



All Saints Parish Paper

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VICAR'S LETTER

On Palm Sunday we prayed in the liturgy for “those who still make Jerusalem a battleground”. At the moment it seems that not only Jerusalem but much of the Middle East is a battleground and that the conflict there has reached new levels of ferocity and cruelty with the rise of the Islamic State with its exultation in extreme violence against all whom they consider “infidels”. This group includes many of their fellow-Muslims as well as Christians, Jews and members of other faiths. Women and girls of other faiths are abducted and sold into sexual slavery; something we have been reminded of on the anniversary of the abduction of over 200 schoolgirls in Nigeria. This puritanical form of Islam brings with it too the deliberate destruction of thousands of years of cultural heritage; of anything which is considered idolatrous.

The influence of this horrific creed reaches into our own society. Propaganda on the internet is drawing impressionable young people from the Muslim community here to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State.

The plight of Christians in the Middle East was the subject of a recent BBC documentary. Its presenter Jane Corbin visited Christian communities in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine. She interviewed an Iraqi Christian priest who had been



*Pilgrims walking to St Columba's Bay,
Iona — April 2015*

(See page 5)

Photo: Andrew Prior

kidnapped and tortured, a Syrian Christian woman whose town had been overrun and devastated by Islamic State forces, a Syrian Jesuit priest heading a programme which feeds five thousand refugees a day; most of them Muslims. An Armenian lady spoke of the destruction visited on her community a century ago by the Turks in what Pope Francis, to the annoyance of the present Turkish government, has called an act of genocide. We heard of the perilous and precarious situation of many of them. Some were determined to stay. Others felt

that there is no future for them and their children in their ancient homelands and seek to join the exodus of Christians from the Middle East.

A young Iraqi Christian girl, living with her family in an ancient monastery a few miles from the nearest Islamist positions, clearly knew of her likely fate if she were ever to fall into their hands. Not only was she determined not to renounce her faith but she also prayed for the enemies of her people, that their hearts might be changed. Another of those Jane Corbin interviewed was a delightful Maronite hermit who lives in a cave in the Lebanese mountains. He has no radio or television and spends fourteen hours a day in prayer; in part because he receives a constant stream of requests for intercession.

Together with many other Christians, here at All Saints, we pray often for our fellow-Christians in the Middle East, and for those who suffer persecution elsewhere in the world. We have supported a young Iraqi Christian organist **Carl Bahoshy**, who lives in London, in his tireless campaign to raise funds for displaced Christians in his family's homeland. We hope that he will be able to return to All Saints to give another recital later this year. Our own Cedric Stephens has been the driving force behind a resolution supported by the Deanery Synod which calls on our own government to provide assistance and asylum for persecuted Christians from the region. I hope that this will be debated at the next meeting of our Diocesan Synod.

Yvonne Craig, who in spite of her 90 years is one of our most indefatigable interceders, has suggested that, as well as our regular Thursday Unity Candle and the one which burns for the Friends

of All Saints each month, we might have one for persecuted Christians. So, we will now have such a candle which will burn each Friday in our house of prayer. I hope it will draw more people into this work of intercession; both regulars and visitors.

Part of the richness of All Saints comes from the fact that people who worship here on Sundays and weekdays come from far and wide. This should not mean that our rôle as a parish church, with responsibility for the people of our district, both residents and workers, is forgotten.

On 6 February 2015, the **Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Forum** (FitzWest in shorthand) was designated a Neighbourhood Forum by Westminster City Council. Already over 200 local people, businesses and organisations have joined.

The Inaugural Forum was held on 14 April at the University of Westminster Building in New Cavendish Street, and was attended by the Vicar, Cedric Stephens and Jean Fairweather.

The diversity of people and activities, the mix of housing, small shops and independent businesses, in this area is under threat. The Forum will provide a place for discussion of issues like pressure for development, affordable housing, independent businesses, the state of streets and squares, traffic, parking, deliveries, cycling and walking, rubbish collection, greening the area, night time uses, culture and leisure. It is hoped that it will be more than a talking shop but will be able to influence the Council's decisions on these issues.

Yours in Christ,
Alan Moses

THE RESTORATION PROGRAMME

Like Christians who live between the first coming of Christ and his second, we are at an ‘in-between’ stage on the Restoration Programme. The electricians have completed their work on the re-wiring and left us during Easter Week. We await the arrival of the glass fittings for the pendant lights and until they arrive the whole system cannot be commissioned. That will probably have to wait now until the autumn when we can test the system in darkness as well as daylight. The fire alarm system will have been commissioned by the time you read this. On the fund-raising front, there has been further excellent progress since we reported last month. **The total raised has now reached £405,220, reducing our reliance on loans from the All Saints’ Foundation and the All Saints’ Club to £1,780.** We await the final invoices to confirm that the project has stayed within the revised target figure of £372,000 to ensure that the loans needed are as low as this figure suggests. We are very grateful to all donors for their generous support for this much-needed phase of work, which has already reduced our annual insurance premiums and should reduce use of electricity in the years to come.

CCTV

Last month, I spoke too soon about the value of CCTV in preventing thefts. Shortly afterwards, while everyone was too busy doing other things to keep an eye on the monitor, a thief came into church and waited until everyone had left. He then spent some time “dipping” for coins in the votive candle box at the statue of Our Lady, and then bolted the church door so that, undisturbed, he could wrestle with the collecting box by the door until he had

detached it from its concrete mooring in the heating grill. Having failed to open it, he wrapped it in some clothing abandoned by a homeless person and carried it out. He seems to have been blissfully unaware that the whole business was being recorded on CCTV. We called the police who viewed the footage and took away a copy to distribute the thief’s photo. So far we have had no news of an arrest being made.

By the standards of the recent “heist” at Hatton Garden, this is of course pretty small beer, but annoying all the same.

PARISH NOTES

Holy Week got off to a wet start. The rain on the morning of Palm Sunday was so heavy that the outdoor procession had to be moved indoors. This was a disappointment, especially given the huge amount of preparatory organisation done by Cedric Stephens and his team.

The liturgy was, however, as beautiful and moving as we could have hoped, and this was so for the whole week. With the exception of Tenebræ, which seemed rather down this year, attendance at the liturgies was good and our request for more people to sign up for the Watch of the Passion on Maundy Thursday had a good response.

Holy Week is a time when a huge amount of preparation goes on behind the scenes and when it would be very easy for people to get flustered and cross under pressure if things go wrong or missing. We are blessed in this not being the case here and the calm and efficiency of servers, sacristan, musicians, flower arrangers and Easter gardeners, sidespeople and the catering team, makes a major contribution to the calm and devotional way the liturgy is celebrated;

something for which a number of visitors expressed their appreciation. Someone who worships with us sometimes on weekdays, came to the Triduum services for the first time. He described the Easter Vigil as “the most moving service I have ever attended”.

It was good to have **Fr David Paton** back with us for Holy Week and Easter from his retirement in France. As well as assisting at the altar and in the confessional, he visited **Yvonne Harland** in her nursing home and gave her Easter Communion. His many friends were pleased to see **Philip** who was able to get to church on Easter Day.

From even further afield, from Ohio, we welcomed **Dr Alan Kimborough**, one of our regular transatlantic migrants.

Another regular visitor is **Caroline Farrer** from Oxford. This year, her birthday coincided with Easter Day, so we were able to congratulate her after High Mass.

Fr Julian Browning was absent from our ranks because he was preaching Holy Week at St James’s, Sussex Gardens, in Paddington.

Fr Barry Orford, who has joined our weekday liturgical team, and assisted at High Mass on Low Sunday, was also preaching Holy Week elsewhere: at St George’s in Paris.

Our faithful friend **Fr Neil Bunker** has often helped us out in time of need. We are seeing much less of him at the moment because, in addition to his duties as Mental Health Liaison Priest for Westminster — something which is supposed to be a part-time post but isn’t — the Bishop of London has asked him to be interim priest-in-charge of St Mary’s, Bourne Street, for a year. Again, this is supposed to be a part-time rôle. Please remember him and his work in

your prayers.

Our neighbour at St Anne’s, Soho, **Fr Simon Buckley**, who also assists at our altar on occasions, was instituted as Rector of the parish by the Bishop of London on 23 March. This was in recognition of the work he has done in rebuilding the life of St Anne’s and its links with the Soho community after a difficult time in the parish’s history. Fr Michael represented All Saints at the service.

All Saints was well-represented at the Annunciation on its Feast Day. Our support for the Annunciation and St Cyprian’s also take longer-term forms. The clergy meet regularly. Fr Gerald, in spite of a gruelling schedule, is with us at Evensong most Sundays. Fr Alan celebrated and preached at the Annunciation on the Fifth Sunday in Lent and helps with the school Mass at Hampden Gurney, the parish school, most weeks. This supportive relationship is not limited to the clergy. **Stuart Voy** and **Quentin Williams**, two of our servers, are responsible for keeping the Annunciation open during the week. **Jasmine** and **Martin Cullingford** help with the huge Sunday School — up to a hundred children. **Andrew Prior** serves as a governor of Hampden Gurney. Members of all three parishes took part in the pilgrimage to Iona led by Fr Gerald in Easter Week. You can read more about that elsewhere in this issue.

Congratulations to **Yvonne Craig** on her 90th birthday which was on Good Friday.

Also celebrating a significant anniversary that day was our friend **Fr Larry Milbie** who used to be at the Church of the Assumption in Warwick Street and was a regular at Sunday Evensong. He now resides and assists at St John’s, Islington, and cannot be with us so easily. He was at Evensong

on Easter Day and told Fr Alan that Good Friday had been the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. He was going on holiday to Innsbruck where he had been at seminary for a proper celebration after Easter.

And more good news from our Choir — Richard Smith (bass) and his wife Nicola have announced that they expect their first child in October. Competition for Louisa Green (soprano) expecting her second child in the Autumn. And another baby to join those of recent years to Kate Ashby, Mark Bushby and Jenny Snapes.

FRIENDS OF THE DIOCESE OF MASASI

Members of the Friends came together at All Saints on Tuesday 14 April to meet the new bishop of the diocese: **The Rt Revd James Almasi** and his wife **Veronica**. The meeting was hosted by Jean Castledine, assisted by David Craig, both former missionaries in the diocese, and attended by His Excellency the High Commissioner for Tanzania, Peter Kallaghe. The group attended the lunchtime Mass and Bishop James gave the blessing in Swahili.

(David's full report can be found on page 7.)

LOOKING AHEAD

Ascension Day (14 May) — Our preacher at High Mass will be **Fr Sean Mullen**, Rector of St Mark's, Philadelphia.

Poetry Tea — the next date for this popular and regular event is Sunday 31 May, 3pm at Pamela's House. The theme of the afternoon is *Light*. Tickets sold in aid of the All Saints' Restoration Appeal.

Corpus Christi: High Mass and Outdoor Procession of the Blessed Sacrament. Our

preacher this year will be our good friend **The Revd Dr Peter Groves**, Vicar of St Mary Magdalene, Oxford.

CHANGE IN TIMETABLE

One of All Saints' contributions to the wider Church is our programme of daily worship. Many people, from far and wide, have our timetable imprinted in their memory banks, so we are hesitant about altering it.

However, it has become clear that our Saturday routine needs revision. The Mass at 8am is very thinly attended. If our assistant priest is away, the Vicar normally has to cover it even though Saturday is his day off. It's not easy to get priests from other parishes to come here for 7am on Saturday morning, and not fair to ask them to do it for such tiny numbers. So, we are going to move the **Saturday Mass to 12noon**, in the hope that this will be a more convenient hour for people coming into town, or to church to do various jobs. The church will still open at 7am and Morning Prayer will be at 7.30am. The 6.30pm Mass on Saturday is the first Mass of Sunday. **AM**

MIXED PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO IONA

A cheerful group of eighteen, drawn from the congregations of the Annunciation, St Cyprian's and All Saints, spent a very beneficial week in Iona. We were blessed with exceptionally good weather, comfortable accommodation and the excellent direction of Father Gerald Beauchamp. For many, it was a first visit and hopefully will not be the last. We have returned, renewed, refreshed and deeply grateful to Father Gerald for organising the week.

Reflections from several participants give

a flavour of the unique atmosphere of the refreshing week:

“Thank YOU, Father Gerald, for providing just the right balance of structured choice and free time. You led with a light touch and this was much appreciated by many of us. It was a particularly nice group of people, both pilgrims and Bishop’s House staff. (Why should this be surprising?!) The setting was beautiful. We laughed a lot, felt blessed by the glorious weather, and drank copious amounts of wine (the bottles at the evening meal multiplied by the day). The experience somehow managed to be profound — Gospel stories, human stories — and yet also FUN. On the last evening, as we all gathered in the lounge for a final time, the person next to me said ‘This is like an Agatha Christie novel. The murderer is about to be revealed!’ The difference is that the week on Iona was about Resurrection, not death.”

“The day before departure we gathered in the dining room at Bishop’s House for Fr Gerald’s final announcements. It would be an early start. With Mass at 8am there would be no time for breakfast before the nine o’clock ferry. A murmur ran around the room. We expressed our thanks to the wonderful staff who looked after us so well during the week and took advantage of the opportunity to make a donation to the bright little chapel, kept welcoming and warm for Mass and Prayers and Compline, even when the heating failed. The murmur echoed. We voiced our appreciation for the miraculous weather which allowed us to explore Iona and neighbouring Staffa, with its breathtaking Fingal’s cave (and sightings of puffins and seals ‘en route’), as if in a

dream. Again the murmur. We shared our last minute purchases from the colourful craft shop, the striking silversmiths and the potter’s gallery nestled below the sight line of the sculpture of the Fallen Christ. More murmuring. We swapped marble pebbles collected from St Columba’s bay, shook hands and smiled with the joy of friendship and thanked Fr Gerald for all his efforts on our behalf. Finally someone gave voice to the murmur. ‘On our last day — couldn’t we skip Mass instead of breakfast?’”
[Editor: I am sure you will be relieved to hear that the solution to this conundrum was for breakfast to be rescheduled at 7.15am, with Mass as usual at 8am and everyone caught the ferry with luggage intact at 9am.]

“After the wildness of the scenery on the way to Oban, and across Mull, Iona seemed homely by comparison, not what I was expecting, but perhaps the weather made all the difference!

“Blessings and happy memories.”

The collective feeling is that after such a successful 2015 Pilgrimage, we would be very keen to do something again in 2017 — the conversation to continue with Fr Gerald about where and when.

WALSINGHAM NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE takes place this year on Monday 25 May. The Coach leaves All Saints at 7.30am. Concelebrated Mass in the Abbey Grounds at 12 noon followed by Procession, Sermon and Benediction. Preacher: Very Revd John Hall, Dean of Westminster. Cost about £20. ***Please contact Ross Buchanan (Tel: 020 7221 1312) if you would like to secure a place on the coach or would like to know more.***

FAMILY CELEBRATION OF 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARRIAGE

Fr Michael Bowie met and welcomed some thirty-five members of the Peatfield family who gathered in Church and then drank champagne and ate canapés (before lunch elsewhere) to mark a very special occasion. 100 years before in that same week, their ancestors Dr Edward Wilson Hall (Ted) and Annie Maud McCallum (Bobby) were married on 15 April 1915 at All Saints, Margaret Street. Ted lodged at the time at 16 Margaret Street. A delightful booklet was prepared by the event organisers — Susan and Richard Peatfield — including a photograph of the marriage register.



and Sea View, the booklet also included family archive photographs of Bobby and Ted’s children and grandchildren and a group photo taken at their Ruby Wedding in 1955. Bobby was a doctor and there were many more medics among her descendants at the recent family reunion.

Susan Peatfield wrote afterwards: *The occasion was wonderful. All went very smoothly and it clearly meant a great deal to the whole family to be back in the place “where it all started”.*

MASASI DAY 2015

Set in the south of Tanzania, between the Rufiji and Rovuma rivers bordering Mozambique, Masasi was notorious for its inaccessibility — cut off from the capital Dar es Salaam for the entire wet season, a bus journey from the capital was only possible in the dry season and even then could take two days, but the recent development of offshore oil and gas with its accompanying industrial development has transformed what was once a remote province into a bustling, lively centre of

developing industries. Familiar in the past as the place to which government servants were sent as a penance for misdeeds elsewhere in Tanzania, it now has a shining new image. (On my first visit, an air hostess asked what I had done wrong to be sent down to Masasi!)

The church, too, has a shining new image and mission. The recently consecrated James Almasi, ninth bishop of the diocese, has taken seriously the need

for a still impoverished Church to learn about stewardship and he has launched an imaginative, hopefully achievable, five year plan leading to financial independence and resources for the planned programme of evangelism, asking each of the 40,000 Christians in his diocese to commit a monthly amount of the equivalent of £2 to the work of the diocese. It was details of this five year plan he shared with the friends of Masasi and Newala at their gathering on April 14th that was the key to James' episcopacy.

Since its foundation as an independent diocese in 1926, Masasi was totally supported by UMCA, then USPG; personnel, financial resources and prayer went into the partnership — schools, hospitals and dispensaries and the fostering of national vocations has produced a lively strong Church. Bearing witness in a staunchly Muslim area but an area where most of the economy is subsistence agriculture, funding the Church has always been a problem, and in spite of Bishop Trevor Huddleston's claim on his departure in 1970 that it should be a self-supporting entity, Masasi has never had the resources to realise this vision.

Most of the churches were founded by freed slaves moving inland from the notorious coastal strip and this history enabled Masasi to realize the opportunities offered by a new government, new political parties and new freedoms. Schools and hospitals were handed over to government ministries, and the number of mission personnel, appointed only at the request of the diocese, people with qualifications and skills which the province could not as yet produce. Because the Church ran most of the secondary schools, personnel in government diplomatic and civil services

were largely drawn from graduates of church academies, and the friends of Masasi and Newala were honoured to welcome HE Peter Kalleghe, the Tanzanian High Commissioner to London, who spoke of challenges posed by a fast growing population, the increasing gap between rich and poor, urban and rural life and the vexed question of the language of education. Swahili was the language which united the many tribes into nationhood giving Tanzania a common tongue. While justly proud of its use, serious questions remain as to whether, in a nation taking its place internationally, the use of the lingua franca might prove a handicap to tertiary education, research and political influence.

While not a national Church, the Christian communities, whether Roman or Anglican (both in Masasi) or Lutheran to the north of the country, have always given support to the government in power, the rule of law, and provided staff at every level of nation building. While not always enthusiastic about ecumenical projects, Masasi has developed close working relations with both Roman missions in the diocese, the Ottilian Benedictines at Ndanda and the Americans in Masasi itself: they providing more practical and material support, the Anglican Church leading the way in the development of national leadership and clergy.

David Craig

All Saints has had long associations with the old Universities Mission to Central Africa — it was at the annual business meeting held in the church in May 1964 that UMCA voted to unite with the older SPG to become the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, a society to which the parish has been traditionally generous, supporting not only with gifts of money and prayers, but with personnel.

The vicar was Chairman of the Trustees for eight years, the time which saw the Society confirm its commitments to a fourth century of mission responding to the needs, demands of the world Church and

the developing of partnerships between dioceses and parishes.

For further information:

***www.friendsofmasasiandnewala.co.uk,
www.btsociety.org.***

THE ALBAN PILGRIMAGE

Saturday 20 June 2015 at St Alban's Abbey — Celebrate Britain's First Saint and join in prayer for the witness of Christians faced with persecution today.

Please aim to arrive by 10.30am ready for the procession to set off at 11am prompt.

PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

11am Pilgrimage Procession with giant carnival puppets begins through the City Centre

The route begins from St Peter's Church, St Albans, and continues to the Town Hall and then we will process to the West End of the Cathedral.

c 12noon Festival Eucharist following the Procession

*Preacher: Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby.
The service will be sung by the Abbey Girls Choir.*

12noon Children's Worship and Activities — in the Marquee in the Cathedral Grounds.

2pm Orthodox Service and Veneration of the Relic at the Shrine of Saint Alban. *Organised by the Ecumenical Chaplaincy and the Fellowship of St Alban and St Sergius — all welcome.*

2.30pm Question and Answer Session in the Nave with the Archbishop of Canterbury and Visiting Bishops on the subject of world mission.

3pm Anointing for Healing in the Lady Chapel

4pm Festival Evensong and Procession to the Shrine

*Preacher: Archbishop of Rouen, Mgr Jean-Charles Descubes.
The service will be sung by the Cathedral Choir.*

The Abbot's Kitchen will be open from 10am - 4.30pm serving breakfasts, lunches, afternoon teas, and a range of snacks and drinks. ***The Cathedral Shop & Bookstall*** will be open from 10am - 5pm selling a range of pilgrimage merchandise, books, greeting cards, CDs, and much more. As part of the day's celebrations, we are delighted to be welcoming Bishops and Priests from our link dioceses in the Caribbean. *There will be a range of Caribbean-themed stalls in the Cathedral Grounds.*

For further information, please call 01727 890245, see the website to register attendance or e-mail: pilgrimage@stalbanscathedral.org.

HPH 2015: Thinking for Today's World

Why does inequality continue and seems to be increasing and what can Christians do about it?

70 years ago the government agreed that citizens should be provided with adequate income, health care, education, housing, and employment. In return for a weekly national insurance contribution, benefits would be paid to people who were sick, unemployed, retired, or widowed. Many argue that the austerity measures of the last years are undermining these principles.

This year's HPH Lectures explore these issues.

Tuesday 12 May

Faith and Poverty in Diverse Britain

Bishop Michael Ipgrave of Woolwich

Formerly Inter-Faith Relations Adviser to the Archbishops' Council, he is also chairman of the Council of Christians and Jews and in 2011 was awarded an OBD for services to inter-faith relations in London.

Tuesday 9 June

Homelessness and the 3 Faces of Poverty

Jon Kuhr, Executive Director of Social Work at West London Mission will be speaking about three aspects of UK poverty, how they come together within the complex issue of homelessness, and why the Church remains in a unique place to respond to these issues.

*All lectures will be held at **Hinde Street Methodist Church, London W1**
Starting at **7.30pm***

Admission is free and all are welcome!

SERMON PREACHED BY THE VICAR AT EVENSONG ON PALM SUNDAY, 2015

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

On Sunday evenings this Lent, we have been engaged in collective self-examination using the series of questions addressed in the Baptismal Commission,

to candidates, and to us when we renew our Baptism vows at Easter.

Tonight we come to the last of these — appropriately enough on Palm Sunday — when Christ enters Jerusalem and is hailed as king — a title which he goes on to radically redefine in the week that follows.

This morning, I pointed to the contrast between Pilate and Jesus, but also that between Jesus and the expectations of many of his fellow-Jews. He would not turn out to be the kind of Messiah-Liberator they longed for.

Western Christianity has often imagined that the crowds got it wrong, because they were wanting a this-worldly freedom, when Jesus was really offering spiritual freedom, a kingdom after death, not one in this world.

We had an example of this recently when the Bishops of the Church of England issued a Pastoral Letter to the People and Parishes of the Church of England for the General Election 2015, *The Times*, a newspaper which having dispensed with its religious affairs correspondent is now suffering from a severe theological deficit, wrote that the business of the Church is **“the soothing and the saving of troubled souls”**.

Well, the soothing and saving of troubled souls is certainly part of the business of the Church, and I along with thousands of other priests, and countless lay people and even bishops, spend much time and energy doing it. I think it fair to say that we know a good deal more about it and do much more of it than most journalists.

But it is not the whole of the Church’s business. *The Times* described the Bishops’ letter as “unsolicited”. Well, Mr Murdoch and his editor may not have solicited it, but what they have missed in their theological ignorance is that the duties of a bishop include the teaching of the faith to their people — and this faith

includes our responsibilities as citizens.

The Bishops are not telling us who to vote for, but they are giving us some guidance about what we need to consider when we vote. They are encouraging us not only to vote but to get involved in political debate and action; not in spite of being Christians but because we are Christians. They are encouraging people to get involved in the conversation. This is a piece of public theology — the beginning of a debate, not its end.

They are seeking to stimulate a fresher debate about the nature of our common life: the relationship between central and local, statutory and voluntary, welfare and enterprise. They do this at a time of increasing economic and social division, and of alienation from political life and from community and social life in general among so many. We are increasingly a **“society of strangers”** rather than a **“community of communities”**.

The letter speaks of a civil society understood as a rich, vital network of **“intermediate”** institutions that nurture the essential public virtues of solidarity, mutuality, neighbourliness, trust and a sense of place. These are the virtues required to sustain any healthy society, economy and polity, but they are increasingly undermined by our culture of individualism, consumerism and rootlessness. These virtues are the missing link which has prevented the state and the market alike from generating a better, more humane society. The fabric of intermediate local and voluntary organisations which enrich and strengthen civic society has been undermined by

both the monopolistic power of the state, under parties of both left and right, and by the individualism promoted by consumer capitalism. These things matter because they undermine the very nature of our society. It cannot flourish; we cannot prosper, when they dominate.

The bishops are doing this at a time when there is something of a collapse of confidence in our political system and institutions in general. Numbers voting in general elections are falling steadily. Those taking part in local elections are a minority of those entitled to vote. Membership of political parties, with the exception of the SNP — is also in massive decline — and their age profile makes the Church look quite sprightly. The reputation of our elected representatives has taken a battering from expenses and cash for access scandals and may take an even worse beating if abuse scandals are proven. Even though not all, or even a majority, are tainted by this, mud, as the clergy know only too well, sticks.

This is not the occasion for a lecture on the many and various forms which Church-State relations have taken down the centuries. One of those is the peculiar form of establishment in England — often seen as a source of privilege — but more importantly as a call to responsibility for the life of the nation. We see that responsibility being exercised by our Archbishops for example — as one has been involved in trying to clear up the mess which is our banking sector, and the other campaigns for a living wage so that people are not abandoned to “working poverty”.

The two bishops who have been chiefly responsible for this letter are not clerics whom the media have turned to for instant comments on any issue. They are both hard working members of the Upper House who care deeply about the common good of our nation.

If “establishment” in whatever form, gives us a responsibility to society in this land, so does being part of the Catholic Church. The word “catholic” comes from the “whole”. The Catholic faith is not one of escape from this world into some religious ghetto.

We are to recognize that the world is God’s creation and that he loves it. Christianity is not an escapist or world-denying faith. That is something which being an established Church reminds us of — why establishment can be uncomfortable — it is something being the Catholic Church — concerned for the whole — reminds us of too. Being catholic is not about some religious bit of life, but about the whole of life. That whole life — not just some fraction of it — is under Christ’s authority.

So, as we **“acknowledge Christ’s authority over human society”** we are to pray for the world and its leaders.

Part of that acknowledgement of Christ is the recognition of the reality of sin which affects all human institutions: so that the state which we must rely on to provide services which are beyond the resources of individuals or communities, can become oppressive, even totalitarian. Markets whose impressive effectiveness in distribution the bishops recognise,

can, if not directed to the common good, entrench inequality and undermine the conditions for their own survival.

We pray for the world and its peace. We pray for leaders because of the onerous responsibilities placed on them. We pray for them not because we like them or approve of some or all of their policies, but because we recognize the difficulty of their task — politics is the art of the possible — but sometimes things seem well-nigh impossible and events, as Harold MacMillan said, often overtake the best intentions and plans of our elected representatives.

But the bishops make clear that our responsibility to society involves of necessity a seeking for justice and peace. These are not two separate things. There can be no peace without justice. A peace which is founded on injustice — whether a legal system which discriminates against the weak or an economic system which condemns people to exclusion and poverty — is no peace at all. The preferential option for the weak and the poor is not an optional extra for Christians — as Pope Francis and our own Archbishops remind us. In speaking as he does, the Pope is not saying anything that his predecessors have not already said — but he is perhaps saying it more plainly and forcefully.

100 YEARS AGO

The Vicar looked back on Holy Week and Easter at All Saints:

“We managed a better muster on Palm Sunday than I expected. Most of our more recent old choristers are under age for military service and they came in good

numbers. Bordighera could not supply us with palms this year, so Potalloch came to the rescue with great branches of bamboo, which were very graceful and delicate, and not at all unlike boughs of olive.

“I was glad to see more people at the High Masses in Holy Week, there were large congregations at all them. This year the Solemn Passion was sung on each day on which it occurs, and the music throughout the week was most beautiful. Palestrina’s Reproaches seem to me to be the most beautiful of all religious musical compositions; his *Stabat Mater*, too, is extraordinarily noble. There was a large congregation for the *Stabat Mater* on Good Friday night. I am bound to add that the beauty of the music only serves to throw into greater prominence the unsatisfactoriness of the observance of Holy Week as we have things at present. The traditional services of Holy Week are a great exposition of scriptural doctrine, and it is a grievous pity that we still have them in such a mutilated shape.”

(Fr Mackay is referring to the services in the Book of Common Prayer. These had been shorn of the ceremonies which have now been restored to the liturgy of the Church of England. In our renewed liturgy, the Passion is sung on Palm Sunday (from Matthew, Mark and Luke in turn over the three year cycle and from John on Good Friday). When Fr Alan arrived we were still following the old practice of having only Matthew on Palm Sunday, but the record of the others having been sung during Holy Week set us searching in the Choir library where Mark and Luke were found waiting to be used.

“The appointed preacher for Good Friday was seized with influenza in the middle of Holy Week. Father Moor, (*one of the curates*), who had preaching engagements on Wednesday and Thursday and who had never preached the Devotion of the Three Hours in his life, stepped into the breach at a few hours’ notice. The result was commensurate with the kind and generous effort. I have never received as many expressions of gratitude for a Three Hours since I have been Vicar of All Saints.

“Easter Day was a very happy day. I think we were all conscious of an unusual brightness and peace which George Herbert caught and reflects. There were fewer absentees and fewer visitors, so it was a more domestic Easter than usual.”

Meanwhile, one of the Churchwardens, Ian Malcolm MP, was in France working for the Red Cross. A series of extracts from his Day Book included the following reports of life under fire:

Don’t Move

Impromptu circuses and music hall “shows” are very popular (and very excellent) at the front. The other evening, at the close of one of these entertainments, a non-commissioned officer asked permission to take a photograph of the artists on the stage.

“Please don’t move,” he pleaded: “one... two...” but before he could say “three,” a shell burst in the yard outside with considerable explosion.

“What a bore,” exclaimed the photographer, “two of you *did* move.”

Mass under Fire

In the last five days there have been desperate street fights outside our hospital. The sisters found bullets in their beds and eight shells fell on their convent. The fury of the cannonading was maddening.

Last Friday, a soldier-priest got leave to come and say Mass in the chapel attached to the hospital. Another priest from the Red Cross assisted him as a server.

“Come along, sister,” said the soldier, “we haven’t time for long meditations this morning; our moments are precious”. So we got everything ready and mass began: the server’s responses were entirely drowned by the noise of the guns outside... He was really a brave young fellow but very pale I thought, and rather absent-minded perhaps. No doubt he could not help following the course of the battle, even on his knees. We reached the offertory... and a grinding crash fell upon the chapel... a fearful explosion shook the hospital to its base... a long moan of anguish followed as four poor officers were carried away on stretchers. The priest, who had paused for a moment, went on with his prayers, but his server seemed turned to stone as he knelt huddled against the wall, saying no responses and ringing no bell. Our superior made signs to him, but they had no effect at all. The sisters knelt down to receive their communion when another shell burst right over us smashing every window in the place. This time it fell just inside the west door. In the heart of this hell the sisters made their communion... but nothing could rouse our server from his trance.

When he came to himself, the superior said:

“But, my dear father, you quite forgot the ablutions; you must be very distracted this morning.”

“Forgive me, Mother,” he answered, “I believe I was mummified.” And perhaps he was for the moment: but since then he has won the much coveted medal for bravery in the field.

SUNDAYS AND SOLEMNITIES MUSIC AND READINGS

● SUNDAY 3 MAY FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

HIGH MASS at 11am

Entrance Hymn: 122

Introit: Cantate Domino

Setting: Mass in four parts
— Monteverdi

Psalm: 22: 25 - end

Lessons: Acts 8: 26 - end
1 John 4: 7 - end

Hymn: 367 (ii)

Gospel: John 15: 1 - 8

Preacher: Father Michael Bowie

Creed: (Monteverdi)

Motet: If ye be risen again
with Christ — Gibbons

Hymns: 276 (ii), 281 (T 302), 408 (i)

Voluntary Prelude, Fugue and
Chaconne in C, BuxWV 137
— Buxtehude

CHORAL EVENSONG & BENEDICTION at 6pm

Psalm: 96

Lessons: Isaiah 60: 1 - 14
Revelation 3: 1 - 13

Office Hymn: 101 (omit *)

Canticles: Magnificat — Buxtehude;
Nunc dimittis tertii toni
— Palestrina

Motet: Easter — Vaughan Williams

Preacher: The Vicar,
Prebendary Alan Moses

Hymn: 381 (v 4 Descant — Caplin)

O Salutaris: Martin Bruce

Hymn: 74

Tantum ergo: Martin Bruce

Voluntary: Secret Rooms
— Robert Walker

● SUNDAY 10 MAY SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

HIGH MASS at 11am

Hymn: 137

Introit: Vocem jucunditatis

Setting: Missa Choralis — Bruckner

Psalm: 98

Lessons: Acts 10: 44 - end
1 John 5: 1 - 6

Hymn: 445

Gospel: John 15: 9 - 17

Preacher: The Vicar,
Prebendary Alan Moses

Creed: Credo III

Motet: Regina cæli — Mascagni

Hymns: 384 (v 4 Descant — Caplin),
513, 420

Voluntary: Allegro (Concerto in
A minor, BWV 493) — Bach

**CHORAL EVENSONG &
BENEDICTION at 6pm**

Psalm: 45
Lessons: Song of Solomon 4: 16 - 5: 2;
8: 6 - 7
Revelation 3: 14 - end

Office Hymn: 101 (omit *)

Canticles: Service in B flat — Stanford

Motet: Praise our Lord, all ye
Gentiles — Byrd

Preacher: Father Michael Bowie

Hymn: 112

O Salutaris: Fischer

Hymn: 386 (T 385)

Tantum ergo: Palestrina

Voluntary: Andante maestoso, Op 101
— Stanford

**THURSDAY 14 MAY
ASCENSION DAY**

**PROCESSION AND HIGH
MASS at 6.30pm**

Processional Hymn:
109 (ii; Ascension verses)

Introit: Viri Galilaei

Setting: Missa ‘Ascendo ad Patrem’
— Palestrina

Psalm: 47

Lessons: Acts 1: 1 - 11
Ephesians 1: 15 - end

Hymn: 130 (i)

Gospel: Luke 24: 44 - end

Preacher: Father Sean Mullen,
Rector of St Mark’s,
Philadelphia

Creed: Credo IV

Motet: Caelos ascendit hodie
— Stanford

Hymns: 131, 133, 134 (v 6 Descant
— Caplin)

Voluntary: Heut’ triumphiret Gottes
Sohn, BWV 630 — Bach

**● SUNDAY 17 MAY
SEVENTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

(Sunday after Ascension Day)

HIGH MASS at 11am

Hymn: 132

Introit: Exaudi, Domine

Setting: Missa Christi — Leighton

Psalm: 1

Lessons: Acts 1: 15 - 17, 21 - end
1 John 5: 9 - 13

Hymn: 446

Gospel: John 17: 6 - 19

Preacher: The Vicar,
Prebendary Alan Moses

Creed: Credo III

Motet: Ascendens Christus in altum
— Andrew Gant

Hymns: 302, 135 (T 447), 271
(v 4 Descant — Caplin)

Voluntary: Church bells beyond the
stars — Cecilia McDowall

**CHORAL EVENSONG &
BENEDICTION at 6pm**

Psalm: 147: 1 - 12

Lessons: Isaiah 61
Luke 4: 14 - 21

Office Hymn: 128

Canticles: Service in A — Naylor

Motet: O clap your hands together
— Gibbons

Preacher: Father Michael Bowie

Hymn: 296 (i)

O Salutaris: James Sherwood

Hymn: 388 (ii)

Tantum ergo: James Sherwood

Voluntary: Prologue on ‘Ascension’
— Willan

● **SUNDAY 24 MAY**
THE DAY OF PENTECOST
(Whit Sunday)

PROCESSION and HIGH MASS at 11am

Processional Hymn: Hail! Festal Day!

Introit: Spiritus Domini

Setting: Missa Solemnis in C, K337
 — Mozart

Psalm: 104: 26 - 36, 37b

Lessons: Acts 2: 1 - 21
 Romans 8: 22 - 27

Hymn: 139 (i; v 5 Descant
 — Caplin)

Gospel: John 15: 26 - 27; 16: 4b - 15

Preacher: Father Michael Bowie

Creed: (Mozart)

Motet: Dum complerentur dies
 Pentecostes — Palestrina

Hymns: 143, 347, 431

Voluntary: Fantasia super 'Komm,
 heiliger Geist', BWV 651
 — Bach

CHORAL EVENSONG & BENEDICTION at 6pm

Psalm: 139: 1 - 18, 23 - 24

Lessons: Ezekiel 36: 22 - 28
 Acts 2: 22 - 38

Office Hymn: 136

Canticles: Service in E — Watson

Motet: Der Geist hilft — Bach

Preacher: Father Julian Browning

Hymn: 142

O Salutaris: Bach (No 1)

Te Deum Solemn tone

Tantum ergo: Bach (No 1)

Voluntary: 'Komm, Gott, Schöpfer,
 heiliger Geist', BWV 667
 — Bach

● **SUNDAY 31 MAY**
TRINITY SUNDAY

HIGH MASS at 11am

Entrance Hymn: 148 (omit vv 2 & 3)

Introit: Benedicta sit

Setting: Communion Service
 'Collegium Regale'
 — Howells

Psalm: 29

Lessons: Isaiah 6: 1 - 8
 Romans 8: 12 - 17

Hymn: 343 (vv 3 & 6 Descant
 — Whitlock)

Gospel: John 3: 1 - 17

Preacher: Father Julian Browning

Creed: (Howells)

Motet: Benedicta sit Sancta Trinitas
 — Victoria

Hymns: 145, 147, 159

Voluntary: Te Deum, Op 59 — Reger

CHORAL EVENSONG & BENEDICTION at 6pm

Psalm: 104: 1 - 10

Lessons: Ezekiel 1: 4 - 10, 22 - 28a
 Revelation 4

Office Hymn: 144

Canticles: Service in F — Dyson

Motet: Hymn of the Cherubim
 — Rachmaninov

Preacher: The Vicar,
 Prebendary Alan Moses

Hymn: 373 (T Coe Fen)

O Salutaris: Saint-Saëns

Hymn: 146

Tantum ergo: Vierne

Voluntary: Intermezzo (Sonata No 6)
 — Rheinberger

Information correct at the time of going to press.

ALL SAINTS FOUNDATION

The Foundation's Purpose is to assist the parish in the maintenance and restoration of our Grade 1 listed building. The trustees are able to expend both capital and income to this end.

The Administrator of the Foundation is **Damon Brash**. He can be contacted through the Parish Office if you would like more information about making a donation or a bequest.

The Foundation's Charity Number is: 273390.

CHOIR AND MUSIC TRUST

The Trust's purpose is to support the music of All Saints. It makes grants to the PCC to assist with the costs of the choir. At the moment, these meet just over half of the music budget each year.

The Trust's capital cannot be spent, only the income.

The Administrator of the Trust is **Geoffrey Woodcock**. He can be contacted through the Parish Office if you would like further information about how to make a donation or bequest.

The Choir and Music Trust's Charity Number is: 802994

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS

The Friends of All Saints is a fellowship of people who have some connection with All Saints: former or occasional worshippers. It enables them to support our work through prayer and giving. The Friends are prayed for on a rota each day at Morning Prayer, and on the second Wednesday of the month the Friends' Candle burns in church and they are prayed for at Mass.

Please contact **Dee Prior** in the Parish Office in relation to Friends' matters.

MISSION PROJECTS

We support:

The work of **US** (formerly **USPG**) with the Church in Zimbabwe among people affected by HIV-AIDS;

The Church Army hostels and programmes for homeless women in Marylebone;

The West London Day Centre for the homeless.

Janet Drake chairs our Mission Committee and she can be contacted through the Parish Office.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

As well as the monthly **Parish Paper**, you can keep in touch with life at All Saints through:

The All Saints Website

www.allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk

The Weekly Parish E-mail

This gives weekly news of events, people to pray for, and a short letter from the Vicar or Assistant Priest. You can subscribe through the All Saints website — see News and Events/Weekly Newsletter for directions about signing up.

The Weekly Notices included in the Sunday service booklet, which worshippers are encouraged to take away with them.

Vicar:

Prebendary Alan Moses

020 7636 1788

Mobile: 07973 878040

Email: alanmoses111@gmail.com.

Assistant Priest:

The Revd Dr Michael Bowie

020 3632 4309

Email: mnrbowie@hotmail.com.

Honorary Assistant Priests:

The Revd Gerald Beauchamp

020 7258 0724

The Revd Julian Browning

020 7286 6034

Parish Administrator:

Dee Prior

020 7636 1788

Email: astsmgtst@aol.com

Parish Officials

Churchwardens:

John Forde 020 7592 9855

Chris Self 020 7723 2938

PCC Secretary:

Jaron Lewis

asms.pccsecretary@outlook.com.

Phone messages to the Parish Office

Hon Treasurer:

Patrick Hartley 020 7607 0060

Director of Music:

Timothy Byram-Wigfield

c/o 020 7636 1788

Associate Director of Music:

Charles Andrews 01580 240575

Electoral Roll Officer:

Catherine Burling

c/o 020 7636 1788

Service Times

Sundays:

Low Mass at 6.30pm (Sat)

8am and 5.15pm

Morning Prayer 10.20am

HIGH MASS and SERMON at 11am

CHORAL EVENSONG, SERMON and BENEDICTION at 6pm.

Monday to Friday:

Morning Prayer at 7.30am

Low Mass at 8am, 1.10pm and 6.30pm

Confessions 12.30 - 1pm and 5.30pm

Evening Prayer at 6pm

(Except bank holidays — 1.10pm Mass only)

Saturdays:

Morning Prayer at 7.30am

Low Mass at **12 noon** and 6.30pm*

(* First Mass of Sunday)

Confessions 5.30pm.

Evening Prayer 6pm.

On major weekday feasts, High Mass is sung at 6.30pm

CALENDAR AND INTENTIONS FOR MAY 2015

1	Philip and James, Apostles	Mission
2	Athanasius, bishop, teacher of the faith, 373	Theologians
3	✠ 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Our Parish and People
4	English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era	Unity
5		The homeless
6		Friends of All Saints
7		The General Election
8	Julian of Norwich, spiritual writer, 1417	Those in need
9		Our mission projects
10	✠ 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Our Parish and People
11	Rogation Day	Farming and Fisheries
12	Rogation Day <i>Gregory Dix, priest, monk and scholar, 1952</i>	Industry and Commerce
13	Rogation Day	Care of the Environment
14	ASCENSION DAY	Thanksgiving for the Ascension
15	Matthias the Apostle	Those in need
16	<i>Caroline Chisholm, social reformer, 1877</i>	For migrants and asylum-seekers
17	✠ 7th SUNDAY OF EASTER <i>Sunday after Ascension Day</i>	Our Parish and People
18		Parochial Church Council
19	Dunstan, archbishop, monastic reformer, 988	Renewal of the religious life
20	Alcuin, deacon, abbot, 804	The Church in Europe
21	<i>Helena, protector of the Holy Places, 330</i>	Pilgrims to the Holy Land
22		Those in need
23		Mission of the Church in London
24	✠ PENTECOST <i>Whitsunday</i>	Our Parish and People
25	The Venerable Bede, monk, scholar, historian, 735	St Mellitus' College
26	Augustine, archbishop, 605	Archbishop of Canterbury
27		Churchwardens
28	<i>Lanfranc, monk, archbishop, scholar, 1089</i>	Unity
29		Those in need
30	Josephine Butler, social reformer, 1906	Victims of Trafficking
31	✠ TRINITY SUNDAY	Our Parish and People

