should I be on it?

It may seem one of those dreary bureaucratic things which doesn't have much to do with your Christian discipleship. But it is in itself an act of witness in that it indicates to the diocese and the wider community the strength of the church, especially during this post-Covid period with its general reluctance to commitment. Being on it also enables you to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on a number of issues which help to shape our mission and ministry and to stand yourself for the PCC (once you have been on the Electoral Roll for six months).

What is noted on the Church Electoral Roll?

The full Electoral Roll with details of names and addresses is saved on the church's secure system. The printed copy which is kept at the west end of the church contains, for security reasons, only names and an indication of which category -A, B or C - members fall into (see below).

Who should be on the roll? Any one aged 16 or over, or in some cases someone who will become 16 in 2025 or early 2026, if they fill **one** of the following criteria. The Electoral Roll is for lay persons so someone who is a deacon or priest or becomes a deacon or priest while on the roll cannot be on the roll. If you are in any doubt about your eligibility (for instance if you are at present fifteen years old), please speak to Judith Richardson, or Valerie Smith.

What is the cost to enrol? There is no cost.

What is meant by categories A, B and C on the form? These categories show the grounds on which you can qualify to

join St Peter's Electoral Roll if you are baptised and of the appropriate age.

Category 2A is for Church of England members (or members of churches in communion with the C of E) and resident in the parish. The parish boundaries are on the map in the narthex and are somewhat counter-intuitive. Again, if you are uncertain, please speak to Judith Richardson or Valerie Smith,

Category 2 B is for those Church of England (or of churches in communion with us, mainly other Anglican/Episcopalian churches) living outside the parish, but who have regularly attended public worship in the parish for at least six months,

Category 2C is for members of other churches not in communion with the Church of England who declare themselves to be also members of the Church of England, and who have regularly attended public worship in the church for at least three months.

Can I be on more than one electoral roll. Yes. If for instance you have a church which is near your office, where you worship frequently enough to fulfil the qualifications there as well as at St Peter's

I think I am on the Roll already: 2025 is the year in which a completely new Church Electoral Roll is drawn up. So the slate is wiped clean **and everybody whether they have attended for six months or sixty years will need to make a fresh application.**

When will I be able to apply to be on the new roll? The opening of the new roll will start when the formal notice is displayed from Friday 14 February. Applications forms will be available at the back of church from Sunday 16 and announcements will be made in church, in the pew sheets and newsletter and on the website for the next two Sundays and at regular intervals until the roll closes. It will also be possible to apply online if you prefer.

What is the last date on which I can apply? The last date on which you can apply is **6 April.** But please apply as soon as possible.

What happens next? The new roll will be drawn up based on paper and online applications received by 6 April and checked.

From 24 April until 15 May the roll will be on display at the back of the church and corrections can be made if something has been recorded wrongly (eg a name mis-spelled, a mistake in the postcode, but new applications cannot be made in this period.

15 May: The roll is presented at the Annual Parochial Church meeting.

JOIN US!



Introducing our new Assistant Priest

The Revd Jennifer Midgley-Adams



We are delighted to announce that our new Assistant Priest at St Peter's will be the Revd Jennifer Midgley-Adam. She will be joining us here with her family including her two daughters after Easter.

Mother Jennifer grew up in a variety of diverse Christian traditions and in 2010 moved to London where she found her home within the Anglican tradition. It was here that she was baptised and confirmed.

Before ordination Mother Jennifer worshipped at St Martin-in-the-Fields and worked at St Stephen's Rochester Row. She studied Theology for both her undergraduate and master's degrees with her undergraduate dissertation focusing on themes of death and resurrection as seen from the churchyard, and her master's thesis was a case study looking at the connection between the practice of international silence and relationship with God.

Mother Jennifer studied for her Master's degree alongside formation for ministry at Ripon College, Cuddesdon in Oxford. Following training, she has been serving her curacy at All Hallows by the Tower in the City of London. Jennifer serves as Chaplain for the City of London Sea and Royal Marine Cadet units and is working towards holding a RYA Safety Boat certification.

Mother Jennifer writes...

My family and I have lived within the St Peter's parish boundary for over a decade and are very much looking forward to becoming an active part of the St Peter's community. I enjoy coffee (black, no sugar!) and outside of other commitments, we are most likely to be found in a museum or playing boardgames.

Introducing Carlos Remotti-Breton

Introducing Carlos Remotti-Breton



It is a joy that Bishop Sarah has consented to Carlos Remotti-Breton joining us here at St Peter's as a seminarian/ordinand who is receiving his formation for ordination at St Augustine's College. He will be with us during the two years of his formation, although once a month on a Sunday he will be at St Augustine's College at West Malling in Kent.

To introduce himself to us, Carlos writes:

I grew up in Buenos Aires, influenced by my parents, teachers, and religious brothers who fled Europe during times of civil war and authoritarian regimes. I attended Marist Brothers schools for primary and secondary education and University with the Jesuits. I joined El Salvador University where I studied Economics, Finance, and Business Administration. This period also introduced me to the Spiritual Exercises and Ignatian Spirituality, leading me to work with youth groups and facilitate Ignatian activities.

For over 25 years, I held senior management positions in organizations worldwide, focusing on mergers & acquisitions, strategy, and finance transactions, primarily in New York and London. Witnessing the 2008 financial crisis and influenced by psychoanalysts Elliot Jacques and Manfred Kets de Vries, I shifted my focus towards the human aspects of organizational life, exploring unconscious and conscious processes.

To equip myself further, I pursued a Master in Change and Leadership at INSEAD Business School and training at the

Tavistock Clinic and The Tavistock Institute of Human relations, gaining a systems psychodynamic perspective. This approach informs my work with organizations, communities, and individual leaders. I am a Group Relations Practitioner designing and leading experiential learning spaces.

Furthermore, I deepened my understanding of human behaviour by training clinically as a Psychoanalyst with the British Psychoanalytic Association, working with individual patients. Currently, I serve as the Executive Director of OPUS, an organization promoting understanding of society. I design spaces for learning, reflection, and exploration, empowering citizens to engage actively in society. Additionally, I accompany leaders and organizations through change and transformation.

I maintain an association with the London Jesuit Centre, where I trained in Ignatian spirituality, spiritual conversation, and discernment. I also hold the position of Professor of Practice in Organisational Behaviour & Leadership, lecturing extensively at executive and master levels at Durham Business School, University of London, and IAE Business School. I actively collaborate with third parties to design and deliver Leadership Development Programmes at INSEAD, London Business School, IE, OPUS and The Church of England.

Since 2020, I've served as an experienced Social Dreaming practitioner and host of The London Social Dreaming Hub.

My journey with Ignatian Spirituality and the Spiritual Exercises, particularly the 19th Annotation, allowed me to integrate my personal beliefs with my professional work, enabling me to offer my combined experience to religious leaders and organizations. Currently, I'm researching how religious leaders take their roles, authority and manage power in times of crisis and extreme uncertainty.

From the magazine for February 1935

The Occupational Centre in Jarrow

This is the third year of our work in Jarrow. At the last Ruri-Decanal Conference the organiser of the work in the centre came down and told the Conference of the work which was going on. He was able to show us that the Centre is now meeting a real need with its various activities. The men have been largely employed in making toys for their children and furniture for their homes. Of course, they cannot sell any of their work or they would be competing with those in work and so increase unemployment... The Rector of Jarrow writes to me saying, 'The Occupational Centre is going night and day now, and men are finding it not only the means of using time of unemployment to good purpose and good companionship, but they are also being drafted away to work in other part of the country and in this respect, it is fulfilling a good purpose. I have always been anxious that the splendid help you have given from Westminster should be used to good purpose, and I am happy to feel that the centre is meeting a great need among the men of our town'

We all know of the scheme for work which the High Sheriff of Surrey so nobly supported by his own county has started. We rejoice at it and wish it all possible success... Yet it must be some time before the clogged wheels of work can once more be set going. No people will rejoice more than the Church in Westminster. Meanwhile we will stand by our promise, of course, for the year. It is a notable time for the Church in Jarrow for Bede Church is keeping its 1250th Dedication Festival. May it inaugurate a new century of life and work in a place which in the days of Bede was as forward in skilfulness of hands in factory and glass works as it was in spiritual power and learning.

COMMENT: The famous Jarrow March took place the following year, with the support of the MP Ellen Wilkinson. Jarrow was particularly hard hit during the period of the Depression by the closure in 1933 of Palmer's shipbuilders which had been a major employer. Local people had asked the British Iron and Steel Federation, formed in 1934 by the Government to oversee steel production in Britain, to build a plant in the area but it had decided instead to extend existing factories elsewhere. The Occupational Centre did provide some productive work for the former shipbuilding employees but faced the frustration that they could not sell any of it because of the effect on competition. The High Sheriff of Surrey mentioned in the article was Sir John Jarvis, a wealthy Tory MP who effectively adopted Jarrow as a personal project, setting up the Surrey Fund launched at Claridge's in October 1934 primed with a significant amount of his own money and going on to raise funds for general improvements including social and sports facilities. At the time there was a considerable north and south divide in the fortunes of the country and a feeling that those in the south were not concerned about the high levels of unemployment elsewhere. It is likely that the Surrey initiative was what brought in the Area Deans and others in the London area, and led to Austin Thompson as an Area Dean himself deciding to instruct his congregation in developments that did not directly affect them.

Valerie Smith

Children's Books of a Hundred Years Ago

MARCH 1935

Looking back as we must from the standpoint of our own age, irritable with dubious political experiment, restless with widespread metaphysical doubt, we contemplate with amazement bordering on envy, the bland omniscience, the placid confident assurance of our forebears, unemotional and roly-poly, impassive of the Sphinx. For the England of our great-grandfathers had begun to breathe more freely after [the defeat of Napoleon] and the country in consequence had grown self-complacent and secure and was settling down into the post-revolutionary, post Napoleonic era of smugness and antimacassars and Prince Albert, witnessed by story of "Jessica's First Prayer" where the timid little heroine when she hears from a beadle that she is too raggedly dressed to enter a church asks 'What is a church' and receives the stupefying Hanoverian answer "A place where ladies and gentlemen come to pray" ... The tracts of the same period, more or less, cultivated double titles and not without considerable effect, to judge from "Little Willie's Last Prayer or There's Company in the Parlour" and I need hardly say, as regards the subject matter, that while his frivolous and worldly mother entertains visitors in the parlour below, little Willie, just to spite her, goes and dies upstairs... The gloom of Puritanism shows in Mrs Sharwood's "History of the Fairchild Family": When the egregious father becomes aware that his three youngsters, like three fractious puppies, have been indulging in a bit of a scrap, he can devise no better remedy than a brisk outing to the nearest available gallows and there, perched side by side upon a wall in full view of a decaying corpse with its scarecrow rags, and jingling chains, and iron collar, must Lucy and Emily and Henry perforce give heed to the life history of the criminal, and how his infant tantrums led, through slow but sure graduations, to hatred of his brother, a murderous assault, death on the gibbet here and "the second death" hereafter

COMMENT

It is fun to look back in later years at books of our childhood and their assumptions and even more at the children's books of earlier generations when we can make a contrast with our very different view of reality as our 1930s writer does here. In a later section of this serialised article, he implicitly links the change in the approach of children's books to the same source as the Anglo-Catholic revival "whose centenary was celebrated in the July of 1933, which triumphed in the face of prejudice and persecution, mainly because of the contrast it presented to the dreary dogmas held by the majority because its sanctuary lamps were fed with the 'oil of gladness' and its messengers came vested in a 'garment of praise' ... the note of unquenchable love and joy in such a work as Keble's 'Christian Year'. There was the emphasis suddenly and strongly laid not upon the eternal perdition of babies in bibs, or of rosy-cheeked urchins pinching rosy-cheeked apples, but upon hope, help and heaven – small wonder that to souls forlornly straying through the alienating murk of Calvinism and materialism, these things and many similar, should have taken unto themselves the semblance of a miraculous, rose-red dawn."

Valerie Smith

Charity at St Peter's

CHRISTMAS CHARITIES 2024: RESULTS OF OUR COLLECTIONS AT CHRISTMAS SERVICES.

For some years St Peter's has given the collections to assist the work with three charitable bodies, chosen each year. One is international, one is national and one is local. We have done the same this year.

At our Christmas Carol Service, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services our collections, together with a generous collection from the Anonymous Carol Service, came to £3412.52. The amount will be split equally among



our three chosen charities. These are
Kids for Kids: This charity, our international charity for Christmas 2024, operates in Darfur in the Sudan, a war-torn region suffering with drought, famine and little infrastructure.



Rainbow Trust: This charity, our national charity for Christmas 2024 operates from nine centres over England and online to give support to families with a seriously ill child.



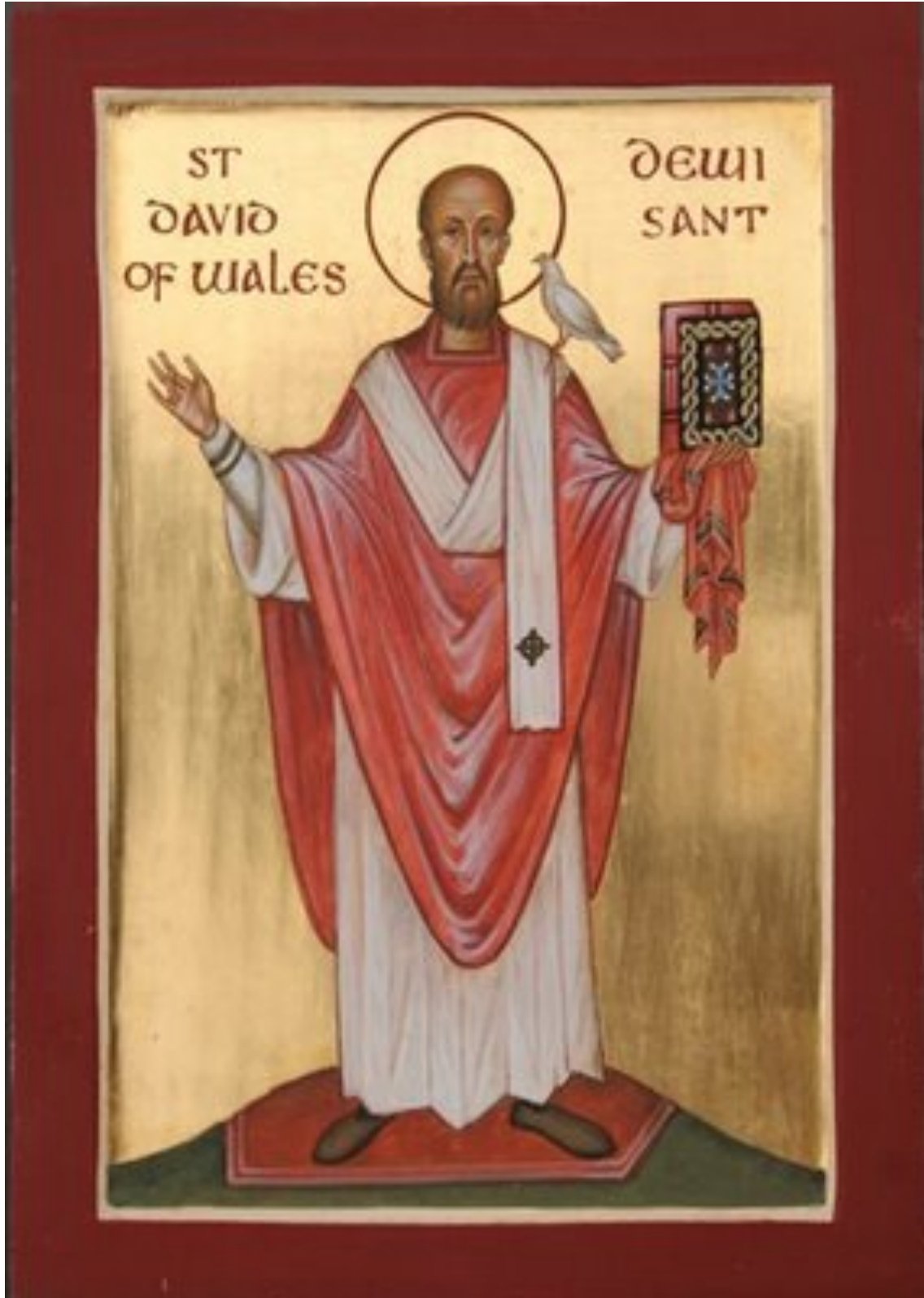
Caxton Youth Club: This charity, our local charity for Christmas 2024, is a specialist youth club for those in Westminster with autism and learning disabilities between the ages of 11-25. Their centre is on the Abbot's Manor Estate.

Thanks to all who contributed

*The Presentation in the Temple by
Fra Bartolomeo 1472-1517
(March)*



*St David of Wales
(April)*



The Psalms for Lent

“Searched Me Out And Known Me – Journeying through Lent with the Psalms” = Charlie Bell

Lent books sometimes focus on presenting a connected argument on a particular theme while others give daily passages for reflection. This book, although it has general material on the meaning and use of Lenten observances is mainly composed of devotional readings and reflections though the material is weekly rather than daily which allows a deeper and more considered reflection for most of Lent. The more general material urges us to review our lives to make possible the setting aside of time for God, examining our priorities and looking at what might be changed so that we avoid getting overloaded. The book does not neglect the difficulties that some people face, those with heavy family responsibilities, or with demanding jobs performed for low levels of pay so that cutting back can be near impossible, as well as addressing those who have more control over their lives. This is a discipline and there will have to be a separate answer for everyone. Time for God often seems like a middle-class luxury but should not be.

The prefatory material explains that observance of Lent should call to mind the cyclical nature of life in a period where increasingly one thing succeeds another without much sense of connectedness. It should give an opportunity to set a pattern of worship week by week with the material linked to the worship of the whole church and not solely to our personal inclinations. This was the pattern of the liturgical Psalter in the Book of Common Prayer which has psalms assigned to every day of every month without any consideration of how the people saying them might be feeling. The text of the Psalms used is the Prayer Book version especially designed for use in public worship and therefore with more emphasis on rhythm and poetry than there is in a straight translation for general reading and study. The same could be said of the Liturgical Psalter in Common Worship and you could use that if you wished. By contrast the readings

are from the modern New Revised Standard Version of the Bible and the prayers mainly from Common Worship. The reflections for the week explore both psalm and gospel reading, drawing out key points, relating them to current life and concluding with a prayer. There are also questions at the end which can be used in discussion, or for further private reflection. The aim is as far as possible to prepare for full participation in the daily liturgical celebrations culminating in the very special observance of Holy Week.

The author writes: “If you can, I encourage you to find a church to attend for Holy Week and try to do the lot. The experience of starting off in a Palm Sunday procession, then hearing the Gospel readings with their increasing tension, living through Jesus’s last few days, the last supper, betrayal, agony in the garden, crucifixion, the emptiness of Holy Saturday, and then the joy of the resurrection is an extraordinary and deeply rewarding time. You will not only feel more connected to the events of two thousand years ago – you will be in some sense truly *there*. You will really go up to Jerusalem, albeit a Jerusalem that is partly in your mind and partly in your parish...A Holy Week once properly experienced can call you back again and again...If you decide to take something up for Lent rather than give it up, then make it a full participation in this most holy of weeks.”

St Peter’s has the full round of Holy Week services. There will be posters and handouts during Lent giving full details of times.



Searching for St Peter

My latest search for St Peter involves four of my favourite topics: references to our patron saint, my surname, football and the city of my upbringing, Newcastle.

When my sister gave me a t-shirt for Christmas with lettering which read "Stanley FC, Formed In Byker in 1881" I was well pleased and also intrigued. It got me wondering and I decided to find out more.

Stanley FC in Byker, in the east end of Newcastle, was the forerunner of the Victorian football team Newcastle East End FC. When East End joined forces with Newcastle West End in 1892 they combined (football fans will see where I am going with this) to form Newcastle UNITED.

Outside the Northeast, Byker is known for the teenagers' tv programme Byker Grove, the launchpad for a number of on-screen careers including those of Ant and Dec. Byker was a shipbuilding town at a time when the Northeast was the biggest producer of ships in the world. The collapse of that industry and its way of life left Byker in desperate straits. A new marina and apartment buildings with river views, built where hull fabrication areas, slipways and dry docks once stood, have done something to revive things.



Stanley FC is thought to have got its name from Stanley Street, an address that seems to have disappeared during the passing of the decades - swallowed up into the main road, Walker Road. Stanley FC emerged from Stanley Cricket Club, as the sport of association football took hold in urban areas. There are clues online to where Stanley CC and Stanley FC might have been but

no sign whatsoever when you visit the site which is in the St Peter's area of Byker between the parishes of St Lawrence's and St Anthony's.

One building that does remain from around that time is the local working men's club, the St Peter's Social Club, which stands across the road from the presumed home of Stanley FC.

A plaque on the way into the club bears no mention of any sports teams. It does though explain the origin of the St Peter's affiliation. Sadly, it turns out it is nothing to do with our patron saint nor any parish church which is what I had assumed when I went searching. According to the plaque, the area is named after a local 17th century knight. In 1630 Sir Peter Riddell leased from the Corporation of Newcastle a section of the riverside for storing ballast. It became known as St Peter's Quay - to match the names of the adjoining parishes.

So, my searching did turn up a St Peter but just not the right one!

David Stanley



From our Verger & Facilities Coordinator

It's been just over a year since I started working here at St. Peter's and I'm very grateful for how welcoming and helpful the community has been, which has made it very easy for me to settle in. Even though it's been 13 months now, I'm still getting to know the building. There are so many groups and facilities packed into the Church, it's natural that it would pack in lots of surprises too, some good, some less so, and several, I'm still trying to decide on.

At least a few times a week I have visitors to the church, come and admire my office. They arrive at the gate of the vestry, some standing in silence and others much more excited, as they exclaim 'beautiful' or 'wonderful'. I often doublecheck if they're talking about me or my environment. They all serve as a useful reminder to look around and remember where I am, which is often needed, especially after reading emails from Westminster Council or overly complicated installation instructions, for a thermostatic control panel.

Having been here for four seasons now, I've also seen the changing sun streaming through our windows, highlighting different area and parts of the church, as the year progressed. In the same way, the changing weather revealed more about the building as time passed. Just like people, the church's behaviour and habits change from season to season. The roof doesn't like the wind and rain, and the interior doesn't cope so well with the heat. The verger's vestry, however, is pleasantly cool at the height of the summer, which was good news for my Irish skin.

With an even busier year to come in 2025, I have also recruited a trainee verger to assist me day to day. Just like the building here at St. Peter's, she is high maintenance and requires a lot of attention. Her name is Honey, and she was rehomed here with us, about four months ago. She's got potential as a verger, in

that she's realised if she remains perfectly still, she can blend into the floor of the vestry. She's also particularly fond of patrolling the churchyard, early in the morning and last thing a night. She has settled into the surrounding area, often harrumphing if she doesn't get her way which, I'm not saying is a Belgravia trait, but it certainly isn't a verger one. If you call to the vestry at any point this year, I won't take it personally if you're there for her, rather than me.

Colin Chadwick (& Honey)



Calendar of Intentions February 2025

Date	Day	Mass intention
Sa 1	<i>Brigid Abbess, c 525</i>	Vocations to the religious life
Su 2	The Presentation of Christ in the Temple Candlemas	The Parish and People of God
Mo 3	<i>Anskar, archbishop, missionary, 865</i>	The Church in Denmark
Tu 4	<i>Gilbert, founder of the Gilbertine Order, 1189</i>	The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham
We 5	<i>Feria</i>	The Grosvenor Estate
Th 6	<i>Martyrs of Japan, 1597</i>	The Church and People of Japan
Fr 7	<i>Feria</i>	Chelsea and Westminster Hospital
Sa 8	<i>Feria</i>	Greycoat Hospital School
Su 9	Fourth Sunday before Lent	The Parish and People of God
Mo 10	<i>Scholastica, abbess, c. 543</i>	The Sisters at West Malling
Tu 11	<i>Feria</i>	Our administrative staff
We 12	<i>Feria</i>	Metropolitan Police
Th 13	<i>Feria</i>	St Peter's School
Fr 14	<i>Cyril and Methodius, missionaries, 869 and 885</i>	The Church and people of Europe
Sa 15	<i>Sigfrid, bishop, 1045</i>	The Church in Sweden

Calendar of Intentions February 2025 (cont)

Date	Day	Mass Intention
Su16	Third Sunday before Lent	The Parish and People of God
Mo17	<i>Janani Luwum, archbishop, martyr, 1977</i>	The Church and People of Uganda
Tu 18	<i>Feria</i>	Westminster Foodbank
We 19	<i>Feria</i>	Westminster Cathedral
Th 20	<i>Feria</i>	The Passage
Fr 21	<i>Feria</i>	Victoria Heritage Quarter
Sa 22	<i>Feria</i>	Victoria Station
Su 23	Second Sunday before Lent	The Parish and People of God
Mo 24	<i>Feria</i>	Eaton House School
Tu 25	<i>Feria</i>	Inchbald College of Design
We 26	<i>Feria</i>	The Royal Mews
Th 27	<i>George Herbert, priest, poet, 1633</i>	Parish priests
Fr 28	<i>Feria</i>	St Peter's School Staff

Calendar of Intentions March 2025

Date	Day	Mass Intention
Sa 1	<i>David, bishop, Patron of Wales, c 601</i>	The Church and People of Wales
Su 2	Sunday next before Lent	The Parish and People of God
Mo 3	<i>Feria</i>	Westminster St Margaret Deanery
Tu 4	<i>Feria</i>	Confessors
We 5	ASH WEDNESDAY	For grace to keep the Season of Lent faithfully
Th 6	<i>Lenten weekday</i>	Westminster City School
Fr 7	<i>Perpetua, Felicity and companions, martyrs, 203</i>	Modern day martyrs
Sa 8	<i>Edward King, bishop, 1910</i>	The Diocese of Lincoln
Su 9	First Sunday of Lent	The Parish and People of God
Mo 10	<i>Lenten weekday</i>	Our Lent Groups
Tu 11	<i>Lenten weekday</i>	London Diocesan House, Causton Street
We 12	<i>Lenten weekday – Ember Day</i>	Vocations to the ordained ministry
Th 13	<i>Lenten weekday</i>	The Revd Jamie Mulvaney – new Vicar of St Michael’s, Chester Square
Fr 14	<i>Lenten weekday – Ember Day</i>	All seminarians/ordinands
Sa 15	<i>Lenten weekday – Ember Day</i>	Theological Colleges and Courses

Calendar of Intentions March 2025 (Cont)

Date	Day	Mass Intention
Sa16	Second Sunday of Lent	The Parish and People of God
Mo 17	<i>Patrick, bishop, missionary, patron of Ireland, c. 460</i>	The Church and People in Ireland
Tu18	<i>Cyril, bishop, teacher of the faith, 386</i>	Theologians
We19	Joseph of Nazareth	All parents
Th 20	<i>Cuthbert, bishop, missionary, 607</i>	Spread of the Gospel
Fr 21	<i>Thomas Cranmer, archbishop, Reformation martyr, 1556</i>	The Crown Nominations Commission appointing the new Archbishop of Canterbury
Sa 22	<i>Lenten weekday</i>	Churches Together in Westminster
Su 23	Third Sunday of Lent	The Parish and People of God
Mo 24	<i>Walter Hilton, mystic, 1396</i>	Spiritual writers
Tu 25	The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary	St Mary's, Bourne Street
We 26	<i>Lenten weekday</i>	The Diocesan Lent appeal
Th 27	<i>Lenten weekday</i>	Cleveland Clinic
Fr 28	<i>Lenten weekday</i>	Westminster Churches Net Zero Forum
Sa 29	<i>Lenten weekday</i>	London College of Defence Studies
Su 30	Fourth Sunday of Lent/ Mothering Sunday	The Parish and People of God / All mothers
Su 31	<i>John Donne, priest, poet, 1631</i>	St Paul's Cathedral and the Very Revd Andrew Tremlett, Dean

Readings for February and March 2025

<p>2 February 2025 Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) Malachi 3.1-5 Hebrews 2.14-end Luke 2.22-40</p>	<p>5 March 2025 Ash Wednesday Lent begins Joel 2:1-2,12-17 2 Corinthians 5:2-b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6,16-21</p>
<p>9 February 2025 4th Sunday before Lent Isaiah 6.1-8 1 Corinthians 15.1-11 Luke 5.1-11</p>	<p>9 March 2025 1st Sunday of Lent Deuteronomy 26.1-11 Romans 10.8b-13 Luke 4.1-13</p>
<p>16 February 2025 3rd Sunday before Lent Jeremiah 17.5-10 1 Corinthians 15.12-20 Luke 6.17-26</p>	<p>16 March 2025 2nd Sunday of Lent Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18 Philippians 3.17-4:1 Luke 13.31-end</p>
<p>23 February 2025 2nd Sunday before Lent Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-end Revelation 4 Luke 8.22-25</p>	<p>23 March 2025 3rd Sunday of Lent Isaiah 55.1-9 1 Corinthians 10.1-13 Luke 13.1-9</p>
<p>2 March 2025 Sunday next before Lent Exodus 34.29-end 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2 Luke 9.28-36</p>	<p>30 March 2025 Mothering Sunday 4th Sunday of Lent 1 Samuel 1:20-end 2 Corinthians 1.3-7 John 19.25b-27</p>

Recipe

Carrot and Parsnip Soup

Ingredients

- ½ Tbsp olive oil
- 2 finely chopped onions
- 2 crushed garlic cloves
- ½ small bunch of thyme
- 3 large carrots -peeled and chopped
- 2 large parsnips -peeled and chopped
- 1 litre vegetable stock
- 100ml double cream
- ¼ bunch chopped parsley



• Step 1

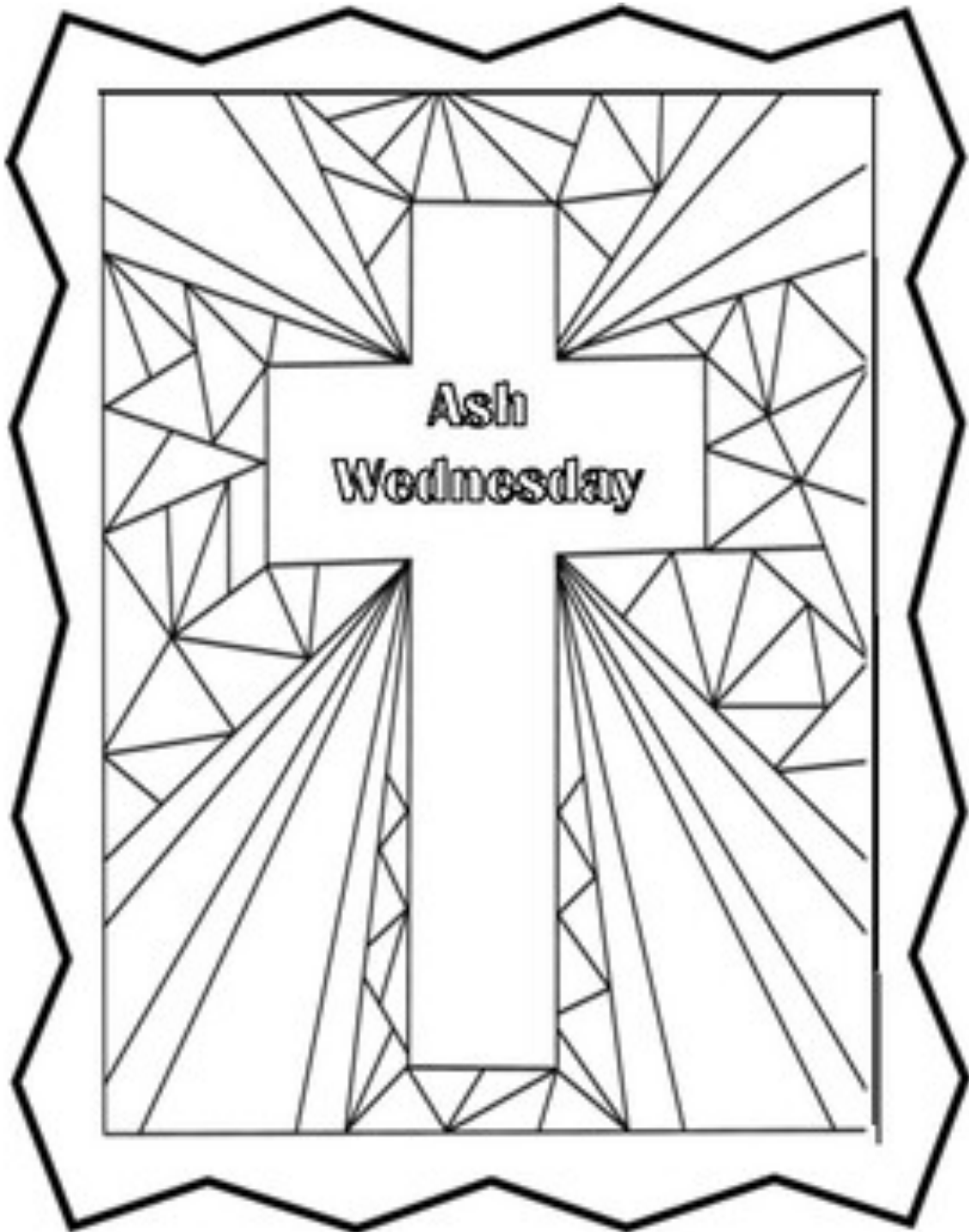
Heat the oil in a large [saucepan](#) and fry the onion and celery for 10 mins, stirring occasionally until softened. If they start to catch, add a small splash of water. Add the garlic, thyme and ½ tsp black pepper and cook for 2 mins. Add the carrots, parsnips and stock and bring to the boil. Reduce to a simmer and cook for 20 mins until the vegetables are soft, stirring occasionally.

• Step 2

Blend using a stick [blender](#) until smooth. Add the cream and blitz again until combined, then taste for seasoning. To serve, ladle into bowls and scatter over a little chopped parsley, if you like.

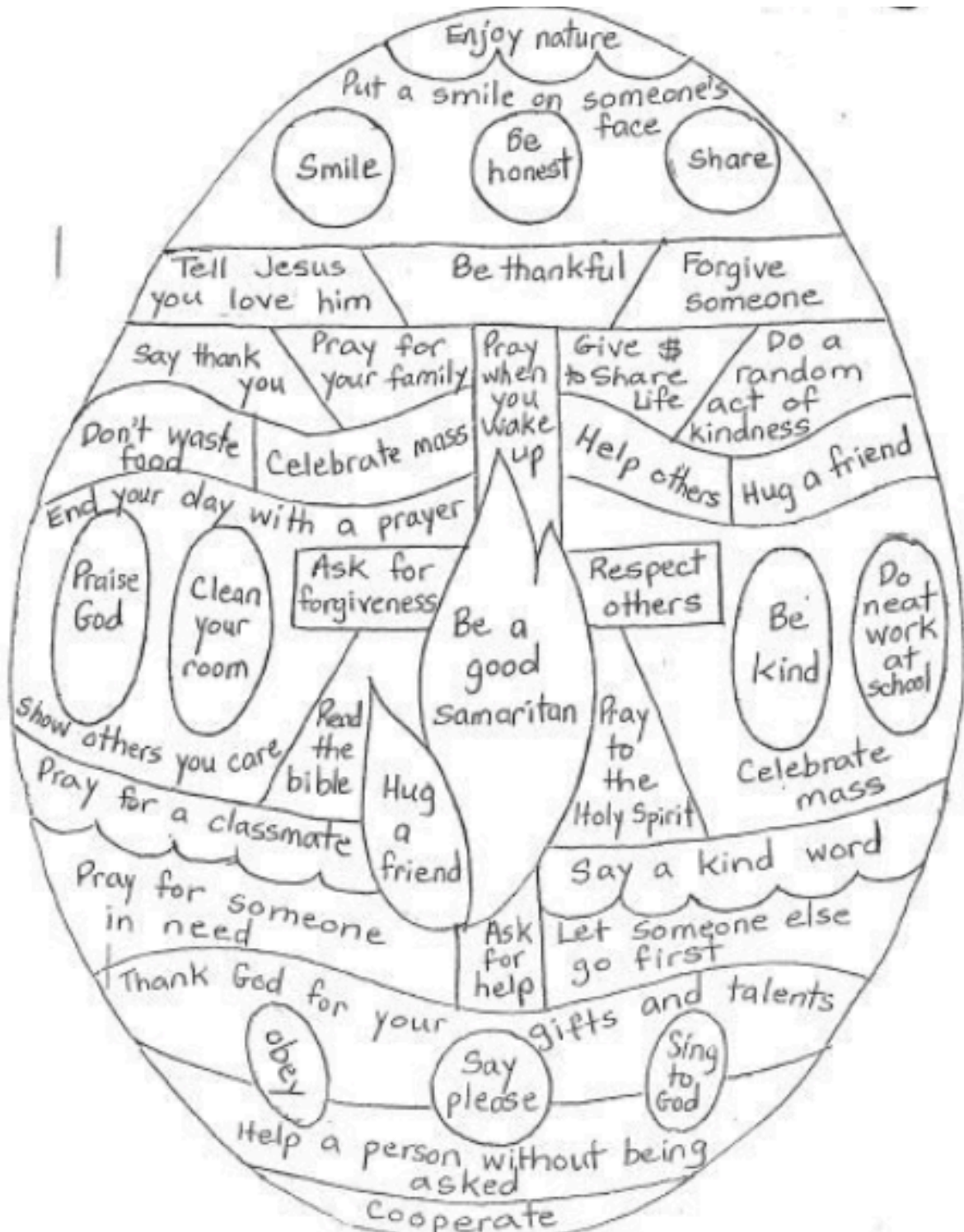
Children's Page

March sees us entering the season of Lent,
when we begin to prepare for Easter



Children's Page

During Lent, we try especially hard to live as Jesus taught us to. Try to do some of the things on this egg – you could colour them as you do them.



Our Common Life

<p>Vicar Fr Jonathan Kester 020 7235 4242 07539 332408 frjonathan@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk</p>	<p>Parish Administrator Sheila Matthews 020 7235 4482 admin@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk</p>
<p>Associate Priest The Rev'd Jacqui Miller</p> <p>Honorary Assistant Priest Fr Herbert Bennett</p>	<p>Bookkeeper Susan Redwin 020 7235 4482 finance@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk</p>
<p>Licensed Lay Minister Dr Judith Richardson 07907 459693</p>	<p>Choral Eucharist Director of Music Andrew John Smith 07545 009607 acjsmith45@hotmail.co.uk</p> <p>Assistant Director of Music (Choral Eucharist Organist) Dan Moulton</p>
<p>Churchwardens Samantha Singlehurst sammiefromlondon@hotmail.com 07930 826475</p> <p>Ekanem Peers empeers@yahoo.co.uk</p>	<p>Family Eucharist Deputy Director of Music Andrew Sackett andrewjsackett@gmail.com</p> <p>Director Family Eucharist Choir Fiona Hymns</p>
<p>Hon Treasurer John Hilary jhilary@gmail.com</p>	<p>Resources Committee Convenor: Richard Carter</p>
<p>P.C.C. Secretary Valerie Smith Vasmith440@gmail.com</p>	<p>Formation Group Convenor: Fr Jonathan Kester</p>
<p>Verger/Facilities Coordinator Colin Chadwick 07365002204 verger@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk</p>	<p>Transformation Group Convenor: The Revd Jacqui Miller</p>
<p>Poppets Coordinator Sarah Armstrong poppetsatstpeters@gmail.com</p>	<p>Electoral Roll Officer Dr Judith Richardson richardson_judith@hotmail.com 07907 459693</p>

Our Common Life

Standing Committee Chair: Fr Jonathan Kester	Communications Group Valerie Smith
Hospitality Co-Ordinator Raana Khatabakhsh	Safeguarding Officer Raana Khatabakhsh safeguarding@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk
Parish Magazine Editor Phoebe Hilary	Children's Champion Maite Boudy
School Headteacher Jane Carrington 020 76414230	Bible Reading Fellowship Please contact Parish Office for more information
P.C.C. Members Maite Boudy Richard Carter Stephen Couttie Mary Drummond Robin Duttson Jane Franses Jim Glen Oliver Grant John Hilary Julia Jordan Raana Khatabakhsh Nicolas Moore Lee Marshall Evelyn Olugboja Ekanem Peers Alex Porter Judith Richardson Valerie Smith James Watson Nancy Wood	Deanery Synod Richard Carter 020 76414230 John Hilary jhilary@gmail.com Jim Glen 07970375655 Ekanem Peers empeers@yahoo.co.uk Judith Richardson 020 3268 0055
	Lay Eucharistic Ministers Valerie Smith Carl Muller Jane Booth Raana Khatabakhsh Evelyn Olugboja

Hosting with Housing Justice



Do you have a spare room that you could offer to a homeless asylum-seeker, refugee or other migrant in need? The Compassionate Communities team within the Diocese of London is working in partnership with Housing Justice to provide temporary accommodation for London's destitute asylum-seekers, refugees and other forced migrants while they resolve their immigration status.

Find out more here or scan the QR code below:

<https://www.compassionatecommunitieslondon.org.uk/refugee-response/hostingwithhousingjustice>



Lent 2025 at St Peter's



ASH WEDNESDAY – 5th March 2025

- 8 am Holy Eucharist (said) with imposition of ashes
9.15 am School Eucharist with imposition of ashes
12.30 pm Holy Eucharist (said) with imposition of ashes
7 pm Choral Eucharist with imposition of ashes

Lent Course 2025

**“Searched me out and known me –
Journey through Lent with the psalms”**

Book by Fr Charlie Bell

Mondays at 7 pm via Zoom (beginning 10th March)

Zoom link in weekly pew sheet and weekly emailing or from Fr Jonathan

Wednesdays at 9 am following the 8 am Eucharist (beginning 12th March)

Stations of Cross

Thursday evenings in Lent at 7 pm (beginning 13th March)

Lent Quiet Day at St Botolph's, Bishopsgate

Growing closer to God during Lent

Saturday 15th March 10 am to 4 pm

More details in the pew sheet and weekly electronic mailings

Details of Holy Week and Easter may be found on a separate leaflet and in the April and May edition of this magazine

Sunday Morning Services

BCP Holy Communion	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
<i>also</i> 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