

# ST. LUKE'S & CHRIST CHURCH CHELSEA

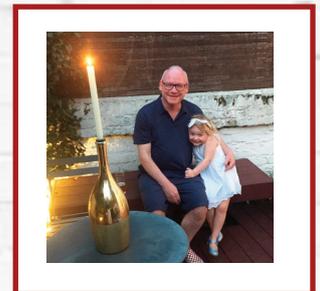
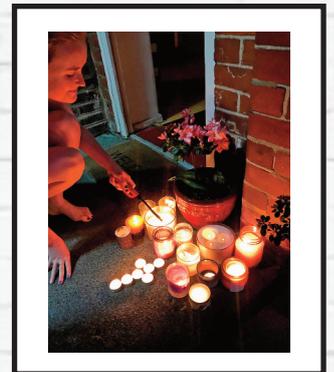
The Parish of St Luke and Christ Church  
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MAY 2020 PARISH MAGAZINE ISSUE NO. 184

WWW.CHELSEAPARISH.ORG

## ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!

We may not have been able to gather together in church, but we have continued to celebrate Easter from our homes. Here are some of the highlights:





Among the many shocks to hit Chelsea last month was the departure of Jane Ellard from the Parish Office, as she left us to take up the role of Parish Administrator at St Mary the Boltons. Thank you, Jane, for all your hard work in the office and for your faithful production of this magazine for the last few years.

We have loosely dubbed this edition “The Peoples’ Parish”. While we are in lockdown, we have been delighted to hear all that you are doing from home, and to be able to report on how we continue to join together in Easter worship and in Sunday School even while physically separate. Thank you for your many photos, and we are sorry that we have only been able to include a selection.

Presumably for the first time ever, this month’s magazine is only available electronically, though we hope to resume production of a printed version once lockdown eases. We hope and pray that you are all keeping safe and well. ☐

### Giving: a request for help

We are very grateful to all those who continue to support us financially while we are not able to meet. This is a financially challenging time for many of us. The church is no different: our regular income has dropped significantly because of the closure of the halls, and because of the loss of giving in church each Sunday. At the same time, while making savings where possible, we need to continue to pay our hugely dedicated staff and to sustain our thriving ministries in music, children, community outreach and so much more.

Please can we encourage you to consider giving by standing order each week? This is especially the case if you are one of those who puts your donation into the plate on Sundays, but may also be a moment

for you to review an existing standing order if you would be able to give even more generously in this difficult time.

We can support you in setting up a standing order by providing a form to fill in and return: please email [johnmceveigh@chelseaparish.org](mailto:johnmceveigh@chelseaparish.org) if you would like this sent to you. Alternatively, you can easily set up a standing order directly with your bank. For St Luke’s, the details are: **St Luke’s DCC, 60-05-14, account number 29616891**. For Christ Church, the details are: **Christ Church DCC, 60-05-14, 29663520**. If you do this, please email John McVeigh to let him know so we can thank you.

Thank you for your generosity. ☐

### Farewell to Fr John

Our curate John Russell had his last Sunday with us on Easter Day, as he leaves to become Associate Rector at St James’s Piccadilly. Here are some memories sent to us. ☐

*John, you are an inspirational priest to adults and children. I always remember your Epiphany enactment of the Three King’s gifts.*

*I remember a very rainy Saturday afternoon shortly after you became curate. We had many cups of tea, you kept my children entertained for hours with your drawing skills and we had time for a long and fascinating conversation.*

*I was confirmed last year as an adult and Fr John was an important part of that. All my best wishes and prayers are with him - he is a rare thing, I think and any parish will be lucky to have him, as we were.*

*I have a vivid picture in my head of my first meeting with Fr John - camouflaged face and tattooed legs! Who knew what an insightful man was hidden beneath. You brought so much to the parish John, not least your honesty, spirituality and humour.*

*I remember the first time I came to Christ Church, seeking a new spiritual home. I was immediately put at ease. It was a first for you too, the first sermon you preached at Christ Church after your ordination, and your smile and handshake afterwards assured me that I had found what I had been looking for.*



Fr John



We've all found ourselves using a new vocabulary in the last few weeks. We're doing everything 'virtually', we're 'social distancing' in the supermarket, I've learnt to 'zoom' and staying safe has taken on a very particular meaning. Like everyone else, I wonder both how long we will talk and live like this, but I also wonder just how many of the newly learned habits and lifestyle choices will endure beyond Covid 19? It's wonderful to live in a quieter street, to hear birdsong in Chelsea, but will working from home survive, will online shopping become the norm and the Kings Road lose its attraction, will we all walk or cycle more and use cars and planes less? Will nature be given a chance to continue to heal itself? Will Thursday evening applause continue in thankfulness for our NHS and social care staff?

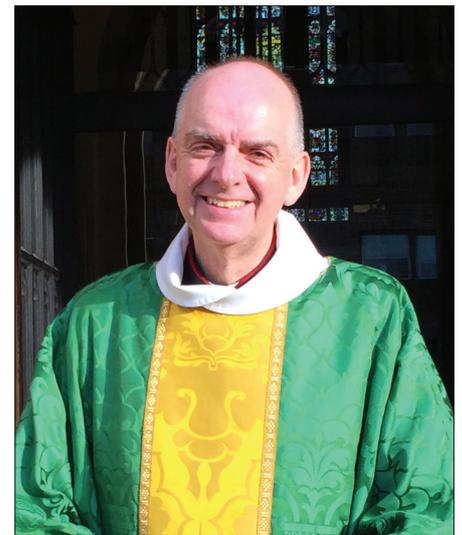
Certainly some things remain the same. Holy Week and Easter, no matter how changed they felt this year, continue to affirm the reality that the self-giving love of God, which was so totally displayed in Jesus Christ, is as real in the Covid 19 context as at any other time, even if, to the frustration of many, our church buildings remain closed while people long for the refreshment of sacred space to maintain hope and to find solace. I am only grateful that both our churches have accessible gardens which, by recent usage, are clearly magnetic in drawing people closer to our tangible statements about

the presence of God in our midst expressed in our buildings.

This month we are deliberately drawing on your experiences of life under this new dispensation and have asked our parishioners to submit stories and photos, ideas and experiences about life in a time of Coronavirus. It really is a People's Press, this month.

And one of the people we want to highlight is Fr John as he moves on to a new post at St James, Piccadilly. As we mentioned on Easter Day, John's three years with us has been one of exploration and new experiences for him, and new insights and perspectives for us. Thank you, John, for what you have brought us and go well, even if it is only to the other end of the 22 bus route!

We very much look forward to receiving into our parish our new curate, Samuel Rylands, who will be with us for three years in a title, ie training role. Samuel is married to Lily and has been training for ordained ministry at Trinity, Bristol. Samuel found himself stuck for a number of weeks in the Solomon Islands (pull out your atlas!), where he was working alongside the Melanesian Brotherhood; thankfully, in mid-April he managed to take a seat on an American repatriation flight and make his way home via Hawaii, San Francisco and Dallas. Ordinations this year are likely to be postponed until 26 September, but Samuel should be working



with us as a Licensed Lay Worker from the end of June.

Finally, my thanks, as always, go to our fabulous Parish Office team for the way they have enabled us to live and laugh, to pray and praise, to weep and mourn together in these days. To Fr Sam for his new found recording skills, Anna for her children's activities (199 children participated on Easter Day), John for being the known and trusted voice on the end of the phone day and night, Tracy for maintaining contact with everyone, Alicia for caring for our properties and their users while our doors are closed, all our musicians and readers for their inspiring contributions, and to Sunday for keeping our buildings safe and clean.

So people of St Luke and Christ Church, please do pray for us as we do for you each day at 9am. In the new vocabulary, stay safe and well, in the church's ancient words, Alleluia Christ is Risen, He is risen indeed, Alleluia. ☐

# The Posy Project Exhibition

The Posy Project Exhibition began as an idea to challenge myself to paint a small bouquet of flowers each month, using flowers that reflected what we see in our local environment. It soon became quite evident that the selection of flowers at the grocery store and even from our local flower kiosks did not provide local garden blooms, which might have derailed the entire project.



Christ Church Garden came to the rescue! Many of the flowers represented in the paintings were found in our local community garden at Christ Church, and luckily, since my husband is one of the head gardeners, he was able (albeit grudgingly) to spare a few samples as needed. These twelve monthly paintings form the core of the exhibition of approximately two dozen paintings.

Because the garden is such an asset to our community, open daily, and used by many who come to sit, read, rest, etc. I wanted my exhibit to highlight how important it is and, give back to help with its maintenance.

Therefore, 25% of sales has been earmarked to be given in support of the garden. The Church embraced the idea enthusiastically, helping to envision the exhibition, (unfortunately now postponed). The exhibition cleverly had been scheduled to coincide with the Chelsea Flower Show week in May with plans for a Garden Party opening reception! All very exciting! As soon as it is safe, we will reschedule the exhibition. In the meantime, enjoy the gardens and raise a glass.... Watch this space!



Christ Church Garden is a small, but very well loved, lovingly tended and well used parish and community garden, a little gem in our quiet corner of Chelsea. It

is also a multiple award winner, especially for the roses, from both the Chelsea Garden Guild and the Brighter Kensington & Chelsea initiative.



The big news this year is that the present head gardeners, Vicky Jacobsen and Bill Morrow have been selected as winners of the Mayor's Awards for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea having been nominated by a resident of Christchurch Street. They were due to receive the awards and attend the Presentation Ceremony and Reception at Kensington Town Hall in March, now postponed.

The gardens are regularly tended by Vicky and Bill with help from another neighbour, Chris Porter, all on a voluntary basis. Divided into two parts, the south is the sun catcher while the north provides some shady areas. There are benches on both sides which you will often find occupied by visitors of all ages. While Vicky and Bill are the present head gardeners, there has been a lineage of Church members and residents who have spent many a happy hour or two pottering about for the pleasure of the parish and community. If you are interested in helping in the garden contact the Parish Office and they will forward your contact details to Bill and Vicky.



Please do keep an eye out for the Posy Project Exhibition's rescheduled date.

MADELINE MORROW

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## School Update



Even amidst the lockdown, learning continues at Christ Church and Holy Trinity. Children of key workers are attending a Learning Creche at the Holy Trinity site, and are pictured as the Creche reopened after the Easter holiday



in front of a rainbow of balloons that was made for them. Christ Church and Holy Trinity staff are working on a weekly rota, making sure that there



is always enough staff to support the children who attend. Other children have been studying at home. Thank you to our children for adapting to these new conditions, and to staff and parents for all you are doing to support our childrens' learning in these difficult times. ☐



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# VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ ANNA STAMENOVA

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7



During this unprecedented season of quarantine due to the coronavirus, as our normal routines have drastically changed, we can either fill our days with mindless activities and the latest news headlines or, we can open the Scriptures and find comforting truths to guide us through this uncertain time. That why I

I love receiving your Sunday emails with your pictures and stories- happy or sad, that what is keeping us together, make us stronger, makes more caring and kind people. And it makes our faith in Jesus stronger, giving us hope that we will build better world for us and our children. And this is what



us the power of internet so that we are able to communicate and keep in touch with each other through our online Sunday service and Sunday school.

I'm very thankful for your constant support and help in continuing running our amazing Sunday School in those difficult and strange times. I feel very lucky to be able to experience life alongside you and feel blessed that I know that I'm part of the greatest community. Thank you for being a part of my journey.



we can teach them now in our Sunday School. We are away from each other, but we are closer in faith in God than ever. Let the light of Christ fill your heart and lift your spirit.

With Love,  
Anna



## *Palm Sunday*

# Easter Day



  
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# CONTACT PARISH OFFICE : 020 7351 7365

**Rector: The Revd Prebendary Dr Brian Leathard**  
brianleathard@chelseaparish.org

**Associate Vicar: The Revd Dr Sam Hole**  
samhole@chelseaparish.org

**Operations Manager and Bursar: John McVeigh**  
johnmcveigh@chelseaparish.org

**General Enquiries**  
**Parish Administrator/ receptionist: Tracy Best**  
parishoffice@chelseaparish.org

**Property Administrator: Alicia Hilliard**  
(Direct Line: 020 7351 6133)  
hallbookings@chelseaparish.org

**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.*

**ST. LUKE'S**  
Sydney Street,  
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Churchwardens: Jamie Gibbs 07803 596 256  
Charles Combe 07747 796 124  
Director of Music: Jeremy Summerly 07956 801 223

**CHRIST CHURCH**  
Christchurch Street,  
London SW3 4AS

Churchwardens: Aidus McVeigh 020 7223 8591  
Nick Smith 07889 369 060  
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)

Follow us on



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

## What I did during lockdown...

We asked you to let us know what you have been up to while in lockdown.  
Here are some of the responses:



Baking your first sourdough



Forming a Home Cook Army to feed NHS staff, the elderly and vulnerable.



Learning to cartwheel!



Wishing you were on a beach in Trinidad and Tobago

...and many of you have been enjoying our videos of Sunday worship from home