

ST. LUKE'S & CHRIST CHURCH CHELSEA

The Parish of St Luke and Christ Church
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MARCH 2021 PARISH MAGAZINE ISSUE NO. 192

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CHAINS OF HOPE: CREATIVE ARTWORK FOR AN EASTER PEOPLE

As our 'New Creations' series of talks on 'Creativity and the Christian Life' is making clear, at St Luke's and Christ Church we have a diverse and highly imaginative congregation! Whether it is trampolining or art, or the making of marmalade, dresses and jewellery, we are blessed with many talents, exercised at a high level.

What is more, our conversations in those sessions are helping us to make theological sense of creativity. We have sought to clarify how our creativity is, in some small sense, an imitation of God's own creativity in the creation of the world. We have pondered the relationship of creativity and order in the world, and enquired into how creativity may go wrong. And we have considered the extent to which our own creativity is a foretaste of the 'new creation' that is promised by the Bible.

But to leave our enquiries into creativity on the level of talk would be to miss the ultimate point. As we look forward to Easter, the moment when Christ rose again to 'make all things new', we are inviting all parishioners to take part in a piece of mass artwork, an activity that may feed our own creative instincts.

We have sourced a large number of colourful paper chains (in fact, Fair Trade recycled rags – we like to keep ethical!) which we need your help to stick together, and to add your prayers to. We will then be able to form these pieces into long garlands, to be put up at Easter. We hope these will both add some welcome colour to our churches – much needed after our dark winter. But putting them together will also be an exercise in our own creativity, while the finished chains will be a sign of our life together as the Body of Christ.

We will provide more details on the distribution of paper chains in our weekly parish email. If you would like to participate but do not receive our emails, please contact the Parish Office. 'The creation', says the apostle Paul, 'waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God' (Romans 8.19). Therefore, this Easter, let us look with eagerness for signs of the vibrancy and unity of the new creation that God is bringing among us. □

Our New Creations discussions continue throughout March: please join us!

Creativity is significant in our lives of faith. This we will explore as we look forward to Easter and the moment when Christ's resurrection heralded a 'new creation' (2 Cor 5.17).

We welcome four congregation members and a past clergy person whose creativity you might find quite surprising.

Tuesday 23 February: James Heard – International Trampolining

Tuesday 2 March: Louise Diggle – Art

Tuesday 9 March: Simon Hills – Marmalade Making

Tuesday 16 March: Sarah Charman – Dress Making

Tuesday 23 March: Lily Rylands – Jewellery Making

All sessions take place from 8-9pm. For the Zoom link, see our weekly emails or contact the Parish Office on 02073517365.

The PCC of St Luke and Christ Church is a registered Charity, no. 1133092

SAM HOLE



While writing this I am looking out of the window at the snow falling and settling on the ground. I love the snow; it reminds me of building snowmen in the garden and snowball fights with my family. As with the excitement of snow, there are pieces of excitement to look forward to in the coming weeks, be that the continuing of the new creations talks, Mothering Sunday or Easter. In gathering the articles for this month's magazine, it has become clear there are several things to look forward to. Hopefully, even in these cold, wintry days the prospect of the upcoming events can shed some warmth. ☐

African Palms from Tanzania

Every year the church gets palm crosses to mark Palm Sunday – the Sunday before Easter. We buy our palm crosses from an organisation called African palms. The palm crosses are made across eight villages in the Masasi area in southern Tanzania. These villages include Mpeteta, Namikunda, Mlundelunde, Mumbaka, Ma-



We burn the previous year's palm crosses to make the ash for Ash Wednesday. Here are this year's ashes being made by Anna Stamenova.

chombezi, Chivirikiti, Makanyama and Marika. They are made from Dwarf Palms (*Hyphaena Coriacea*), which grow wildly.

The palms are cut from an area close to Mbangara and are then dried and cut into strips to be transported back to the other villages by foot or bicycle. There they are then woven into palm crosses.

This year, due to the low requirement for palm crosses, African Palms have begun weaving bags from the same material. They have beautiful colours and a great story.



To find out more about the history and the story of the palm crosses – and to buy a bag! – you can research www.africanpalms.com ☐



Kevin Clifford and his team have been providing a personal and caring service for the pets of Chelsea since 1993. The new clinic has been completely refurbished to offer spacious and comprehensive facilities for all your pets' needs. Do pop in and visit us!

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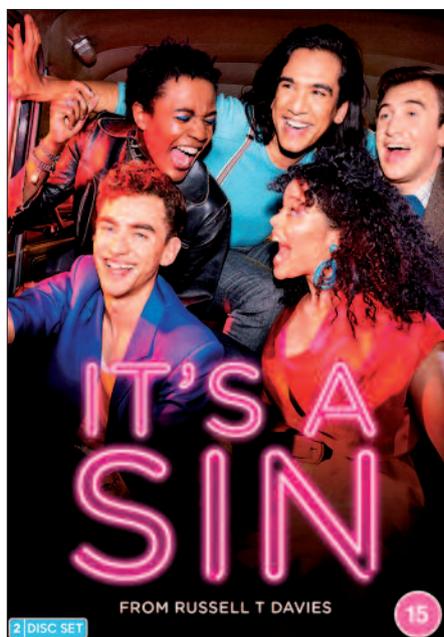
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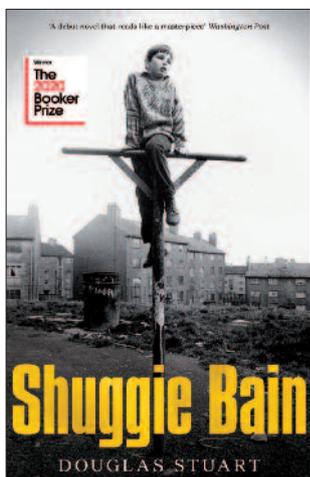
PASSION – and I don't mean the fruit. When this magazine reaches you, we shall be just about to enter that time which the Church calls Passiontide. It marks the final two weeks of the earthly life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Reading of these end-days in the Gospels there is a magnetism, an inexorable drawing in towards what looks increasingly inevitable, that this man Jesus will become the scapegoat, the sacrificial lamb, for so many reasons – anger, resentment, fear, power, retaliation, resistance, apathy. Passiontide is the time when the suffering of this Jesus becomes increasingly plain for all to see. The Gospel writers describe his frustration, his seeking to escape to quiet retreat, his anger, his strained relations with his friends and disciples, his willingness to accept the injustices perpetrated against him in order to stand for what is right, what is of God.

And two recent influences have made me aware, more than ever, even in this time of pandemic, of the very real continuing presence of passion, that is, engaged suffering in our worlds, which is at the same time both beautiful and brutal. The first is the 2020 Man Booker prize winning novel, 'Shuggie Bain' by Douglas Stuart. The action is set in 1980's Glasgow when the traditional industries – shipbuilding and mining – have utterly collapsed and destroyed the sense of worth and value in their communities. The author writes autobiographically of his

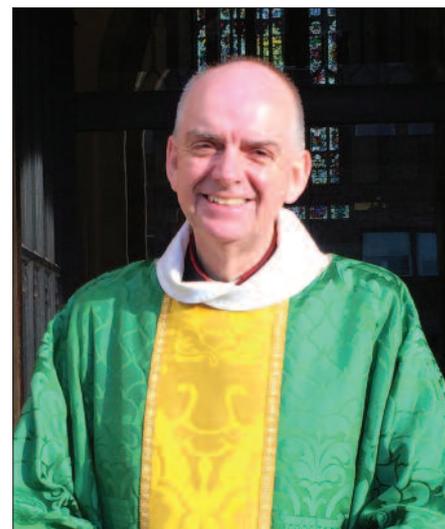
stripped boyhood amidst a dysfunctional family, absent father, raw abuse and siblings who seek out a life to distance themselves from their alcoholic mother. It is unremittingly bleak, yet, at the same time is full of love and humour on the small scale – of attempts to care and to bring normality into a most desperate situation, while the author struggles with coming of age, and comes to accept both his dependency and his own dis-



tingtiveness as a human being. It's a novel from which the church is almost totally absent.



And then there is Channel 4's recent five part series 'It's a Sin' about a community of young people in the early 1980's who come to London to study and work and explore the life of the gay community into which they find themselves drawn. It is of course, exactly the time of the AIDS crisis, with a total lack of understanding of how the disease is spread.

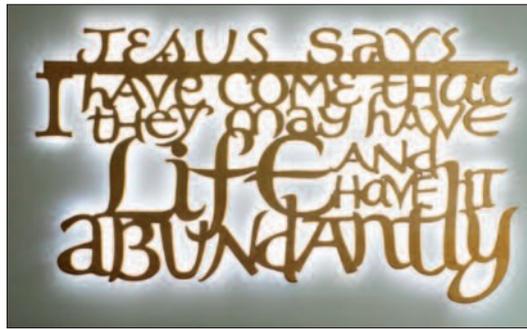


Alongside all the pain and scapegoating, the accusations and inhuman treatment of the gay community, the hypocritical judgements, the disowning within families, there is also a beautiful tenderness, a practical love for friends, a sense of fighting back against ignorance and standing up against hatred and prejudice. And again, the Church is absent.

The Fruits of Passion, engaged suffering, in both this novel and TV series, has been to show once again that in the darkest, dehumanising fears and pains of our common life – in parts of living which most of us will never experience – acts of love and kindness, compassion and care, at considerable cost, can and do create shoots of creative growth, acceptance, change which enhances our common life, allows creative human dignity to flourish, changing us more and more into the image of God. What Christ's Passion, in these days before his betrayal and sacrificial death show, echoed in both 'Shuggie Bain' and 'It's a Sin', echoed too in myriad ways in this pandemic, is that love which has its origins and fulfilment in God, always conquers, even if the church lags behind. □

The Holistic Teenager

St Luke's and Christ Church and Chelsea Academy share a common commitment to the well-being of the parish's teenagers: Sam Hole is a Governor at Chelsea Academy and some Chelsea Academy families worship at St Luke's and Christ Church. We work together



throughout the year to ensure that their needs are recognised and met. For the church this includes our youth group, our Summer Programme and the work of our uniformed organisations. For the Chelsea Academy Foundation it involves fundraising to provide academic, extracurricular and welfare support opportunities at Chelsea Academy that are not covered by government funding. These include the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, the mental health support service Place2Be, and Oxbridge admission programmes.

Leaders of both the church and the school often hear from parents looking for guidance in raising teenagers, who can be a delightful yet occasionally challenging bunch! We have therefore collaborated to produce The Holistic Teenager, a series of 4 short films filled with tips from church and school leaders who interact with teenagers every day. The videos are aimed at parents of teenagers and soon-to-be

from people connected to the parish or Chelsea Academy. In the video on Spiritual Health, for example, the chaplain of Chelsea Academy asks the question 'How do I help my teenager to pray?', and Sam Hole asks 'How do I have spiritual conversations with my teenager?'. We don't claim to

have all the answers, but hopefully can give you some ideas to think about. Why not enjoy the videos during a spare moment over a cup of tea?



The first two films are already available on our YouTube channel; the subsequent episodes will be released later this Spring. We hope you enjoy watching them and benefit from positive interactions with your teens as a result. Do let us know! ☐

Watch video 1, on physical health:

<https://youtu.be/pBA dx03PX20>

Watch video 2, on spiritual health:

https://youtu.be/A_VX3QTJa6M

EMILY STANDRING

Fundraising and Development Manager,
Chelsea Academy Foundation

The Holistic Teenager

Four short videos on raising a teenager today

Video 1: Physical Health



teenagers, but we hope will be of interest to others who know and support teenage family members and friends.

The films focus on four topics that come up regularly in our conversations with parents: Physical Health, Spiritual Health, Mental Health and Moral Health. Each 5-7 minute video offers hints and tips

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My favourite Bible story

For this month's segment on "My Favourite Bible Story," we spoke with Georgina Hingle – one of our eldest members of the congregation at 98!

Rather than a particular Bible story, Georgina shared a verse that brings her particular comfort: Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never hunger, and whoever believes in Me will never thirst." (John 6:35).

"Jesus fed people spiritually, but he also fed huge crowds physically too, especially the poor and the lonely," she said. This verse, which follows shortly after Jesus' feeding of the five thousand, serves a reminder of God's generous provision throughout her own life both in terms of material provision but also spiritually too. "If we're fed well, that's one of the great blessings in life" and anyone who knows Georgina will know her great hospitality! She shared, "I thank God continually for all that I have."

But also, spiritually, this verse speaks a powerful message to her about how God continues to be a source of comfort and peace, particularly during more difficult times. "It's wonderful what a prayer can do, I can feel low, but then I just feel much better, more at peace." "Being an independent person and being an only child,

it can be easy to try and do everything on my own, but we all need help from others— whether that's God or God working through other people." She shared how she experienced this when she met Valerie one Saturday morning at Christ Church as she was arranging the flowers, who then invited her to come to church the following day. When I turned up she just smiled at me "from ear to ear!" After this welcome she found herself being drawn back to church regularly and, although finding it strange at first, has grown to love the worship.

Especially important has been the significance of Holy Communion for her. Here this verse of Jesus being the bread of life, knowing that in coming to him we never hunger, becomes tangibly real. "Celebrating Jesus' life and his death, after receiving the bread and the wine, sitting back down in the pew, you're just a different person... It's hard to describe." Reflecting on this and the significance of Jesus' words in this verse she said, "it's amazing what a few words can do... these words are real for me." □



Mosaic, 4th-6th century, from the Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fish, by the Sea of Galilee.



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Golden Charter 

MEMETIC SAFE 



“She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.” Proverbs 31:26

Mothering Sunday: 14th March

On this day people honour their mothers or people who have played the role of a mother in a person's life. Over the years, it has become an occasion for children to respect and give flowers, a card and a gift to their mothers and the ones they love.

Women are very active in every aspect of our life. In present days they are very independent and constantly busy either being involve in social life, politics, show business, art, education, religion, sport or being someone who is constantly doing the not very noticeable work of housekeeping, looking after children with their constant needs, shopping, cooking etc. In whatever social position, they are always there to give us strength and help us to move forward. That's why they deserve to be treated with respect and love on this Mothering Sunday, one day of the year- without working, just enjoying and relaxing. And what is a better way of showing our appreciation to our mothers, our loved ones, our neighbour or someone in our community who we deeply care about, by making them a lovely card, giving them a beautiful flower and thanking them for their care as they speak wisdom and teaching of love. These are two wonderful aspects of God that every family member (we are all God's children), and especially the children need to learn.



That why Mothering Sunday is one of the most popular days of the year for eating out, (unfortunately with Covid19 this wasn't possible last year and likely not this year either). It is also the biggest flower buying day of the year in Britain. Happy Mothering Sunday to all the women in our community. Those flowers are for you.

Snow competition

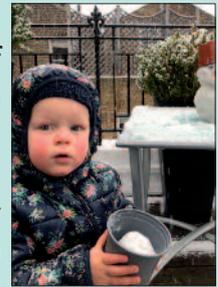
What a treat it was to have an amazing proper snowfall in London this year. Even if only for a couple of days it made a huge difference in our lives – it put smiles on our faces, it gave us hope and positive energy for the coming future. The excitement of snowball fights and making snowmen brought joy to children and adults, and of course our phone cameras proved to be very useful. To keep this white

and amazing occasion memorable we had a SNOW competition for the best picture.

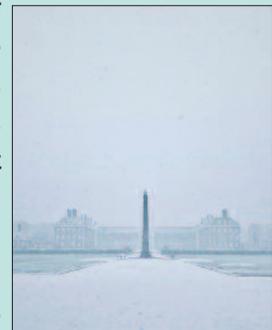


Winner - Olive had charm of its own. A huge thank you to everyone who entered, for you are all winners, but as it is a competition, we decided that the first prize “Compact digital camera” goes to smiley Olive. A big congratulations and well done to our two runners up Noemi and Gregg.

The Parish staff team enjoyed the beautiful photos you sent to us and picked their favourite, as each picture was telling a story and



Runner up Noemi



Second runner up Archie and Gregg

Pray and play on zoom

We had our first toddlers meeting for the year, where we talked about how to be 'preparing for a party', and think about Shrove Tuesday. We had lots fun by drawing and decorating pancakes, and the toddlers were very exciting to see their friends.

Shrove Tuesday zoom party

To keep the tradition going and to mark Shrove Tuesday we had our first online pancake party, which was very much in the spirit of the Epiphany celebration, lots of smiles and a jolly mood. Children had their own pancakes ready but unmade. We had a short reflection at the start about the wedding at Cana: 'Jesus loved a party, like today – but also knew the difficult bits of life, as we mark in Lent...'. Then we had fun with cooking the pancakes, children were showing off their flipping skills and sharing their designs and fillings, and at the end we finished with a prayer. □



Thank you and God bless you!
Anna

For mental health week some of the year 2 children created 'self-soothe' boxes. These boxes included items that help to calm them when they felt anxious. Some of their boxes are photographed below.



Some of the students as well as the governors made embroideries based around hope.



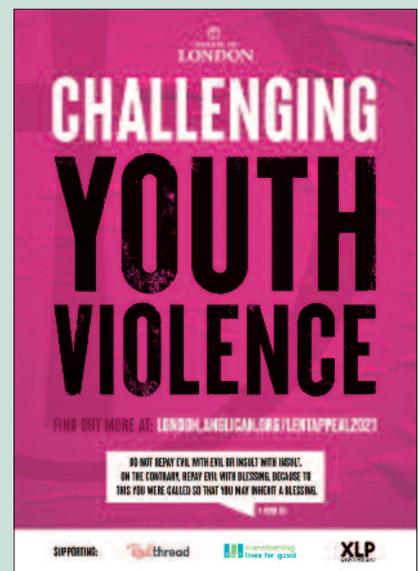
Some of the amazing pieces of work from different years over the past weeks.



Diocesan Lent Appeal 2021

This year the Diocese of London Lent Appeal focuses on Youth Violence. This is currently a prevalent topic in London as rates are rising. Youth violence is the intentional use of physical force or power to threaten or harm other young people between the ages of 10 to 24. It often involves the harming of peers who are unrelated to them and who they might not even know. Youth violence can include fighting, bullying, gang-related violence and more. The Lent Appeal focuses on raising awareness to this issue and raising money for three charities that are working hard to combat it. The charities include The eXcel Project, TLG – Transforming Lives for Good, and Redthread.

Find out more and please give generously at london.anglican.org/lentappeal2021.



THE YOUTH GROUP

Youth-Led Service

As we celebrated the Conversion of St Paul on Sunday 23rd January, the youth group contributed to the pre-recorded worship. Alongside doing the readings and prayers, they offered their reflections on what they think needs transforming in the world! You can still find this video online if you haven't watched it already.

But it was great to have the input of our young people and we look forward to their engagement in our online church services becoming a more regular feature!

Youth Group Continues Online

We have been continuing our social gatherings virtually on zoom during this time. This has meant we've had to think creatively about how to keep this a fun and engaging space, as we continue building friendships together.



So, this month we've held a Games Night as we played "Fibbage" and "Mafia," and discovered who among us is the best at

lying and deception!! Though I should stress, we do have other qualities as a group too... More recently, we had our Film Night together on "Teleparty," where you can watch a film and message one another at the same time. It was a great evening of watching the film Soul and eating popcorn!



The remaining dates for term are 11th March and 25th March.

Youth in Church

On Sunday 7th February, we held our first ever "Youth in Church" zoom gathering. This is intended to provide a space where our young people can engage with God and grow in their faith in a fun and relaxed environment.

This week we looked at "the Word made flesh" who made his dwelling among us, and considered what it means that the God of the universe comes to his world to communicate fully who he is and his love for us. Beginning with some games that explored the importance of communication, we then discussed and reflected on this theme, before praying together.

These gatherings are at 5pm, once a month, and the remaining dates before Easter are; 7th March and Palm Sunday (28th March).

If you have any questions or would like any more information about our youth programme then please don't hesitate to be in touch: samuelrylands@chelseaparish.org ☐

Sunday night compline

With the New Year and the beginning of yet another lockdown, we decided that the dark winter nights would be a good time to introduce a weekly online service of compline, on Sundays at 9pm. Compline is a short service of night prayer, involving a short hymn, the reading of a Psalm, and some prayers. To accommodate the service on Zoom we have decided that one person will lead the responses, leaving other congregation member to join in from their homes as much or as little as they like.



Compline originated in monasteries, where it still

forms the last piece of activity before bedtime; many monasteries observe silence after Compline until Matins at dawn. And while we have not monitored whether congregation members have chosen to go to bed immediately thereafter, we hope it has been a chance to 'pause' at the end of the weekend, and to commit the activities of the coming week to God.

You are always very welcome to join us for compline, whether as a one-off or as a regular worshipper. Links to the Zoom details and the Order of Service are provided in the weekly parish email, or can be obtained by emailing the Parish Office. □

SAM HOLE

Charlie and Emma Combe, regular attenders at compline, reflect on what they value in the service:

'We have thoroughly enjoyed joining the Compline service every Sunday evening since the New Year. It is a wonderfully peaceful service and creates a special moment of calm, reflection and thanks which perfectly concludes the weekend and focuses one's attention on the week ahead. Every Sunday we struggle with finding the energy to join at 9pm after another busy weekend of parenting (!), but every week we leave the service with a renewed energy and purpose. The service is less than fifteen minutes long and it has meant a lot feeling connected to other members of the parish during that time, even if we are largely on mute and seeing each other over a screen. We really recommend joining if it would fit in with your schedule. One tip is that it is helpful to have two devices, one to join the zoom call, and another to have the Compline Order of Service up on.

It has been great to see Sam, Samuel and Brian as well as other members of the parish in these lonely times and we have also been blessed with Jeremy's singing.

Thank you to the clergy for hosting this wonderful service and giving up your Sunday nights, it is much appreciated!



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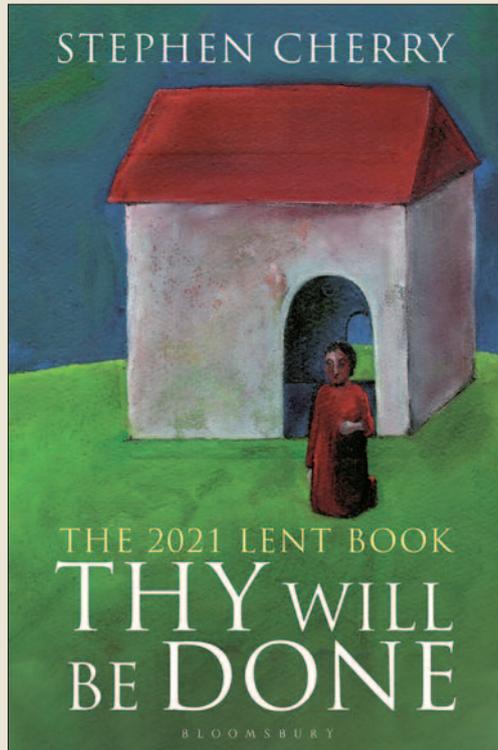
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Lent Book

How often do you say The Lord's Prayer? - daily, more, less? When I was a curate my training incumbent berated me for praying extempore with parishioners in hospital, 'Just use the church's prayer and watch their lips move' he argued. And he was right. We learn the Lord's Prayer and never forget it, like riding a bike or swimming. But how often do we stop and think about what we are doing? - this probably isn't such a good idea while riding a bike or swimming.

The use of the Lord's Prayer is at the heart of this year's Lent Book 'Thy Kingdom Come' by Stephen Cherry, Dean of Kings College, Cambridge. In six sections it takes us through each of the petitions of the Lord's Prayer using his own experience to weave together the wisdom of those, famous and not so well known, who have used this prayer across the centuries with the realities of our own day.

The book focuses upon the fact that this is the



prayer Jesus taught his friends and followers to pray and so it is appropriate for use in Lent, either to read and discuss together weekly or to read individually, working through its smaller sections a day at a time.

As Mark Oakley in a Church Times review comments of this book 'Cherry's summary of Jesus' teaching on prayer-have fewer words, less ego and less anxiety-is not a bad strategic plan for all of us to take on board through the forty days of Lent- and beyond'.

In the parish we shall have at least one group discussing the book each Tuesday morning at 10:00, which all are welcome to join on

Zoom. Equally, if others who can't make that time would like an evening opportunity to reflect on this intelligent and accessible work, please do get in touch.

Thy Will Be Done by Stephen Cherry Bloomsbury Publishing £9.99, but 20 copies are available from the Parish Office at £7 each. □

BRIAN LEATHARD

Burning of the palm crosses for Ash Wednesday

Each year palm crosses from last year's Palm Sunday are burning to make the ash for Ash Wednesday. Our thanks to Anna and Yanna for undertaking this task each year. Here are some photos from the 2021 burning.

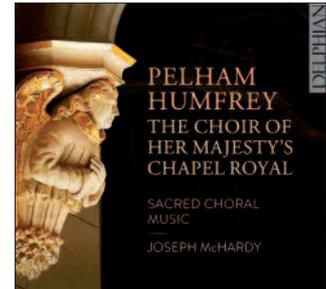


FROM OUR REGISTERS

We pray for the soul of
Ninette Thornton and Vera Hender

Joe McHardy

Joe McHardy was the organist at Christ Church from the years 2005-2017, before becoming Director of Music at the Chapel Royal. He has been involved in the making of a CD of choral music reviving the musical world of Pelham Humfrey, first director of the Chapel Royal after the restoration of the monarchy in 1660. It is entitled Pelham Humfrey: Sacred Choral Music, has been released under the Delphian label, and can be bought from all good retailers online and offline. □



Remember Me at St Paul's Cathedral

The tragedy of 100,000 deaths from Covid in the UK seems unimaginable. Is it the scale of this death toll which makes it so hard to comprehend, is it the fact that it has endured across a whole year which has lulled us into a stunned acceptance? Or is it perhaps a sense of powerlessness in face of this virus, which having challenged everything we thought secure and immovable in our 21st century lives, has revealed our own fragility?



But it is also surely to be remembered that it is not only 100,000 lives which have been curtailed, it is many, many times this number. For each life lost, multiple lives have been impoverished, dreams shattered, hopes dashed, as families, partners and friends also have their lives changed for ever. As the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have recently remarked, each one of these deaths is of a child of God- a unique, precious brother or sister human being, for, as Christians, we dare to claim that we are one body. Each life lost, is a light extinguished.

But I would like to commend to you one way of remembering anyone you know who has died as a result of Covid 19, and that is the Remember Me virtual book of remembrance at St Paul's Cathedral. Not only is St Paul's the cathedral for our diocese,

but it is a national icon where so much of our nation's life is celebrated. Remember Me is a simple and effective way for all to contribute a name and photograph of someone loved and lost through Covid 19. It is open to everyone, of any faith or none, and very easy to use. Just go online and enter Remember Me at St Paul's Cathedral where there is a simple registration and plain instructions. Believe me, it is easy to access.

HRH Prince Charles speaks movingly about the Remember Me at St Paul's Cathedral as a means of respecting and cherishing everyone whose life has been changed through the pandemic. And it is of course, the task, not only of St Paul's Cathedral, but every parish church to be a place, a community to turn to, a place of solace, and hope that, through the dark night of this disease and all its impacts, the light of Christ shines continues to shine 'and the darkness has not overcome it'.

If you are mourning the loss of a loved one, if someone you know, respect or care for- colleague, neighbour, old friend has died of Covid related illness, use Remember Me St Paul's Cathedral, so that we remember not only a statistic, but each individual, each precious child of God, each of our sisters and brothers. □

CONTACT PARISH OFFICE : 020 7351 7365

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Associate Vicar: The Revd Dr Sam Hole
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Curate: The Revd Samuel Rylands
samuelrylands@chelseaparish.org

Operations Manager and Bursar: John McVeigh
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Property Administrator: Alicia Hilliard
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Children's Administrator: Anna Stamenova
annastamenova@chelseaparish.org

Enquiries re baptism, confirmation (adults and children), marriages, funerals and home communion visits please contact the clergy via the Parish Office. Also for the Planned Giving Schemes for both churches.

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Charles Combe 07747 796 124
Director of Music: Jeremy Summerly 07956 801 223

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Safeguarding Officers:
(for any safeguarding issues in the Parish)
Guy Tobin (Mob: 07979 596 009)
Lizzie Watson-Steele (Mob: 07855 455559)

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SERVICES CURRENTLY ONLINE

Our worship is currently taking place online with our church buildings closed.
For details and latest updates, please see our website or contact the Parish Office.

CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES

Children's ministry Administrator Anna Stamenova:
Please contact Anna for any enquiries about children's groups, registrations and schools via the parish office, or childrensadmin@chelseaparish.org.

Children's Groups during Sunday Services are currently suspended. Activity packs are available at the back of church.

Youth Events for 11 + please contact Samuel Rylands for more details: 020 7351 7365, samuelrylands@chelseaparish.org

ABC Club During Term Time
Thursdays 1000-1130 (currently suspended)
Parent, carer and toddler group.

Uniformed Organisations All At St. Luke's Hall
10th Chelsea (St. Luke's) Rainbows

For girls Aged 5-7 meet Tuesday 1700-1800
Contact: Lottie Holmes on 07981 891 788

Brownies

For girls 7-10. Meets on Tuesday evenings 1800-1930
Contact: Gail Horn 0203 313 5901

Guides

For girls 10-14 years old. Meets on Tuesday evenings 1900-20.30

9th Chelsea Scout Group - All at St. Luke's Hall

For further info all contact Wolf or Chil
Wolf2872@gmail.com

Beavers: Boys and girls aged 6-8

Every Thursday 1730-1845

Cubs: Boys and girls aged 8-10 & a half

Every Thursday 1900-2030

Scouts - Boys and girls 10 & a half -14

Every Friday 1900-2100

Explorers- Boys and girls 14-18

Every Friday 1900-2100