



**ST PAUL'S  
KNIGHTSBRIDGE**

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2011

## HOLINESS

What makes a church or place or building holy?

Rudolf Otto's book *The Idea of the Holy* (Oxford University Press, 1958) has helped many people go some way to answering this question. In his analysis of religion, Otto identifies a universal and elemental aspect.....the awareness of *Mysterium Tremendum*.

Religion attempts to deal with the unknowable, transcendent Other, which we perceive through intuition. Religion focuses on the mystery that is at once awesome, transcendent and fascinating as well as immanent. If we are to deal with this mystery, we must find a symbol for it. And I think that we have one primary symbol available in human experience: namely, beauty.

Not a particular beauty, but all beauty. For beauty is also a mystery -- ineffable, unknowable but perceivable, remote but fascinating. We sense it, we do not deduce it. It is an experience, not a rational conclusion. The beautiful thing invites us into a state of wonder or awe, and if we are receptive, this lesser mystery can point, as symbols point, to the greater mystery, the *Mysterium Tremendum*. And I suppose this is the reason that priest and artist are found to be companions in every religion.

If we assume that the symbol of the holy is not a particular beauty, but beauty of any sort, then it is not surprising that we can love equally places as diverse as Chartres Cathedral, the Parthenon or the Dome of the Rock. It is the beauty of the places that is convincing.

If any beautiful thing -- is a metaphor of the sacred, then there is no such thing as a

uniquely "religious" or ecclesiastical idiom in architecture or in the other arts. We are not then surprised that the Messiah is not a generically different sort of music from one of Handel's "secular" oratorios. We are not surprised that Rembrandt's landscapes and portraits differ only in subject matter from his work on biblical themes. And it is clear that places other than dedicated church buildings can be perceived as good places to assemble for worship. The early Christians recognized this fact when they were content to worship in homes, and later, when they adopted the secular basilica as the place of worship. The Puritan meetinghouses very consciously dissolved the barrier between sacred and

secular, and demonstrated for us that it is beauty, authenticity and hospitality, not a particular style, that are the metaphors of the sacred.

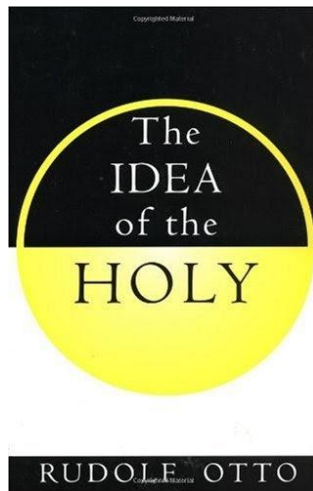
Just as it is a privilege simply to be in the presence of a really good person, so one finds both comfort and stimulation in simply being in the presence of a good building.

Beautiful "secular" buildings may well be appropriate for religious services, the occasions when people open themselves to the consciousness of God. I can well imagine Christians

gathering in places as diverse as the Great Hall at Elsinore Castle, or the Imperial Audience Hall at Kyoto, or the central dining room at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco.

If the secular has a sacred potential and if ugliness, inhumanity and artificiality are wrong in the place of worship, they are also wrong elsewhere. Christians should undertake to make not only church buildings into metaphors of the holy, but all architecture for which they have responsibility. If it is true that secular buildings can be vehicles of grace, then they ought to be. Anything less is a denial of the faith. In addition to our church buildings, our homes, factories and workplaces, our cities in general ought to be portals of transcendence.

*Fr Stephen Young, Senior Curate*



## EVENTS AT ST PAUL'S KNIGHTSBRIDGE THIS WEEK

### TODAY: DEDICATION FESTIVAL

At the **Family Mass** at **09:00** the celebrant and preacher is Fr Alan Gyle. There will be godly play for younger children.

At **11:00** the celebrant is Fr Nick Mercer and the preacher is Fr Alan Gyle. Music: *Lassus - Missa Vinum Bonum; Byrd - Teach me O Lord; Phillips - Ave verum*



**BBC SINGERS**



**This Monday (24<sup>th</sup>) the church will be closed for rehearsals and the set-up for a live concert to be broadcast at 7.30pm on BBC Radio 3. The event is sold out – but you can listen, live!**

### THIS WEEK

**Morning Prayer** will be said daily and there is a **daily mass** at 18:00 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – and at noon on Saturday. On **Wednesday evenings at 18:45** there is the Wednesday evening service; this week the preacher is Fr Stephen Young.

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> there is a **JUMBLE SALE** in the Hall in Kinnerton Street (offers of jumble, and help, to Niki Bartman 020 7602 4599).

At 11am on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>, the FANYs join us for their annual **FANY Memorial Service**. The service will be conducted by their Chaplain, The Reverend Canon Flora Winfield.

**Flights of Fancy** with the BBC Singers  
**Monday 24 October 2011, 7.30pm**

**ERIC WHITACRE** Leonardo dreams of his flying machine

**STRAVINSKY** Study for pianola

**GRAINGER** Shepherd's Hey

**MATTHEW ORLOVICH** Aviation

**NANCARROW** Study no. 6

**GABRIEL JACKSON** Airplane Cantata (BBC commission: world premiere)

**ROSENTHAL** Papillons

**RACHMANINOV** Prelude in D major; Prelude in E flat major

**BRAHMS** Liebeslieder Waltzes

The BBC Singers explore the history of mankind in flight – from Icarus to Amy Johnson – in music for choir and pianola, including a new piece by BBC Singers' Associate Composer Gabriel Jackson. Pianola player Rex Lawson demonstrates the artistry of this extraordinarily ingenious and sophisticated musical instrument, performing both arrangements and original works composed for it.

### NEXT WEEK: ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



**British Summer Time ends** next weekend – and so you have the luxury of an extra hour in bed before coming to mass!

At the Family Mass at **09:00** the celebrant and preacher is Fr Stephen Young. There will be godly play for younger children. At **11:00** the celebrant is Fr Alan Gyle and the preacher is Fr Stephen Young. Music: *Victoria - Missa O quam gloriosum; Byrd - Justorum animae; Schutz - Selig sind die Toten*

### LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD

The Solemn Requiem on **All Souls Day** will be on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011 at 7pm**. The mass will be sung to the haunting music of Maurice Duruflé (Requiem Op. 9); the preacher will be Fr Stephen Young. At the mass we will pray for the faithful departed by name, and invite all who have lost loved ones to join us.



**BBC Singers, Rex Lawson pianola, James Morgan conductor**

**Remembrance Sunday** will be **November 13<sup>th</sup> 2011**, and the day will be marked by the singing of a Solemn Requiem, preceded by an **Act of Remembrance beginning at 10.55am**.



## Please note

Veronica Scott would be very grateful to hear of any who could volunteer to help with **the flower rota** (training offered!). Phone: 020 7603 7680

We are keen to recruit volunteers to serve at the High Mass and others to help set up the church early on Sunday mornings. Please have a word with the Vicar, the Senior Curate or one of the Churchwardens.

## Masses & Psalm Responses

### **Sunday 23rd : Feast of Dedication**

Family Mass at 09:00

High Mass at 11:00

### **Monday 24th : feria**

Mass at 18:00 Week 30 (year 1);

Lect.P.732/Green

**“God is the God of our salvation”**

### **Tuesday 25th : feria**

Mass at 18:00 Week 30 (year 1);

Lect.P.734/Green

**“Those who sow in tears shall reap with songs of joy”**

### **Wednesday 26th : Alfred the Great**

Mass at 18:45/White

Fr Stephen Young

### **Thursday 27th : feria**

Mass at 18:00 Lect.P.739/Green

**“Help me, O Lord my God, and save me for your mercy’s sake”**

### **Friday 28th : Simon and Jude**

Mass at 18:00 EH.P.463

**“I am laying in Zion a foundation stone, says God”**

### **Saturday 29th : James Hannington**

Mass at noon EH.P.466/Red

**“Do not fear, for I am with you, says God”**

## In our daily prayers



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### **On this day we pray for:**

- Our sister parish, St Paul’s K-Street in this their stewardship renewal month. We pray for the Diocese of Washington.
- Our Cathedral Church of St Paul, its Dean and Chapter.
- The peoples of Libya, and for peace there.
- Those who work in the world of international finance.

Pray for our Bishop, Richard Chartres – and for the Area and Assistant Bishops in the Diocese of London.

### **Among the sick and those in need, we pray for:**

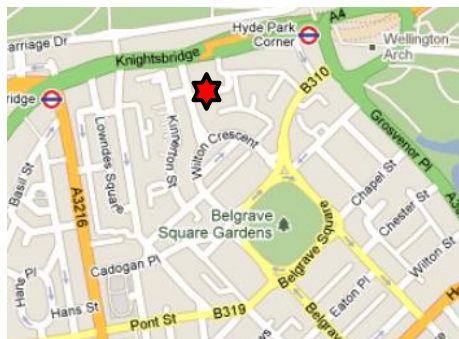
Ian Powe; Nick Harsant; Vassi Chamberlain; Nadine Killlearn; Ryan King, Ian O’Hara, Richard Thornton, Kelsey, Eve Margolies, Frederico Fernandez, Arabella Elliott, Philip Sapsford, Dominique Murray, Michael Taylor, Thomas Keatley, Robin Higgs, John Willmington.

### **Among the faithful departed and those whose year’s mind is at this time:**

John McGinty; Rhada Hall; Norman Ireland.

Kay Bonham-Carter (20<sup>th</sup>); Robert Dean (21<sup>st</sup>)  
Rose Emily Welsh (22<sup>nd</sup>) Valerie Middleton (24<sup>th</sup>)  
Esme MacDonald (25<sup>th</sup>) SarahHoexter (25<sup>th</sup>);  
Harold Loasby (priest) (27<sup>th</sup>); Patrick Hackett (30<sup>th</sup>); Rose Macaulay(30<sup>th</sup>)

## PARISH CONTACTS



### THE PARISH OFFICE

32a Wilton Place, London SW1X 8SH

Telephone: 020 7201 9999 ♦ Fax: 020 7201 9997

### THE PARISH CLERGY



**Vicar:** Fr Alan Gyle  
[alan@spkb.org](mailto:alan@spkb.org)  
020 7201 9999 /07939 805970



**Senior Curate:** Fr Stephen Young  
[stephen@spkb.org](mailto:stephen@spkb.org)  
020 7201 9999

### Honorary Assistant Clergy:



(l-r) Fr Nick Mercer; Fr Andrew Norwood; Fr Graham Palmer

A priest is available before or after the daily Eucharist for confession and spiritual guidance, and also by appointment. A member of the parish clergy is always available in pastoral emergencies and we will be glad to be contacted at whatever hour, seven days a week; however, as a general rule Fr Alan is unavailable on Fridays and Fr Stephen on Tuesdays.

### THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

#### Director of Music:

Stevie Farr  
[stephen.farr@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stephen.farr@yahoo.co.uk)  
07930 542555

#### Assistant Director of Music:

Christian Wilson  
[christian.wilson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:christian.wilson@hotmail.co.uk)  
07966 425303

### LAY OFFICERS & OTHER STAFF

#### Churchwardens:



John Tweddle  
[john.tweddle@bidwells.co.uk](mailto:john.tweddle@bidwells.co.uk)  
020 7235 0747



Caroline Docker  
[dockercaroline@gmail.com](mailto:dockercaroline@gmail.com)  
020 7384 1165

#### Deputy Churchwardens:

William Humbert  
Nicoletta Lindsay  
Aidan Linton Smith

#### Treasurer:

Phil Davies  
[philip@spkb.org](mailto:philip@spkb.org)  
07989 387 198

#### Vicar's PA:

Felicity Cranfield  
[felicitycranfield@stpaulsknightsbridge.org](mailto:felicitycranfield@stpaulsknightsbridge.org)  
020 7201 9999

#### Acting Parish Administrator:

Nick Coppack  
[PA@spkb.org](mailto:PA@spkb.org)  
020 7201 9999

#### Lady Verger & Churchwardens' Deputy:

Veronica Scott  
[veronicamscott@hotmail.com](mailto:veronicamscott@hotmail.com)  
020 7603 7680

visit: [www.spkb.org](http://www.spkb.org)

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