

ST LUKE'S & CHRIST CHURCH CHELSEA

The Parish of St Luke's & Christ Church
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MAY 2022 PARISH MAGAZINE ISSUE NO. 204

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Christian Aid Week 2022: Hungry for Justice



This year, during Christian Aid Week, the call is for climate justice in the hope that together we can restore justice in the world. Climate-induced drought has been a longstanding issue in Afghanistan, but the people of Afghanistan continue to live in hope. Without hope they have nothing to cling to.

Nearly 9 million Afghans are on the brink of famine as a result of persistent drought, conflict and the Covid-19 pandemic. Hunger and malnutrition have risen to catastrophic levels, leaving children particularly vulnerable. The current economic downturn has meant soaring food prices and the seemingly endless conflict is displacing hundreds of thousands of people.

For Qasima, Noruddin and their six children, life in Kabul is hard. Unemployed since the crisis in August, Noruddin struggles to provide for his family and works as an occasional daily labourer earning \$2 each day. Although Kabul is 2,600 miles from Mariupol, this family also suffers from the impact of the dark cloud of the war in Ukraine. Kabul is not being bombed, but its poorest people are hungry and are becoming increasingly desperate because food prices are rising. Last year, wheat exports by Ukraine and Russia accounted for about 30% of the global market. According to the UN, without this production, more than 26 countries face losing half their wheat imports.

Christian Aid partners report that people are struggling to feed their families, many are not receiving an income and teachers are resorting to polishing shoes on the street in order to earn vital income. What people face is hunger for food, for bread, and the ability to grow their own food. But there is another hunger and that is for justice that ensures that the powers and institutions that cause the injustice so many live with, are radically transformed and changed in favour of the poorest communities.

Hope does not disappoint. Hope lives in you. Your gifts this Christian Aid Week could help Qasima, Noruddin and a hundred thousand others in Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Ukraine to turn their hunger into hope.

BLESSING

In the name of God who plants the seed of justice:

Be hungry.

In the name of Christ who hangs on the tree of love:

Be fruitful.

And in the name of the Spirit who inspires

God's will in our hearts and our lives:

Be celebrated.

You are Christ's people, here and throughout the world now and forever.

Amen.

RAMANI LEATHARD

Summer Fair Fun

St Luke's Summer Fair is just around the corner on Saturday 11 June and will be a joint day with the emergency services. This is following on from last year's Emergency Services Day in August, which showcased all aspects of the police – dogs, horses, motorbikes and the Territorial Support Group.

Also attending are ambulance crews, RNLI and the local fire brigade. Enclosed in this magazine are two books of raffle tickets at £5 per book – please fill in the counterfoils and return to the parish office with your money! Cheques should be made payable to St Luke's DCC. Thank you.

Donations are needed for stalls: bric-a-brac, good quality adult clothes and accessories, jewellery, children's clothes and toys, books, home produce and bottles for the tombola. If you might be able to donate an 'experience' (dining, beauty, exhibitions, tickets for cultural/sporting events etc), please contact the Parish Office. There are always significant costs involved in running the fair, and we would welcome all financial donations to meet these costs. If you would like to help in this way and wish to write a cheque, please make it payable to St Luke's DCC or contact the Parish Office. Many thanks!

This year the summer fair will again be raising funds

for the St Luke's Summer Programme. This is a three-week activity club for local children during the school Summer Holidays. More information on this will be in the next magazine.

JOHN MCVEIGH



A colorful poster for the Summer Fair and Emergency Services Day. At the top, a red banner with yellow stars reads "SUMMER FAIR and Emergency Services Day". Below this, on a light blue background, the date "SATURDAY 11 JUNE" and time "12.00 NOON - 3.00 PM" are written in large blue letters. A green bar below that contains the address "ST LUKE'S CHURCH, SYDNEY STREET, SW3 6NH". The central image shows St Luke's Church with colorful bunting in shades of pink, green, blue, and yellow hanging across the front. Below the church photo, a purple bar lists activities: "STALLS - GAMES - RAFFLE - TOMBOLA - BBQ" and "EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPLAYS POLICE - AMBULANCE - RNLI - FIRE BRIGADE". A yellow bar at the bottom states "Admission: Adults £1 Children Free". At the very bottom, in small blue text, it says "The PCC of St Luke's and Christ Church is a Registered Charity No. 1133092".

“And who is my neighbour?” asked the lawyer. Jesus uses this question to tell a story, which we have come to call the Parable of the Good Samaritan. But the question remains. Who do you regard as being your neighbour? It’s a tricky one.

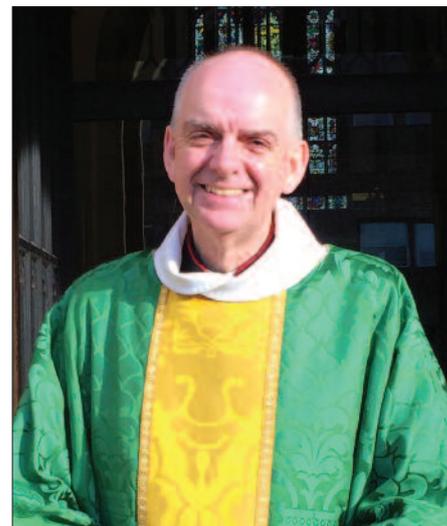
In English we only have one word for neighbour, but in lots of languages there are more than one. We have come to use the word neighbour primarily to mean the people next door. So neighbour has a proximity, a fixed location. But, for example, in German there are two words, one of which principally refers to the person at the next desk or in the next house, and another which – though impossible to translate as we just don’t have the word – really just means ‘the next person’, any other human being. It is, of course, this latter understanding that chimes most particularly with the story Jesus told.

It has been wonderfully inspiring to see how so many people, families, churches and organisations have responded with amazing generosity to the appalling effects of the war in Ukraine. I thank God for this warming of the human heart. But I wonder why it

is that our response to the impact of war in Ukraine has been so much more profound and so much greater in financial generosity than, say, for the terrible war in Yemen or in Ethiopia or the devastating food shortages in Afghanistan?

Is it perhaps because when we see the TV coverage of Kyiv, the streets look like our own and the people look like us, I wonder? So to see cities like our own, with hospitals and schools and offices and shops like ours, on our own continent, being subjected to the horrors of dreadful bombardment, it is inevitable that we think of these people as our neighbours – and rightly so, because they are physically very close to us and our experience.

However, Jesus takes a different viewpoint in telling the story of the Good Samaritan. The well-known neighbours, the priest and the Levite, “pass by on the other side”. Perhaps familiarity has bred contempt in his story. But the Good Samaritan turns out to be an outsider, someone looked down upon, despised. And Jesus goes on to suggest that it is not because of his ethnic or religious background that the Samaritan



was a good neighbour, but because he “showed mercy”. He acted with compassion.

So perhaps we need to remember in our thoughts, words, prayers and actions that the true neighbour is whoever shows compassion – whether that be in our own families, communities, our own street or city, or anywhere else in the world – for the suffering people of Ukraine or those mourning loved ones in Russia too, or the forgotten wars and places of fear in our world.

Jesus doesn’t limit the geography of acting compassionately, no, the true neighbour acts compassionately. And the story ends with Jesus saying to his hearers ‘Go and do likewise’. Whether this is in support of Ukraine, Christian Aid Week, Glass Door or any other cause, it’s a challenge ‘Go and do likewise’.

Stepping Up for Exams!

Over the first week of the school holidays, young people in the parish and local community participated in S.T.E.P Up (a Studying, Tutoring, and Exam Preparation week). Based at The Hut on Alpha Place, this provided a relaxed and quiet study space for young people preparing for their upcoming summer exams, alongside professional tutoring to aid them in their particular subjects.

This week proved to be a huge success with those who attended, and we look forward to hearing how they get on in the summer and beyond! But as ever, it is best to hear directly from the young people themselves:



“I really liked independent working beside my friends. I think it was a great space and effective for studying. The tutors were friendly and supportive and taught well. Now I feel more prepared for my exams and next term!” Selma

“This was very good for studying because I wouldn’t be able to study as well at home and the tutors were very helpful and helped explain what I didn’t understand” Seraphina

“The STEP Up programme has been highly beneficial in regards to my revision. It has helped me realise my potential, especially in the sciences!” Alfie

“It’s very helpful to have the reinforcement and back-up the tutors have provided, alongside a quiet and calm environment dedicated to study. The food is also very good!” Foxy

“The tutors were very friendly and make sure that you understand” Eloise

“I have really enjoyed STEP Up because I have learned a lot. The excellent tutors have helped me to go more in depth in my subjects, and the space has made me more confident in my learning in general” Aveline

“I found it immensely helpful and really well structured to support my study. 10 out of 10!” Tom

A massive thank you to all those who supported this week through financial and practical giving, as well as all of your prayers. If you would like to help this programme run again next year, or know of any young people who will be in school year 10 (aged 15 plus) who would benefit from this provision, then please don’t hesitate to be in touch! samuelrylands@chelseaparish.org

SAMUEL RYLANDS

Visiting the Archives

Of late, I admit to finding myself suffering from a case of 'media melancholy'. From Covid to the chilling reports of Putin's war in Ukraine, it sometimes seems there is little positive news to report. Of course, it is a privilege to be in a position to read the news rather than to be experiencing it first hand, but I cannot help but feel a sense of helplessness when I open the papers to commentators foretelling the start of World War III.



The conscience of the English people has been shocked and their heart touched by the news of the sufferings of non-Aryans in Central Europe and Germany, and the Church Assembly is trying to raise at least £50,000 to assist in relief work which so clearly demands our support. Donations in response to this appeal may be sent to the Churchwardens or to me and will be forwarded by us as a contribution from St. Luke's.

A "CHelsea REFUGEEs FUND" has been started at Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Street, to which the collections at St. Luke's on Sunday, December 18th were given, to provide for the maintenance in Chelsea of refugees who have been and who will be allowed to enter England upon the necessary guarantees for their support being made. Gifts to this Fund should be sent to the Rural Dean, the Rev. C. Cheshire, 141, Sloane Street, S.W.1. Offers of hospitality will be greatly appreciated: forms giving particulars of accommodation, period, dates, etc., can be had from me, and will then be forwarded by me to the Rural Dean, who will guide the central Co-ordinating Committee in assigning a congenial refugee to any able to receive one.

It was therefore not without a touch of trepidation that I dusted off a collection of editions of the Parish Magazine from 1936 to 1939 one chilly March morning in the St Luke's archives. Was I to find accounts of the descent into World War II and leave with a sense of humankind yet again failing to learn the mistakes of our past?

What I found in the magazine from Christmas 1938 actually left me with a renewed sense of optimism. Yes, there were rather chilling parallels with our modern-day troubles, but I also discovered appeals for help in raising at least £50,000 for the relief work to support refugees from Central Europe and Germany, a 'Chelsea Refugees Fund' and calls for volunteers happy to open their homes support those fleeing Nazi persecution.

Recently, 28,300 applications have been made to the government under the 'Homes for Ukrainians' scheme and Christian Aid, through the DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) emergency appeal, has donated £1 million for trauma first aid kits and £1 million for medical equipment. Nanny Louenna sought to raise £500 via Instagram to help children fleeing the war in Ukraine. She has so far raised over £170,00 and was able to fill three HGVs with donations to send to the border.

It occurred to me that the constancy of the human condition applies not only to the tendency of a few 'bad apples' to wage war, but also to the willingness of ordinary people to rally round to help those in need. In the words of Dutch historian Rutger Bregman, "It's when crisis hits – when the bombs fall or the floodwaters rise – that we humans become our best selves".

I smiled at the thought of how very fortunate we are to be a part of a community with kindness and compassion at its heart. I truly believe that where there is kindness, there is hope – we all need a dose of that every now and again.

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CHLOE SHERIDAN



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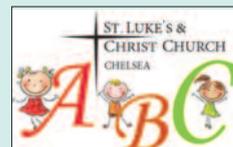
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YOUTH & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

"So that I may come to you with joy, by God's will, and in your company be refreshed." Romans 15:32



ABC toddlers' group (0-3 years old) meets every Thursday at Christ Church. New members are always welcome! Here is how parents and nannies describe it:



Parents:

We stumbled across ABC, and what an abundantly fruitful trip it was. Our daughter Plum was baptised at Chelsea Old Church where Fr Sam and Fr Brian told us that Anna ran a young children's group at Christ Church. Until then, Plum and I would take endless walks, usually alone, as lockdowns brought isolation and, sadly, loneliness. ABC saved us, it remedied the loneliness, soothed unanswered questions about motherhood and offered a sense of community for the whole family. On our first trip we were greeted by the world's biggest smile - Anna welcomed us with warmth, comfort, happiness and excitement. With smiling faces and comforting chatter, giggles and amusing conversations, as well as the delicious biscuits, tea and coffee we bring, it's a joy to attend! We mustn't forget the children's squeals of excitement, and the huge variety of toys! There are tricycles, push bikes, building blocks, animals, books and carefully planned colouring tables where Anna teaches us stories and life lessons from the Bible. It is all neatly tied up with a good old-fashioned round of nursery rhymes. Anna makes sure everyone feels included and involved and often we get a visit from Fr Sam! **ABC is a special place for playfulness and development of children and the camaraderie and community of parents/nannies.** Clem/Plum

We never miss a week! After living abroad for several years, returning to my church community was a little different as I now had my baby, and it was lockdown. ABC has become our new Thursday home, filled with the loveliest group of mums. Anna welcomes you with open arms and is beloved! I have made great friends and we are there for each other. I even changed my son's nursery schedule so he can still attend. He loves it! We sing, play and chat and my little boy has gone from crawling to running around the church! It's a wonderful way for children to start to build friendships, give thanks to God and just have fun! Plus, Anna makes a mean cup of coffee to keep you going for the rest of the day! **Josephine/Rocco**

Since we attended our first Thursday ABC, it is now our routine and my little one wakes up saying, "Today we go to Church." Our favourite moment is the singing and marching with different instruments around the church at the end of the session. Thanks, Anna, for the outstanding job you do. **Angelica/Patrick**

My daughter and I love going to ABC. Her favourite part is listening to the Bible stories and singing songs. She happily claps along with a huge smile on her face. **Rose/Margo**

My daughter and I look forward to Thursday morning. It's a wonderful safe place with the freedom of playing with other children. I have found lovely new friends there and we often bump into them in the local parks. Going to ABC had made our family feel we are part of the community. **Lale/Margaux**

I remember with great happiness and enthusiasm my first day at ABC, where a very special person with beautiful smile and red hair called Anna met us at the door. The church is a beautiful place for children to get to know each other, play and learn songs and listen to stories as mothers and nannies socialise and relax. **Andrea/Sophia**

I have been attending ABC for five years. It's a great way of building the church community, but most importantly, kids learn that the Church is a welcoming environment and look forward to going every week. Before Easter, a small group of us had lunch together and we held a day spring cleaning all the toys - there are a lot! We were lucky that the exceptionally organised nannies could join us. We powered through the hard work quickly making the spring clean a success! I would happily recommend the ABC playgroup to anyone with pre-schoolers! **Marlene/Noah/Freya**

Nannies:

We are delighted to have this group where the children enjoy playing, singing and interacting with each other. We love coming here and feel very welcomed by Anna and the mums, and enjoy the opportunity to meet other nannies. **Alice**

We like coming to ABC because children learn to share. They love tidy up time, singing and Bible stories. It's important that they have a routine, and we are able to build relationships and share experiences and tips among mums and nannies. **Amelia/Angela**

ABC is amazing. We enjoy coming to play and sing with Anna. She's sweet, very kind and friendly. We love ABC. **Ana**

Meet the Parishioner

Anna Stamenova: 'I love what I do'

Anna Stamenova is chatting to me about her love of Christ Church, the community, and the parish, when it dawns on her that she's about to hit a significant milestone.

It turns out that May 13 marks her 10th anniversary as verger at Christ Church. "Amazing it's going to be 10 years. I can't believe it." She laughs on the sudden realisation.

Anna had been helping out at the church and after a verger left, Father Brian asked if she wanted to carry out the verger's duties at a funeral. "My heart was jumping out of my body and my hands were sweating," she says. "I'm okay now, but I found my emotions of excitement and respect of the job strange to manage in the beginning."

After that, she became the verger, a job that is "basically looking after the church." Tidying up, welcoming people, preparing for services, weddings and funerals and more besides. "I love what I do, I don't see it as a job. It's so important to me," she says, adding that leading the procession to the altar each Sunday is "when I feel a close connection to God, that short walk. My heart is still beating fast, but now I can control it."

Her positive attitude and energy later helped her to become a children and youth ministry administrator: "Volunteering at ABC toddlers' group and helping the Sunday school were the start of my engagement with the church." Anna studied finance and then journalism in Bulgaria and photography in London.

She recently completed a course in theology, ministry and mission and proudly shows me a picture of her certificate from the University of Durham and the Cambridge Federation. "I'm finally doing what I'm supposed to be doing; it just feels right."

And a decade on, she remains as enthusiastic as her first day. "I still feel the same emotions, the same excitement. I'm so proud of what I do, I just love it." Anyone who knows Anna, and the welcome she offers at Christ Church, knows how genuine her words are.

She first discovered Christ Church in Chelsea when she moved into the Battersea area and needed to find local nurseries and schools. "The parents talked about Christ Church as a lovely community, so I thought I would go and have a look." Her daughter was nine months old and now, 14 years later, they still attend. "Yanna has grown up here. It is so wonderful to be accepted and feel included in the community."

On her first visit, she was met by Father Brian. "The way he welcomed and greeted me with a warm smile even

when I told him that I'm Orthodox Christian and my tradition is very important to me, was so nice. Everyone was supportive and they showed me care and kindness. I wouldn't have come back otherwise." And that welcome meant she has been there every Sunday since, apart from when she has taken a holiday to visit her home country of Bulgaria. "I love my Sundays, it's the best day of the week, I can meet and talk to people and make long-standing friendships."

Anna grew up in Sofia under communism. She remembers a parade to mark the visit of a leader of the USSR and when the Berlin Wall fell, she was still at school. As the geo-political situation shifted, Bulgaria was declared a parliamentary republic in 1991. "When everything changed, we all wanted to do something different. We tried to rebel and wear jeans at school, but we were still sent home to change!"

Later on, when she was working in the press office for the country's Ministry of Energy, the chance to study in England arose. Recently, in a workshop organised by the Diocese, participants were asked to write about kindness. And Anna had a story that was very close to her heart.

A stranger – the friend of a friend – put up the funds for her to study and she arrived in Britain in 1998. She returned the money two years later, and the experience taught her the value of 'paying it forward': doing acts of kindness, whether for loved ones or strangers, with no expectation of getting anything in return.

Three months study, turned to six and, ultimately, Anna never returned to Bulgaria to live. "I always felt, even when I was growing and when I was working, that it was not the place for me. And now I feel that I'm in exactly the place I wanted to be all my life."

She credits the church with helping her find her voice. "It has given me a lot of confidence. I never used to be confident in public speaking but slowly I find myself able to do it. Bible study group helped. So I can have a debate."

As we leave, Anna stresses one more thing to me. "The most important thing is I love what I do," she smiles before we say goodbye. "I want people to know that."



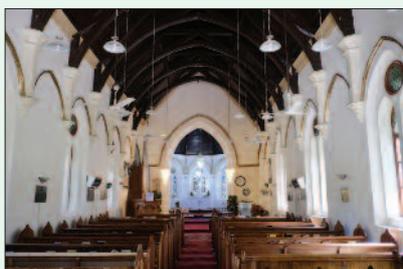
NICK CLARK

Visiting St Luke's Abbottabad: A Pilgrimage in Pakistan

If anyone in the UK has heard of Abbottabad it is probably because of its association with Osama Bin Laden, as it was the rather dusty town where he was finally run to ground in the events dramatically retold in the film Zero Dark Thirty.

It is a garrison town in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa district of Pakistan, just at the entrance to the foothills of the Himalayas, leading on up the fabled Khyber Pass and the main crossing from what was once the North-West Frontier into Afghanistan. Driving along the new highway from Islamabad just before the exit to Abbottabad there is a large inscription at the top of a nearby hill which reads, "To the Glorious Piffers" (yes the glorious does have an extra "u"). And so there is the connection back to St Luke's, Chelsea with its own Piffer Chapel, dedicated to the memory of many soldiers who fought and served in the Punjab Frontier Force.

Abbottabad today is a town dominated by the Pakistan Army, with barracks, colleges, special housing and schools as well as the main training faculty for the army, the Pakistan Military Academy, a version of Aldershot and Sandhurst. When we arrived there at the end of March, local elections were in full swing with all the attendant animation and traffic chaos. Our goal was to find and visit the small church of St Luke's, to whom St Luke's, Chelsea had once given a modest donation and received an effusive letter of thanks from the local vicar. And set behind a solid stone wall and guarded gates there it was, in its own verdant churchyard, with a vicarage off to one side. It is an imposing grey stone building with a small tower and steeple, generally in good condition.



Interior of St Luke's Abbottabad.



Revd Radiq Javid, with Revd Ginny Thomas and her husband, Patrick, and daughter, Iona. They are pictured in front of St Luke's Abbottabad.

Thanks to a contact with Bishop Humphrey of Peshawar, the local vicar, Revd Rafiq Javid, was on hand to welcome us. Ginny was able to explain to him that for many years she had said Morning and Evening Prayer in the Piffer Chapel in London, and it was an emotional moment to step into his church. There are weekly services in Urdu, and the service books were in English and Urdu, starting at the back with the prayers we would all recognise. Revd Javid has a flock of several hundred Christians, and also a lively Sunday School for children. While Pakistan does guarantee religious freedom, the state is Muslim and Christians are often marginalised and discriminated against. They take their faith very seriously and it is central to their identity.

We were given refreshments in the vicarage, and learned a little of Revd Javid's background. He trained at a seminary in Karachi, and had been a chaplain to Christian soldiers in the army, administering their oath of allegiance. He looks after up to six churches as there are various former British churches in the hills, where administrators used to spend the summer months, appreciating the fresher air.

We left a donation to support the continuing work of this outpost of the Anglican faith, and passed on the greetings and good wishes of Revd Preb Dr Brian Leathard. It was a privilege to visit this distant St Luke's and to realise that the Piffer name lives on in this distant town.

Patrick and Revd Ginny Thomas

PATRICK AND REVD GINNY THOMAS

Ginny Thomas formerly was Honorary Curate at St Luke's and Christ Church. Ginny and Patrick's daughter is currently Political Counsellor at the British High Commission in Islamabad and shortly to go to New Zealand as High Commissioner.



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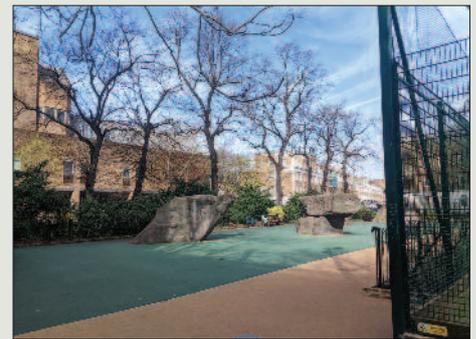
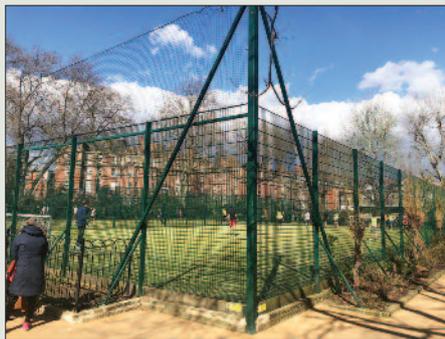


itches? Let your voice be heard by responding to parksprojects@rbkc.gov.uk. Obviously, any suggestions from the consultation will also be subject to both church and local authority planning consent as this too is all consecrated burial ground.

Christ Church Stonework and the East Wall: The impact of 150 years of

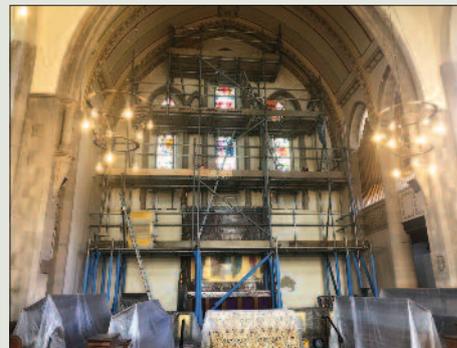
Spring has arrived! Well, at least in terms of renewing and repairing parts of our much-loved local built environment. Three things are very noticeable in our parish at the moment.

Dovehouse Green: This is ancient burial ground which is technically still owned by the Rector and maintained by RBKC. It is consecrated



ground and a vital open-air space on the Kings Road. It is a real lung amid the buildings on this stretch of Chelsea's principal thoroughfare, but for some time now it has felt rather more like a missing tooth than an attractive space! So I'm delighted that – after commissioning consultations and acquiring all the necessary

weather and London smog upon the stonework on the east gable of Christ Church was devastating – but couldn't be seen from the street, as the church immediately abuts houses in both Christchurch Street and Caversham Street. However, there were tell-tale signs of problems above with patches of paint flaking around the altar! When investigated, we discovered the extent of the degraded stonework. So our architect and stonemasons, with a great deal of cooperation, with a great deal of help from our neighbours, have done a fabulous job in replacing the stonework with beautiful, pristine stone of the same origin as the original. By the time you read this, the internal redecora-



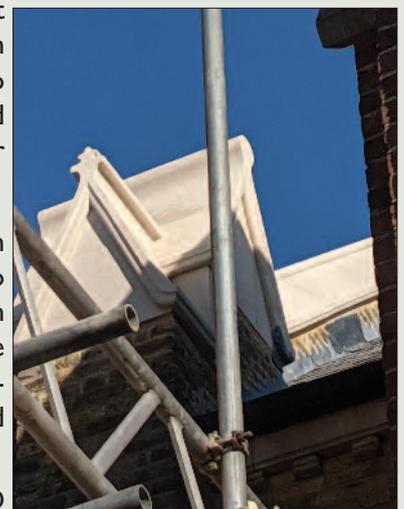
tion works to the east wall will have been completed and so Christ Church should prove watertight for another 150 years!

planning approvals from the Church and the local authority – regeneration work is now well underway. New pathways, floral beds, re-aligning of seating, crowning of the large trees to allow more light to penetrate, replacing much of the stone paving is already happening and we look forward to a greatly improved amenity.

St Luke's Gardens: A consultation is currently underway about the rejuvenation of the gardens, especially on the north side of the church (closest to Cale Street). The pitches, climbing rocks and playground are all intensively used and provide the only accessible space for children and families for exercise in this area. What do you think should happen with these facilities? Leave them alone, replace the climbing rocks, change the

Our thanks go to John McVeigh for driving so much of this through every administrative stage, to our local authority partners and to local residents.

BRIAN LEATHARD



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Curate: The Revd Samuel Rylands
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Operations Manager and Bursar: John McVeigh
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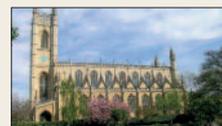
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Children's Administrator: Anna Stamenova
annastamenova@chelseaparish.org

For enquiries regarding 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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Director of Music: Jeremy Summerly 07956 801 223
Organist: Rupert Jeffcoat

CHRIST CHURCH
Christchurch Street,
London SW3 4AS



Churchwardens: Jonathan and Louisa Price
Nick Smith
Director of Music: Gareth Wilson 07939 378 759
Organist: Samuel Ali

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 Holy Communion	St Luke's
1030 Sung Eucharist	St Luke's
1100 Sung Eucharist	Christ Church
1500 Choral Evensong	St Luke's

MORNING PRAYER

Monday	0900	Christ Church
Tuesday - Friday	0900	St Luke's

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S 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 annastamenova@chelseaparish.org

Children's Groups During Sunday Services
Sunday School at St Luke's (10.30am) and Christ Church (11.00am).
A crèche is available at both churches.

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
Parent, carer and toddler group.

Uniformed Organisations all at St Luke's Hall
The Rainbows contact is 10thchelsea.rainbows@gmail.com.
They meet at 5pm to 6 pm on Tuesdays.

Brownies contact is 10thchelsea.brownies@gmail.com.
They meet at 6pm to 7.30pm pm on Tuesdays.

Guides for girls 10 years to 14 years and
Rangers 14 years to 18 years
Their contact is 10thchelseaguides@gmail.com.
They meet at 6pm to 7.30pm on Tuesdays.

Beavers are the youngest part of the Scout movement. For 6 to 8 year olds it gives them a taste of what it means to be a scout, preparing them for the move to becoming a cub when they turn eight. They meet between 5.00pm-6.30pm on Thursdays.

Cubs are for boys and girls aged 8 to 10½. They meet between 7.00pm-8.30pm on Thursday evenings.

Scouts are for boys and girls aged 10½ to 14. They meet between 7.00pm-9.00pm on Friday.

Explorers are for boys and girls aged 14 to 18. They meet between 7.00pm-9.00pm on Monday.

Contact for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers is wolf2872@gmail.com

All events take place in St Luke's Hall

PARTY VENUES FOR HIRE

The Hall of Remembrance, Flood Street, St Luke's Hall, St Luke's Street, and The Hut, Alpha Place. All are available to hire for children's parties, workshops, rehearsals and public or private meetings. All halls are light and airy, on the ground floor with high ceilings. For more information contact tel: 020 7351 6133.

OPEN FOR PRAYER

St Luke's is open for prayer from
0900-1530 Monday to Saturday

The PCC of St Luke's and Christ Church is a Registered Charity, No 1133092

Hitting the Peaks to Raise Money for Children



Never before has the welfare of children around the world been more important than it is today. Just as we were slowly easing back to normality from the pandemic – a time when families were divided, children were home-schooled and we lived in a hug-free world of facemasks – the devastating war erupted in Ukraine.

We must not underestimate the negative effect on children as this stream of bad news plays out on television and radio stations. The stories of people fighting, dying, or leaving their loved ones – even when we in the UK are geographically far away from the conflict – can seep in and have a huge effect.

So I wanted to do something, however small, to help children both at home and abroad – causes that are close to my heart. I stumbled upon the idea of completing the National Three Peaks Challenge. This will take place on 14 May and involves climbing Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon, all in 24 hours. It involves 26 miles walking, a 10,052ft ascent and a total driving distance of 462 miles.

With your help, I'd like to raise as much as I can for Ukraine via the British Red Cross, whose fantastic humanitarian work is helping so many people there, and Christ Church and Holy Trinity (CCHT) Federation Schools, where my five-year-old daughter Selina is studying, to help them raise money for the Time to Talk programme.

Time to Talk is part of Schools Today, an organisation that empowers schools to understand mental health, prioritise wellbeing and to know when and how to access the right support when needed. CCHT has on-site access to a team of professional counsellors who will meet with our pupils and their families, and equip them with the skills to help the children grow with resilience and confidence, while knowing how to access support should they need it.

Any money raised will be split 50/50 between the two charities. Please support me in any way you can by using this link: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/juliamacnamara-24hour-3peakschallenge>

Thank you!

JULIA MACNAMARA



Fr Sam will be on Shared Parental Leave from 9 May, returning on 20 June. We wish him well for his time with Felicity! For any enquiries that would usually go to Fr Sam, please contact the Parish Office.

The Plant Hunter

Christ Church parishioner Tom Mogford's new book is out and enjoying rave reviews.

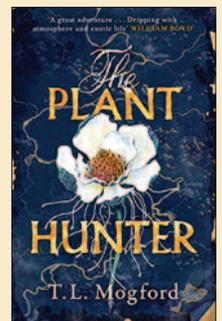
'Highly recommended' Mick Herron

'A great adventure. Dripping with atmosphere and exotic life' William Boyd

'A riveting page-turner, rich with fascinating period detail' Sunday Telegraph

1867. King's Road, Chelsea, is a sea of plant nurseries, catering to the Victorian obsession with rare and exotic flora. But each of the glossy emporiums is fuelled by the dangerous world of the plant hunters – daring adventurers sent into uncharted lands in search of untold wonders to grace England's finest gardens.

Harry Compton is as far from a plant hunter as one could imagine – a salesman plucked from the obscurity of the nursery growing fields to become 'the face that sold a thousand plants'. But one small act of kindness sees him inherit a precious gift – a specimen of a fabled tree last heard of in The Travels of Marco Polo, and a map. Seizing his chance for fame and fortune, Harry sets out to make his mark. But where there is wealth there is corruption, and soon Harry is fleeing England, rounding the Cape of Good Hope and sailing up the Yangtze alongside a young widow – both in pursuit of the plant that could transform both their lives forever.



In line with the parish's efforts to be more eco-friendly and to achieve the Silver Eco Church Award afforded by the Christian environmental charity A Rocha, the parish magazine is now being printed on recycled paper. Join us in our campaign and recycle your copy after sharing it and reading it!

Teaching the Liturgy – Peace

“The Peace of the Lord be always with you.”
“And also with you.”

We continue our series exploring the various parts of our eucharistic liturgy

One of the silver linings of Covid regulations for some church attendees has been the avoidance of awkwardness during the peace! The peace is a crucial aspect of our worship, however, and grasping this helps take it beyond being a socially-awkward greeting or simply a break in the service to catch up with each other.

You will have noticed that the invitation to share the peace comes just before the priest moves behind the altar to begin the Eucharistic prayer. The exchanging of peace at this point shows it is an act of preparation for offering ourselves to God and receiving Holy Communion.

In St. Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus warns, “So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift” (Matt. 5:23-24).

The peace or shalom of God is holistic. To be at peace with God is to be at peace with our neighbour, and with the whole of creation. Or, as the First Letter of John bluntly puts it, “Those who say, ‘I love God’, and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen” (1 John 4:20).

Jesus’ commandments to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love our neighbour as ourselves, cannot be separated. This is what the exchanging of peace reminds us. How can we approach the altar of God, seeking forgiveness, reconciliation and communion, if we are not willing to live in com-

munion with our neighbour? If we are unwilling to offer peace to our neighbour, how can we claim to live in peace with that person’s Creator and Redeemer?

The current situation in Ukraine, our destruction of the planet, as well as the broken relationships in our own lives, all tragically remind us of our inability to live in peace. Indeed, even when we do establish ‘peace’ it is often a false or uneasy peace. A ‘peace’ based on a logic of mutual suspicion that says, “I’ll watch your back, if you watch mine; but if you stab my back, I’ll stab yours!” Here, peace is not healing or transformative, but simply the absence of war or conflict.

The peace we are called to share in our worship, as in our own lives, however, is not a peace of our own making or bargaining. Rather, it is the peace already won and achieved in Christ. We receive and share this peace as a gift, because we cannot generate it ourselves – it is the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding. We offer one another the peace that we have been offered by God in Christ, through whom he has reconciled all things to himself. This is not cheap or fragile peace, precisely because it has faced and overcome the depths of death and hell. The risen Christ stands before his disciples in the locked room and declares, “Peace be with you!”

So, despite our often awkward and blundering exchanging of it in our worship and life together as Jesus’ disciples, it is nonetheless this eternal peace of the risen Christ that we declare and share.

SAMUEL RYLANDS



BROMPTON
VETERINARY CLINIC

90 Fulham Road
London SW3 6HR
Tel : 020 7225 2915

Kevin Clifford and his team have been providing a personal and caring service for the pets of Chelsea since 1993.

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