



All Saints Parish Paper

MARGARET STREET, LONDON W.1

APRIL 2007

£1.00

VICAR'S LETTER

A couple of weeks ago, I was a guest at an “**Introduction to Christianity**” in a famous evangelical church in the City of London. I wasn't entirely sure whether I had been invited to see how people could be introduced to Christianity — or because someone thought I needed to be introduced to it myself. When asked in such circles, “When did you become a Christian?”, I usually say, “When my parents took me to the font”.

The church had been set out with tables and chairs and a very good meal was served to us — complete with wine — whatever happened to evangelical horror of the demon drink? After the first course, there was a talk by the Rector — an exposition of the raising of Lazarus in John 11. We were given copies of the Gospel, so that we could look up verses as they were quoted. There was some spirited bashing of Richard Dawkins and other apostles of contemporary atheism but controversies between Christians were largely avoided, save for a dismissive remark about Christianity and dressing up in funny clothes. There were no “funny clothes” in evidence that night — everything was “upper-middle class casual”. During coffee and dessert we were invited to write questions on slips of paper which were then collected. These were then fed to the Rector by a curate who was acting as master

of ceremonies. This was the part of the evening which I found least convincing. The answers were just too slick and obviously rehearsed in advance. There was no chance for people to put their questions directly or for any discussion. Everything was just too carefully controlled.

What was impressive was the degree of professionalism with which the event was organised. The investment of time, money and effort must have been considerable. There must have been 150 people there although it was difficult to tell how many were guests and how many regular members of the congregation. A number of these evenings are run each year.

And then the following evening, there was something rather different: our own “**There's Something about Mary**” event based on the Anglican-Roman Catholic document “Mary: Grace and Hope in Jesus Christ”. This too was extremely well-presented. A huge amount of effort by large numbers of people, marshalled by Fr Aquilina, went into preparation, publicity and execution. People were willing to support it financially as well as with hard work. The church was full. Indeed, a good many had come on from a day discussing sex at the General Synod! Our speakers, Bishop Michael Nazir Ali and Mgr Donald Bolen were excellent and the meeting was ably chaired by Clive Wright. Afterwards,

there was convivial hospitality with pasta and good wine.

Obviously, this was a rather different kind of evening and audience. The kind of people who are likely to be interested in the ARCIC document on Mary will need no introduction to the Christian faith. The question that occurs to me is that if we can do something as effective as that, can we not do something similar with people who have no connection with the church? We are, I suspect, quite good at welcoming people who are already “churched” to some degree; less adept at drawing in people who have no church connection. What would be involved? Well, hospitality — food and drink — seem to be essential — or so the success of things like the Alpha Course would indicate. Then a willingness by parishioners to invite their friends along to such an evening; a readiness to take the risk of speaking to them about religion. There needs to be a clear presentation of the Christian faith. After that, an appropriate follow-up in which people can learn more.

I do not want to suggest that we do not exercise a considerable ministry of hospitality and welcome already. This goes on in a whole variety of ways, some small, some great.

We have had a number of groups of visitors at church recently, some for services, some to see the building. This morning we hosted a group from the Glaziers’ Company who had come to hear Michael Kearney speak about our glass. Janet Drake provided coffee and biscuits for fifty or so people beforehand and I gave an introductory talk about the church, not forgetting the Restoration Appeal, and Denzil Freeth, who was on church watch duty, sold them Pitkin guides and postcards. The building itself

tells its own story, has its own impact, but it is important too that people realise that this is not simply a splendid and interesting building, but a centre of living faith.

The previous week, the journalist Simon Jenkins, author of *“A Thousand Best Churches”* (in which All Saints is one of the top 50) hosted a party for a couple of hundred of his friends, in part so that they could see the building which he regards as the most significant Victorian church in England. You can read what are his thoughts on All Saints and its restoration in this issue. There were people there who had not known of the church’s existence before and others who had found it a spiritual refuge over the years.

A week later, the church was packed with people again, this time for the funeral Mass of Geoffrey Stephens. There were many people there for whom it was something out of the ordinary run of funerals. No one complained about this, indeed people went out of their way to be complimentary about the way the service was conducted — formal and reverent without being impersonal or remote. The choir sang as beautifully as we would expect but it was clearly more than many attending had anticipated. Members of the family read lessons, led prayers and carried the coffin. Servers gave up their time to help make this an occasion which was both special and pastoral. At the funeral someone said to me that they had worked around the corner in Wells Street for 11 years and never been in the church. This is a comment I hear time and again, often uttered with a sense of regret. If only they had known!

The service was a celebration of resurrection faith — even if it was a funeral in the middle of Lent. It was confident

without being strident. That seems to be the note we should aim for in all that we do, placing our trust in the Christ whose resurrection we celebrate at Easter and whose risen life we share day by day.

With all good wishes for a Happy Easter.

Yours in Christ,
Alan Moses

PARISH NOTES

Father Ivan Aquilina

Father Ivan has been appointed Vicar of St John the Baptist, Sevenoaks. We offer him our congratulations and assure him of our prayers as he prepares for this significant post as the next stage in his ministry. Please remember him and Claudia, Domenico and Maria as they prepare to move to their new home.

Their last day with us will be August 15th — the Feast of the Assumption — when Fr Ivan will celebrate and preach at the High Mass. His institution at Sevenoaks is likely to be on Saturday September 29th, Michaelmas Day.

More information about both events will be published later.

A Boy Bishop

Meanwhile, we were delighted to hear that ecclesiastical preferment had come to another member of the Aquilina family. Domenico was chosen as the “Boy Bishop” at Westminster Cathedral school where he is a pupil. This was on the strength of a sermon he had prepared on St Gregory the Great’s famous remark, “Not Angles but angels”. Vested in cope and mitre and carrying a pastoral staff,

Domenico then had to preach the sermon at the school Mass in the cathedral. Alas, his episcopate lasted only one day and he now joins Bishop Ambrose in the ranks of our retired bishops.

The Chinese New Year coincided this year with the beginning of Lent and a number of us were guests for tea at the Buddhist Temple on Ash Wednesday.

Jack Parsons was baptised by Fr Gerald Reddington on Friday February 23rd.

The marriage of Nick Thomas and Carishma Gillani was blessed at All Saints on Saturday March 17th. The groom is an Anglican and the bride an Ishmaeli Muslim. The service was conducted by Canon Michael Fuller, Principal of the Theological Institute of the Scottish Episcopal Church, an old friend of the groom, assisted by the Vicar.

The Vicar will be in Jerusalem on the Sunday after Easter to represent USPG at the Installation of the Rt Revd Suheil Dawani as the 14th Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem, in St George’s Cathedral.

SEVEN WORDS FROM THE CROSS

The Three Hours’ Devotion, so popular in many Anglican churches on Good Friday, has a curious history. It began in Peru in the 18th Century after an earthquake had devastated Lima. The local Jesuits led a three hour service with sermons on our Lord’s Seven Words from the Cross.

Now that we combine our Three Hours with the Liturgy of the Passion, we have only four sermons, not seven. This has meant that preaching on the Seven Last

Words has not been possible to fit into the Three Hours. This year, we are going to spread them over Holy Week.

Fr Aquilina will preach on the first three at the 6.30 p.m. Mass on Monday to Wednesday; the Vicar on the last four on Good Friday.

The Words are:

1. "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Luke 23: 34
2. "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." Luke 23: 43
3. "Woman, behold your son!"... "Behold, your mother!" John 19: 26, 27
4. "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Matthew 27: 46
5. "I thirst." John 19: 28
6. "It is finished." John 19: 30
7. "Father, into thy hands, I commit my spirit." Luke 23: 46

MUSICAL NOTES

Congratulations to **Paul Brough** and **Andrew Arthur** on their appointments as Principal Conductor and Associate Director, respectively, of the **Hanover Band**, one of the UK's finest period instrument orchestras.

Paul has worked with the orchestra since 2004 and a good many of us from All Saints have enjoyed concerts which he has conducted. He has received critical acclaim from the national press for his revelatory performance of works by Haydn and Mozart. His major engagements with the Band during the forthcoming season include the Haydn Festival in Eisenstadt in Austria on September 11th and the Cadogan Hall on Friday September 14th. Paul was also recently elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music in

recognition of his distinguished service to the music profession.

Andrew Arthur has worked with the Band as a continuo player since 2000, and more recently as director from the keyboard. As well as being assistant organist of All Saints, he is currently Principal Conductor of the Euterpe Baroque Consort based in Antwerp, Musical Director of the Chandos Chamber Choir, (with a concert at All Saints in March) and Orpheus Britannicus.

All Saints is blessed to have musicians of such quality in its service.

Organ Scholarship

The Director of Music and Assistant Organist have recommended to the Vicar that our current Organ Scholar James Grainger be appointed for another year. The Vicar was happy to accept this suggestion and is pleased that James, who has made such a good impression over the last few months, will be with us for longer.

A Christmas Recording

The PCC has agreed to the Director of Music's proposal that a recording be made of the choir singing Christmas music. This is intended to be a more popular item than some of our more specialist recordings and we hope that it will be a popular Christmas present idea. The recording will take place in September.

THE RESTORATION APPEAL

"All Saints is England's most intriguing Victorian church. It has always excited mixed emotions, tucked away, black and austere in an anonymous Westminster

side-street. Yet beneath the grime this stupendous building, erected in 1859 with expense no object, is William Butterfield's masterpiece. Its soaring gables and vaults, its polychrome stone work and internal crescendo to the altar, eagerly await salvation. Above all its colours, to which Butterfield attached both architectural and spiritual importance, lie hidden beneath the dirt of ages. Here is a burst of light lurking behind a wall of darkness. It cries out for release and revelation."

Simon Jenkins

“Easy Like Sunday Evening” was an evening of cabaret by members of the choir. Having heard them sing Evensong, we moved along Margaret Street to the Phoenix Pub. There we enjoyed a repertoire, by turns romantic and comic, which revealed a succession of hidden talents to a large and appreciative audience.

Louisa Ridgeway and James Grainger were the impresarios for the evening as well as performers with other members of the choir. We are grateful to them. The evening raised **£1,400** for the Restoration Appeal.

A concert of verse anthems was given on the afternoon of Sunday March 18th by **The FifteenB Consort**. In verse anthems, as distinct from full anthems or motets, the music alternates between solo voice or voices and the full choir; accompaniment is provided by organ, instruments or both. Solo voices tended to ornament their parts, for expressive effect, with the full choir providing contrast in volume and texture. The form developed in the 17th century and was popular in the Anglican Church until the late 18th century. Some of the items sung are familiar from our own choir's repertoire, while one or two were more modern compositions in the same genre by

the group's director Robert Hughill. Two organ pieces by the American composers Jim Dalton and Ben Kon received their world premieres. The concert raised £400 for the Appeal.

The choir will be back in fund-raising action on Friday May 11th, but in more usual mode, singing selections from the regular repertoire.

We are also preparing an evening event after Easter for people in local businesses.

“God so loved the world”

Our guest preachers at Sunday Evensong in Lent have given us excellent insights into the Church's involvement in a range of issues which are in the news daily: prisons, healthcare, the armed forces, business and education. We are grateful to our visitors for stimulating thought and discussion, both immediately after the service and long after. They have all spoken as practitioners with a real involvement rather than as outside observers. We hope to reproduce their sermons in a booklet after Easter.

The Vicar preached at St George's, Hanover Square, on the First Sunday in Lent on the subject of the Church's unity in a series on the Marks of the Church. He had to rush home immediately after the service for the announcement of Fr Aquilina's appointment.

He was also a guest speaker at a meeting of the Central Barnet Deanery in St Mary's, Finchley. The subject of the debate was Women and the Episcopate. Fr Alan was speaking in favour. On the other side was the Revd David Banting, the Chairman of Reform — an association of conservative evangelicals.

DIARY DATES

Holy Week and Easter 1 - 8 April *Please see notice elsewhere in this issue.*

Tuesday 19 April

7.00 p.m. “You will be my Witness” **An Introduction to the Acts of the Apostles**
by Fr Alan Moses in the Parish Room.

Friday 27 April — *The Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham and All Saints*

6.30 p.m. Low Mass

7.00 p.m. Talk by **Fr Graeme Rowlands: “The Society of Mary - 75 years on”**
Fr Rowlands is the Parish Priest of St Silas, Kentish Town, and Chaplain General of the Society of Mary. All are welcome.

Sunday 29 April

12.45 p.m. **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** *Please see separate notice.*

Thursday 3 May

7.05 p.m. **Holy Hour** led by Fr Ivan Aquilina.

Friday 11 May

7.30 p.m. **GALA CONCERT and WINE RECEPTION** *in aid of the All Saints Restoration Appeal* The Choir of All Saints, Margaret Street directed by Paul Brough with Organist Andrew Arthur.
‘THE ALL SAINTS MUSIC TRADITION’ *Choral and organ music from England, France, Austria and Germany.*
Concert and Reception £20 Advance Tickets, 3 for £50, will go on sale at the beginning of April.

Thursday 17 May Ascension Day

6.30 p.m. **High Mass** *Preacher:* Canon Hugh Palmer, Rector, All Souls, Langham Place

Tuesday 22 May

7.00 p.m. **School of Worship 2006 - 07 — The 1927-28 Prayer Book Controversy**
Mr John Martell, member of the congregation of All Saints.
Held in Church after the 6.30 p.m. Mass.

Thursday 24 May

7.00 p.m. “A Tale of Two Cities” **The Book of Revelation**
by Fr Alan Moses in the Parish Room.

Monday 28 May The National Pilgrimage to Walsingham

A coach will leave from All Saints. See notice elsewhere in this issue.

Friday 1 - Sunday 3 June

Parish Retreat to St Francis House, Hemingford Grey

Conducted by **Canon Donald Gray**, formerly Canon of Westminster Abbey. *Contact Martin Woolley for details on 07976 275383 or at m.g.woolley@btinternet.com*

Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 22 - 29 August

We shall be visiting: Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Bethany, Jericho, Mount Tabor, Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum and Galilee.

We shall have a daily Mass and reflection, walk the Via Dolorosa and sail on the Sea of Galilee and free time for relaxation and private exploration. Total cost is £1,045 sharing. Secure a place by sending a £39 cheque payable to McCabe Pilgrimages to Fr Ivan Aquilina. *More details from Fr Ivan or from the back of Church.*

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, SUNDAY APRIL 29TH 2007

A meeting of parishioners will be held on Sunday April 29th 2007 at 12.45 p.m. in the **Church** at which Churchwardens will be appointed for the year 2007 - 2008. Members of the new Electoral Roll, and residents of the parish on the electoral register are eligible to attend.

Any person wishing to be considered for the post of Churchwarden must be (a) 21 years or over, (b) on the new Electoral Roll and (c) an actual communicant member of the Church of England.

Nominations must be proposed and seconded, and candidates must indicate their willingness to stand. In addition candidates are asked to submit a *short* typed or clearly written statement giving the reasons for their wishing to stand and the benefits they feel they could bring to the post if appointed. Nominations for the post of Churchwarden MAY NOT be made at the meeting.

The Revd L.A. Moses, Vicar

The Annual Parochial Meeting will follow immediately. Only members of the New Electoral Roll are eligible to attend.

At this meeting:

Six members of the laity will be elected to serve on the Parochial Church Council for the years 2007 - 2010. The retiring members of the Council are Miss C. Hodgetts, Mrs L. Lyon, Mr R. Oram, Mr G. Prince, Mr C. Williams and Mr F. Williams. Of these Miss Hodgetts, Mr Oram, Mr Prince and Mr C. Williams are eligible for re-election.

Candidates for election to the Parochial Church Council must (a) be on the new Electoral Roll and been on the old Electoral Roll for at least 6 months, and (b) be actual communicant members of the Church of England.

All nominations must be proposed and seconded by persons on the new Electoral Roll, and all candidates must indicate

their willingness to stand. In addition all candidates are asked to submit a *short* typed or clearly hand-written statement giving their reasons for standing for election.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the Parish Office or the PCC Secretary. Although nominations may be made at the meeting, it is requested that completed forms, together with statements, are returned to the Parish Office by Monday April 16th, to enable the papers for the meeting to be available one week before the Annual Meeting.

Sidesmen for the year 2007 - 2008 will also be appointed.

Dr Dilys Thomas, PCC Secretary

WALSINGHAM – NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE

All Saints will be running a coach again to the Walsingham National Pilgrimage on May 28th (Bank Holiday Monday). The event will include a Concelebrated Mass in the Abbey Grounds, Sermon (Preacher: The Revd Andrew Sloane, Rector of S Paul's, K Street, Washington DC, USA and Honorary Guardian), Procession round the Village, and Benediction in the Shrine Gardens. Those who have been in previous years will tell you that this is a very enjoyable occasion!

The total cost will be about £20 (a little less for children). Further details will appear shortly, but in the meantime please speak to Ross Buchanan (Tel: 020 8696 1331) if you would like to know more or reserve a place on the coach.

SCHOOL OF WORSHIP

The Worship of Wales

For part of the 19th century, the Eucharist and Evensong were celebrated in Welsh as well as English here at All Saints. There is still a Welsh-speaking Baptist chapel in Eastcastle Street. Even now on March 1st, the feast of Dewi Sant, St David, Patron of Wales, the Epistle at the 8.00 a.m. Mass is usually to be heard in the Welsh language — read by our own Dr Michael Duggan.

We had the opportunity to hear much more about the religion and worship of Wales, the people next door, when Michael spoke in our School of Worship series. This was much more than a description of liturgy — but rather a rich tapestry of the life and faith of Wales as seen in the ascetic monasticism of the “Age of Saints”, the preaching, poetry and hymnody and the “Age of Dissent”. We heard of the importance of the Welsh language; of places — whether shrine or chapel, of that singing for which Wales is famous, whether it be in chapel or at Cardiff Arms Park. He spoke of the internal conflict in Welsh religion between a sacramental sense of the presence of God in all things and that austere Puritanism seen in Calvinistic Methodism. Michael’s talk was peppered with quotations in Welsh — followed by the English version for those of us who do not speak “the language of heaven”.

ALL SAINTS, MARGARET STREET, W1
HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2007

PALM SUNDAY, 1 APRIL

10.45 a.m. Liturgy of Palms in Market Place, Procession to Church
and High Mass

Preacher: Fr Ivan Aquilina

6.00 p.m. Solemn Evensong and Solemn Benediction

Preacher: The Vicar

Monday - Wednesday in Holy Week 2, 3 & 4 April

6.30 p.m. Low Mass with Homily — *Seven Words from the Cross*
by Fr Ivan Aquilina

WEDNESDAY 4 APRIL

7.30 p.m. Tenebrae for Maundy Thursday
sung by the Choir of All Saints

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 5 APRIL

6.30 p.m. Concelebrated High Mass of the Lord's Supper
Preacher: Prebendary John Gaskell

GOOD FRIDAY, 6 APRIL

12.00 noon The Preaching of the Passion — *Seven Words from the Cross*
Preacher: The Vicar

1.00 p.m. The Solemn Liturgy
Preacher: The Vicar

6.30 p.m. Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY, 7 APRIL

12.00 noon Liturgy of the Day

9.00 p.m High Mass of the Easter Vigil

EASTER DAY, SUNDAY 8 APRIL

11.00 a.m. Procession, Blessing of the Easter Garden
and High Mass

Preacher: The Vicar

6.00 p.m. Solemn Evensong, Te Deum and Solemn Benediction
Preacher: Fr John W Rick III

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM

A course at St Marylebone Parish Church
beginning on Wednesday April 18th at 7.30 p.m.

Dr Chris Ewer, St Ethelburga Fellow in Christian-Muslim Relations,
will lead his popular course over 10 weeks.

Together we will explore the history, culture, beliefs and practices of Islam.
An opportunity for discussion and reflection upon Islam from a Christian
perspective.

Understanding Islam is free of charge and refreshments will be provided.

Please contact: The Revd Paul Thomas,
St Marylebone Parish Church,
Marylebone Road,
London NW1 5LT.
Tel: 020 7563 1388

There was a flurry of excitement in the media recently, about some ancient graves in Jerusalem which bore the names of Jesus and Mary. The film director James Cameron and some others of an excitable nature leapt to the conclusion that these must be the graves of Jesus and Mary Magdalene, who must have been his wife. Wiser heads pointed out that these were very common names at the time, and no such conclusions could be drawn. As a rule, this kind of story normally surfaces nearer Easter, as is reflected in the Vicar's sermon on Easter Day last year.

THE SERMON PREACHED BY THE VICAR AT HIGH MASS ON EASTER SUNDAY 2006

Those of you who were here last Sunday, may recall that after we had our Palm Sunday procession from Market Place, and heard the Passion being sung, I spoke about "**The Manchester Passion**" which the BBC was putting on and then broadcasting from the streets of that city. This was a recognition of the dramatic power and continuing fascination of the passion story. I quoted a critic from my newspaper — which used to be called the *Manchester Guardian* — who had pointed out some of

the pitfalls of religious musicals.

I was upbraided, quite rightly, by one member of the congregation for being too negative about it. Although I did suggest that people watch it and decide for themselves whether it had succeeded or not.

We did watch it on Friday evening and it was certainly impressive in the number and variety of people it attracted and some

of it had an effectively contemporary feel to it — Judas breaking off from the Last Supper for a mobile phone conversation with the high priest, Jesus being thrown into the back of a van by police in riot gear; the orange Guantanamo suit in which Jesus was arrayed after his arrest, the crowd's big brother style vote between him and Barabbas.

I have to say I remain unconvinced about the spiritual value of the items of Mancunian pop music used. Even the *Guardian* described the songs as “miserable”. Perhaps I am just too prejudiced, having grown up in an era when popular music came from Liverpool or Detroit or Nashville or California, but certainly not from Manchester.

At the end of the production, Jesus reappears, to applause, in a blaze of light on top of the City Hall in Albert Square. This, while very dramatic, and probably necessary given the scale of the setting, was one bit that struck me as not true to the Gospel versions.

All the Gospel accounts of the resurrection are in fact marked by dramatic understatement — given the nature of what they say has happened. The evangelists, it has been said, get to the climax of their story, “**only to whisper**”. Mark, whose version we heard at the Vigil last night, famously ends with silent, terrified women fleeing the tomb. Others found this so unsatisfactory an ending, that they wrote another one, which then became part of the canonical Gospel. The other Gospels say rather more, but even so the stories are remarkably common

and mundane.

- A stranger walks up from behind the disciples on the road to Emmaus and casually inquires “**What are you talking about; What’s the matter?**” A man Mary Magdalene thinks to be the gardener stands behind her and asks, “**Why are you crying?**”.
- On the lakeshore of Galilee, a man shouts to fishermen, “**Friends, have you caught anything?**”.

Jesus is not recognised in spectacular blazes of light but in doing or saying something the disciples have known before.

- The way he broke the bread gave him away at Emmaus.
- The tone of his voice when he called Mary by her name is what causes her to turn round in astonished recognition of the one she thought dead and now stolen away.
- The voice which had once called fishermen from their nets to be fishers of men, calling them once more.

It is worth reminding ourselves that the New Testament offers us no account, no description of the act of the resurrection of Jesus; only of its consequences. No one saw him rise from the tomb — although artists like Fra Angelico and Matthias Grunewald and William Blake have tried to show it. By the time Mary Magdalene gets to the tomb it has already happened. What we are given are reports of the empty

tomb and appearances to the disciples of the risen Christ.

There has been some excitement in the papers over the last few days about an ancient Coptic document called “**The Gospel of Judas**”. This is the kind of story which breaks out every now and then, especially around Christmas or Easter, about some document or other which was not included in the New Testament; which we are told will revolutionise our view of what happened, or disprove the traditional line. Conspiracy theorists speculate that it was deliberately suppressed by the Church because it undermined its teaching.

Mary Magdalene features greatly in such stories, not least in the far-fetched but highly profitable nonsense of “**The Da Vinci Code**” and “**The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail**” — recently fought over in our courts. All that stuff about Jesus not really dying on the cross but reviving to marry Mary Magdalene and raise a family whose descendants would be the kings of France, the Holy Grail and the Knights Templar, may be a money spinner but it certainly demonstrates the truth of what G.K. Chesterton said years ago: “**When people stop believing in God, it does not mean that they believe nothing, but that they will believe anything.**”

Much of this stuff arises from the mediæval confusion of the Mary Magdalene with the woman of the city who anoints the feet of Jesus in the house of Simon the Leper. So Mary Magdalene is seen as a reformed hooker — something almost guaranteed to set the pulse of a tabloid journalist racing. What the Gospels

actually say about Mary of Magdala is that Jesus had healed her of seven demons and that she had become one of those women we call the faithful companions who accompanied him during his ministry. Not so exciting perhaps, but in reality more significant because out of that faithful companionship, faithful beyond death and the grave, Mary Magdalene had stood by him at the cross and now she becomes the first witness of the resurrection.

In fact, the New Testament writers are very restrained in their use of resurrection stories and the Church Fathers who decided on the canon of scripture followed them in this. Unlike some of the non-canonical accounts that have the risen Christ appear to passers by — the disinterested and the unbelieving — in order to overwhelm them and coerce faith, in the Gospels Jesus appears only to believers to restore and confirm the faith of his followers. All these other so-called Gospels were left out because they were full of fanciful fictions which sought merely to dazzle people by wonder-working. They did not have the ring of truth about them.

The two stories in our Gospel today — that of Mary Magdalene and the other of Peter and the Beloved Disciple, focus on the responses of some of the original disciples to the resurrection.

The response of Mary Magdalene is interwoven with that of Simon Peter and “the beloved disciple”. The writer is able to show how faith in Christ’s resurrection was generated in different ways. In the case of Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved, it is that un-named disciple who is

first to the tomb and first to believe. Even though they did not yet understand the scriptures concerning the resurrection, this disciple believed. With no evidence but the empty tomb and the folded grave cloths, this disciple was so close to Jesus that his faith did not need the support of vision and voice.

Mary Magdalene, on the other hand, represents faith formed another way. The empty tomb, rather than even hinting at resurrection, made things seem even worse, with the thought of Jesus' body being stolen. Even the appearance of two angels does not break her sorrow. The voice and appearance of Jesus do not at first stir her to belief. Only when he speaks her name — (he is, for John's Gospel, the Good Shepherd who knows his own and is known by them; they listen to his voice and follow him) — does she believe. Unlike the beloved disciple, Mary comes to faith through the word of Christ, and by that word she must be directed and sustained.

Mary Magdalene cannot resume her old relationship with her Lord. This is Jesus to be sure, the risen Christ is none other than the crucified Jesus, but the ministry of the historical Jesus is over. Now begins the ministry of the glorified Jesus who relates to his followers by giving them the Spirit who **“will abide with them forever”**. So Jesus says to Mary, **“Do not hold on to me”**. She and the disciples and the Church are not to long for the way it was or wish

to return to some past relationship with Jesus Christ. Rather, they and we, are to believe his word: it is best for you that I go away. **“If I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you.”**; the Spirit will not leave as he is leaving but will live with you forever, **“because I go to the Father, greater works than I have done you will do.”**

Not everyone takes the same path to faith in the risen Christ, and we should not give people the impression that one is correct and others not. Some respond to a word, others to evidence, and others to a relationship. But whatever the path, and whether sudden or slow, faith removes the distance between the first Easter and our own. We have believed because that Spirit of God enables us to hear Jesus speaking to us; perhaps in the darkness of our despair, on the weary road of disappointed hopes; perhaps in our quest for meaning and truth, beauty and love; perhaps because that same Spirit has drawn us into such a relationship with the risen Christ and his disciples that we can do no other but believe.

In our Easter Eucharist this morning, through the work of the Spirit, we hear Jesus speaking to us, speaking our name, as he spoke to Mary, we hear him commissioning us to tell others, we know him in the breaking of the bread, we hear him calling us to be disciples who are sent out to spread the Good News.

GALA CONCERT
and
WINE RECEPTION
in aid of the
All Saints Restoration Appeal

The Choir of All Saints, Margaret Street
directed by Paul Brough
with Organist Andrew Arthur

‘The All Saints Music Tradition’
*Choral and organ music from England,
France, Austria and Germany*

Friday 11 May 2007
at 7.30 p.m.

Concert and Reception £20
*Advance tickets, 3 for £50, will go on sale
at the beginning of April*

100 YEARS AGO

From the Parish Paper April 1907:

Good Friday Out-door Service

There will be an outdoor service on Good Friday at 7.30 p.m. The clergy, accompanied by the servers who will form the choir, will leave the church at 7.30 p.m. Hymns will be sung and short addresses delivered at the appointed stopping places. It is hoped that many members of the congregation will take their part in this effort, by coming to the church and starting with the clergy and choir at half-past seven. Already the undertaking has received much encouragement, and we look forward to the opportunity of proclaiming the Saviour's love to those who as yet have but very imperfectly learnt what Good Friday really means. We venture to hope that many of the congregation will afford us the support of their presence — and that many more will be led to offer up intercessions — that the word thus spoken may not be in vain. The procession will return to All Saints in time for the Special Service and Mission Sermon at 8.30 p.m.

SUNDAYS AND SOLEMNITIES MUSIC AND READINGS

● SUNDAY 1 APRIL PALM SUNDAY

LITURGY OF PALMS IN MARKET PLACE, PROCESSION TO CHURCH AND HIGH MASS AT 10.45 a.m.

At the start of the Liturgy of Palms:

Hosanna Filio David! — Vale

Palm Gospel: Luke 19: 28 - 40

Blessing of Palms: Pueri Hebræorum

— Palestrina

Processional Hymns:

509, 511, Lift high the Cross

Introit: Domine, ne longe

Mass: Mass in B — Rachmaninov

Lessons: Isaiah 50: 4 - 9a

Psalm 31

Philippians 2: 5 - 11

Hymn: 155 (T 117)

Gospel: The Passion according to St Luke

Preacher: Fr Ivan Aquilina

Anthem: God so loved the world

— Stainer

Hymns: 85, 87 (T 486), 86 (omit *)

SOLEMN EVENSONG

at 6.00 p.m.

Psalm: 69: 1 - 20

Lessons: Isaiah 5: 1 - 7

Luke 20: 9 - 19

Office Hymn: 79

Canticles: Service in B flat

— Rachmaninov

Anthem: Miserere mei, Deus — Allegri

Preacher: The Vicar

Hymn: 90

SOLEMN BENEDICTION

O Salutaris: Rachmaninov

Hymn: 96

Tantum Ergo: Rachmaninov

WEDNESDAY 4 APRIL

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

TENEBRAE at 7.30 p.m.

The Offices of Mattins and Lauds for Maundy Thursday with music by Viadana, Victoria, Anerio and Lassus.

THURSDAY 5 APRIL MAUNDY THURSDAY

HIGH MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER at 6.30 p.m.

Introit: Nos autem

Mass: Missa 'Pange lingua'
— Josquin

Lessons: Exodus 12: 1 - 4, 11 - 14
Psalm 116
1 Corinthians 11: 23 - 26

Hymn: 270

Gospel: John 13: 1 - 17, 31b - 35

Preacher: Prebendary John Gaskell

At the washing of feet:

A new commandment
After the Lord had risen from
supper — plainsong
Ubi caritas — Duruflé

Anthem: Christus factus est — Bruckner

Hymns: 302, 311 (T A&MR 401)

Post Communion Motet:

Ave verum corpus — Byrd

At the Procession to the Altar of Repose:
268 (R)

Gospel of the Watch:

Mark 14: 26 - end

● FRIDAY 6 APRIL GOOD FRIDAY

**The Preaching of the Passion Seven
Words from the Cross by the Vicar
at 12.00 p.m.**

THE SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE PASSION at 1.00 p.m.

Lessons: Isaiah 52: 13 - 53: end
Psalm 22: 1 - 11
Hebrews 10: 16 - 25

Hymn: 94 (T 76)

Gospel: The Passion according
to St John

Preacher: The Vicar

At the Veneration:

The Reproaches — Palestrina
Crux Fidelis
Hymn 95, 79 (Choir)

Hymns: 83, 89 (i), 97

Communion Motet:
Crucifixus — Lotti

SATURDAY 7 APRIL HOLY SATURDAY

HIGH MASS OF THE EASTER VIGIL at 9.00 p.m.

Mass: Mariazellermesse — Haydn

Liturgy of the Word:

Genesis 1: 1 - 2: 4a; Psalm 136
Genesis 22: 1 - 18; Psalm 16
Exodus 14: 10 - 31, 15: 20 - 21
Canticle of Moses, Exodus 15
Isaiah 55: 1 - 11; Canticle
Isaiah 12: 2 - 6
Ezekiel 36: 24 - 28; Psalm 42
Romans 6: 3 - 11

Hymn: The Easter Alleluyas, 119

Gospel: Luke 24: 1 - 12

The Litany: Litany of Thanksgiving for
the Resurrection (arr Kitchen)

Offertory Hymn: 296 (i)

Hymns: 102, 113

Post Communion Chant:

Pascha Nostrum

Hymn: 124

Voluntary: Victimæ Paschali Laudes
— Tournemire

● **SUNDAY 8 APRIL**
EASTER DAY

**PROCESSION, BLESSING OF
EASTER GARDEN AND HIGH
MASS AT 11.00 a.m.**

Processional: Hail, Festal Day; 119

Introit: Resurrexi

Mass: Missa Brevis in F — Mozart

Lessons: Acts 10: 34 - 43

Psalm 118

1 Corinthians 15: 19 - 26

Hymn: 110 (v 3 Descant — Benson)

Gospel: John 20: 1 - 18

Preacher: The Vicar

At the Procession to the Font:

Litany of Thanksgiving for
the Resurrection (arr Kitchen)

Anthem: Alleluia — Randall Thompson

Hymns: 115, 123, 120

Voluntary: Toccata (5th Symphony)

— Widor

**SOLEMN EVENSONG
at 6.00 p.m.**

Psalm: 105

Lessons: Isaiah 43: 1 - 21

John 20: 19 - 23

Office Hymn: 101 (omit *)

Canticles: Service in C — Stanford

Anthem: Haec dies — Byrd

Preacher: Fr John Rick III

Hymn: 117

SOLEMN BENEDICTION

O Salutaris: French Chant

Te Deum: Solemn Tone

Tantum Ergo: Henschel

Voluntary: Improvisation on 'Deo
Gratias, Alleluia'

— Paul Brough

● **SUNDAY 15 APRIL**
EASTER 2

HIGH MASS AT 11.00 a.m.

Entrance Hymn: 106 (T 219; v 4 Descant
— Caplin)

Introit: Quasi modo

Mass: Jugendemesse — Haydn

Lessons: Acts 5: 27 - 32

Psalm 118

Revelation 1: 4 - 8

Hymn: 125 (omit *)

Gospel: John 20: 19 - 31

Preacher: Fr Ivan Aquilina

Creed: Credo III

Anthem: Laudibus in Sanctis — Byrd

Hymns: 389, 121, 173 (T 265)

Voluntary: Christ lag in Todesbanden

— Böhm

**SOLEMN EVENSONG
at 6.00 p.m.**

Psalm: 16

Lessons: Isaiah 52: 13 - 53: 12

Luke 24: 13 - 35

Office Hymn: 101 (omit*)

Canticles: Service in G — Stanford

Anthem: Ye choirs of new Jerusalem

— Stanford

Preacher: Fr Neil Bunker

Hymn: 104

BENEDICTION

O Salutaris: Lloyd Webber

Hymn: 118

Tantum Ergo: Lloyd Webber

Voluntary: Adagio in E — Bridge

● **SUNDAY 22 APRIL**
EASTER 3

Entrance Hymn: 351

Introit: Misericordia Domini

Mass: Missa 'Princeps Pacis'
— Lloyd Webber

Lessons: Acts 9: 1 - 6
Psalm 30
Revelation 5: 11 - end

Hymn: 349

Gospel: John 21: 1 - 19

Preacher: Fr Ivan Aquilina

Creed: Credo II

Anthem: Blessed be the God and
Father — Wesley

Hymns: 113, 115, 476

Voluntary: Toccata in Seven
— John Rutter

SOLEMN EVENSONG
at 6.00 p.m.

Psalm: 86

Lessons: Isaiah 38: 9 - 20
John 11: 27 - 44

Office Hymn: 101 (omit *)

Canticles: Service in F — Dyson

Anthem: Christus resurgens
— Richauffort

Preacher: The Vicar

Hymn: 112

BENEDICTION

O Salutaris: Nicholson

Hymn: 105 (i)

Tantum Ergo: Nicholson

Voluntary: Sonata in G — Haydn

● **SUNDAY 29 APRIL**
EASTER 4

HIGH MASS AT 11.00 a.m.

Entrance Hymn: 271

Introit: Jubilate Deo

Mass: Missa 'Bell' Amfitrit' altera'
— Lassus

Lessons: Acts 9: 36 - end
Psalm 23
Revelation 7: 9 - end

Hymn: 231

Gospel: John 10: 22 - 30

Preacher: The Vicar

Anthem: Surrexit pastor bonus
— Lheritier

Hymns: 282, 227 (T 184), 381
(V 4 Descant — Caplin)

Voluntary: Nun freut euch lieben
Christen gemein
— Buxtehude

SOLEMN EVENSONG
at 6.00 p.m.

Psalms: 113, 114

Lessons: Isaiah 63: 7 - 14
Luke 24: 36 - 39

Office Hymn: 101 (omit *)

Canticles: Second Service — Byrd

Anthem: Geistliches Lied — Brahms

Preacher: Fr Ivan Aquilina

Hymn: 415 (T 346)

BENEDICTION

O Salutaris: French Chant

Hymn: 102

Tantum Ergo: Duruflé

Voluntary: Concerto in D minor
(Adagio and Presto)
— Bach, after Marcello

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All matters relating to Stewardship should be addressed to the Stewardship Administrator, Mr Dennis Davis, c/o All Saints Vicarage, 7, Margaret Street, London W1W 8JG

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS

The Friends support the work of this centre of Christian witness and worship, teaching and spiritual counsel, through their prayers, their financial help and their concern.

Please write for further information to The Friends' Secretary at the address below.

PARISH ORGANISATIONS

Please write c/o

The Vicarage, 7, Margaret Street,
London W1W 8JG

www.allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk

All Saints Church Marylebone Choir and Music Trust Fund

c/o The Vicarage

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STAFF

Vicar:

The Revd Alan Moses 020 7636 1788 / 9961

Assistant Priest:

The Revd Ivan Aquilina 020 7636 1788

Honorary Assistant Priests:

The Revd Neil Bunker

The Revd Preb John Gaskell 020 7436 3287

The Revd John W. Rick III 020 7637 9367

Parish Administrator:

Mr Dennis Davis 020 7636 1788 / 9961

Fax: 020 7436 4470

e-mail: AStsMgtSt@aol.com

Sundays Low Mass at 6.30 p.m. (Sat), 8.00 a.m. and 5.15 p.m. Morning Prayer 10.20 a.m. HIGH MASS and SERMON at 11.00 a.m. SOLEMN EVENSONG, SERMON and BENEDICTION at 6.00 p.m.

Monday to Friday Morning Prayer at 7.30 a.m. Low Mass at 8.00 a.m., 1.10 p.m. & 6.30 p.m. Confessions from 12.30 - 1.00 p.m. & 5.30 p.m. Evening Prayer at 6.00 p.m.

Saturday Morning Prayer at 7.30 a.m.

Low Mass at 8.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.*

(* First Mass of Sunday)

Confessions 5.30 p.m.,

Evening Prayer 6.00 p.m.

Confessions are also heard by appointment

020 7636 1788

Instruction in the catholic faith as taught by the Church of England can be obtained on application to any of the priests, who will also give help in preparing for the sacraments.

PARISH OFFICIALS

Churchwardens:

Mr John Forde 020 7592 9855

Mr Christopher Self 020 8858 6370

PCC Secretary:

Dr Dilys Thomas 020 7794 3626

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CALENDAR AND INTENTIONS FOR APRIL 2007

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 ✘ PALM SUNDAY | OUR PARISH AND PEOPLE |
| 2 MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK | Persecuted Christians |
| 3 TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK | Renewal in witness |
| 4 WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK | World Peace |
| 5 MAUNDY THURSDAY | Thanksgiving for the Eucharist |
| 6 ✘ GOOD FRIDAY | The needs of the world |
| 7 HOLY SATURDAY | Preparation for Easter |
| 8 ✘ EASTER DAY | OUR PARISH AND PEOPLE |
| 9 MONDAY OF EASTER WEEK | Thanksgiving for the Resurrection |
| 10 TUESDAY OF EASTER WEEK | Thanksgiving for the Resurrection |
| 11 WEDNESDAY OF EASTER WEEK | Friends of All Saints |
| 12 THURSDAY OF EASTER WEEK | Thanksgiving for the Resurrection |
| 13 FRIDAY OF EASTER WEEK | Those in need |
| 14 SATURDAY OF EASTER WEEK | Thanksgiving for the Resurrection |
| 15 ✘ THE 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER | OUR PARISH AND PEOPLE |
| 16 <i>Isabella Gilmore, Deaconess</i> | Parochial Church Council |
| 17 | The unemployed |
| 18 | The homeless |
| 19 St Alphege | Unity |
| 20 | Those in need |
| 21 St Anselm | Those to be married |
| 22 ✘ THE 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER | OUR PARISH AND PEOPLE |
| 23 ST GEORGE, PATRON OF ENGLAND | The people of England |
| 24 <i>Mellitus, Bishop of London</i> | Diocese of London |
| 25 ST MARK THE EVANGELIST | Our witness to the Faith |
| 26 | Unity |
| 27 <i>Christina Rosseti, Poet</i> | Those in need |
| 28 <i>Peter Chanel, Missionary</i> | USPG |
| 29 ✘ THE 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER | OUR PARISH AND PEOPLE |
| 30 <i>Pandita Mary Ramabai</i> | Translators of the Scriptures |

Please note:

All Friday Masses are 'for those in need' — intercessions from the board inside church are used on these days.



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