

IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS

AN AMISH PRAYER

God will not forsake the one who lives in the truth. God is ready to hear us if we hate sin. Oh Jesus Christ, it is your spirit that comforts us. Do not leave us! Be merciful to us and intercede for us . . . as we near the end of time.

Othmar Roth. Sankt Gallen, Switzerland, 1532.

PRAY FOR the unity of the Anglican Communion and for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams; for Richard our Bishop and the Area Bishops in London; for The Deanery of St Margaret's (Westminster); for this parish of St Paul and all who dwell and work here; for our sister parish of St Paul's K Street, Washington;

THOSE TO BE MARRIED

Piers Thynne and Lucinda Wharton; Mairi Brewis and Benjamin White.

THE SICK & THOSE IN NEED

Dorothy Jones; Frances Stonor; Kitty Baxter; Clariette Wilmot; Chantal Patel; Dominique Murray; Ralph Dunstan; Cynthia Angus; Vivian Greblo; Monika Stephanopoli; Penri Morgan; Juliet Merz; James Bedford; Simon Murphy; Michael Taylor.

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED

Celia Ball; Millie Douglas-Pennant; Farah Russell; Molly Roberts; Nancy Geikie.

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Henry Montagu Villiers (priest); Richard Coke.

All names will be included on lists for the clergy to pray for day by day for as long as people wish us to pray for them, but on the Weekly Sheet names will be removed after two weeks. We would be very grateful if people could keep us informed about those for whom we pray.

CONTACTS

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You can support our work by donating online at:

www.justgiving.com/stpaulsknightsbridge/donate

THE PARISH CLERGY



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Honorary Assistant Clergy:

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. If you would like to meet with the clergy, please ring the parish office to make a weekday 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 Richard on Tuesdays.

OFFICERS & OTHER STAFF

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ST PAUL'S KNIGHTSBRIDGE



THE WEEKLY SHEET

5th–12th September 2010

"So, shall we say our prayer now?..."

Published by Random House on Thursday of this coming week, Stephen Hawking's latest epic tome on theoretical physics and the meaning of life, the universe and everything, *The Grand Design*, is already causing a fluttering in the dovecots of the theological world. What is this dispute all about?

One of the assertions in the book's complex argument is as follows: "*Spontaneous creation is the reason there is something rather than nothing, why the universe exists, why we exist. It is not necessary to invoke God to light the blue touch paper and set the universe going.*" Hungry Times and Guardian hacks, in search of a winning headline, have paraphrased this as "Physics disproves the existence of God." Well, not entirely....

For the best part of a century now, theoretical physics has been playing with ideas that spring from the world of quantum theory. Why? Classical (Newtonian) scientific theories in which objects with definitive histories move on predictable paths, though adequate for making sense of most day-to-day experience, proved unreliable when it came to explaining the behaviour of objects in the sub-atomic world; models produced by quantum theory make sense of the microscopic realm, and are serviceable in the macroscopic world too. Some of the more vivid theoretical creations of quantum theory have seeped into popular culture (e.g. in sci-fi films in which protagonists slip between parallel universes, and so on), but by and large quantum theory in its astonishing complexity and *apparent* absurdity is the preserve of dedicated scientists. Trying to wrest phrases from their theorising and to interpret them in abstraction is as productive (and potentially dangerous!) as trying to do the same with Scripture!

In a world of competing models, Hawking is suggesting that classical defences of God's existence on the basis of his necessity as the prime-mover to bring 'creation' out of chaos are not – perhaps – as secure as had been assumed. Could – in a closed universe – creation emerge spontaneously from chaos... well, yes... according to one model of quantum theory. But this is not to disprove God's existence! In any case our relationship with God doesn't spring from a theoretical model but from the experience of the heart – and is a decision of faith, not a proposition to be proved (or disproved).

I'm reminded of the two learned rabbis arguing about the existence of God – and the one roundly trouncing the other in a spectacularly eloquent debate. At the end, it seemed, God must indeed be a figment of their imaginations, *quod erat demonstrandum*. 'Oi vey,' said the rabbi who'd won the argument, 'shall we go and say our prayers now?' 'Why not,' said the second... and off they happily went.

Fr Alan Gyle, Vicar

SERVICES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday 5 th September	9 a.m. 11 a.m. 1 p.m. 1-6 p.m. 6 p.m.	Family Mass Solemn Mass Parish Lunch Church closed (BBC) Evening Prayer
Monday 6 th September	9 a.m. 6 p.m.	Morning Prayer Low Mass
Tuesday 7 th September	9 a.m. 6 p.m.	Morning Prayer Low Mass
Wednesday 8 th September	9 a.m. 6.45 p.m.	Morning Prayer Wednesday Evening Service <i>followed by refreshments.</i>
Thursday 9 th September	9 a.m. 6 p.m.	Morning Prayer Low Mass
Friday 10 th September	9 a.m. 6 p.m.	Morning Prayer Low Mass
Saturday 11 th September	12 noon 4 p.m.	Low Mass Wedding
Sunday 12 th September	9 a.m. 11 a.m. 5 p.m. 6 p.m.	Family Mass Solemn Mass Father Richard's Talk 'This Is My Body' Evening Prayer

St Paul's Knightsbridge maintains a tradition of daily prayer and a daily mass, with clergy available each day for conversation and counsel. However, our main focuses are Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. You will be very welcome. The church is open for prayer from 09:00 till after the evening service.

THEODORE GULLIFORD BOOK APPEAL

William Gulliford would like to thank everyone who donated to his son's book appeal for his school. The congregation raised £179.20 which is greatly appreciated.

FOR YOUR DIARIES...

On three consecutive Sundays in September, at 5 p.m. followed by Evening Prayer at 6, Fr Richard will lead three sessions intended as introductions (or refreshers) to three key aspects of Christian faith. On **Sunday 12th September** *This Is My Body* deals with Holy Communion; on **Sunday 19th** *Between a Puritan and a Papist* looks at the origin and identity of Anglicanism; and on **Sunday 26th** *The Harp with a Thousand Strings* introduces the Bible. If you would be interested in attending all or any of these, please let the office know.

RAPHAEL TAPESTRIES AT THE V&A

To coincide with the visit of the Pope to London in September the Vatican has agreed to lend four of the ten tapestries designed by Raphael for the Sistine Chapel, including the "Magnificent Draught of Fishes". They will be displayed beside Raphael's seven surviving cartoons held by the V&A since 1865, and reunited for the first time. Free timed tickets available from 1st July from the Victoria and Albert Museum for the exhibition lasting six weeks from Wednesday 8th September.

ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS

St Martin in the Fields' Autumn Education Programme for 2010 is entitled "And the Word became flesh and lived among us." In this year's Autumn Education Series a team of speakers seek to engage deeply with the Christian Scriptures, in the context of our 21st century world and our lives. Speakers include Dr Jeffrey John, Dean of St Albans, and Dr Richard Burrigge, Dean of Kings London and the Revd Lucy Winkett, new Rector of St James' Piccadilly. The sessions are scheduled for Mondays 27th September, 11th October, 25th October, 8th November and 22nd November in St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, Trafalgar Square from 7.00pm-8.30pm. The events are free, unticketed, and all are welcome. For further information please email richard.carter@smitf.org or contact the Parish Office on 020 7766 1100 www.smitf.org



Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Detail)

Giotto di Bondone (1267-1337) Scrovegni Chapel, Padua

MASS INTENTIONS & PSALM RESPONSES

5th – 11th September 2010

Sunday 5th September: 14th Sunday after Trinity Green

Pray for peace throughout the world

Psalm: *You, O Lord, created my inward parts*

Gospel reading: Luke 14.25-33

Mon 6th: Week 23 Green

Pray for the diocese

Psalm: *Lead me, Lord, in your righteousness*

Gospel reading: Luke 6.6-11

Tuesday 7th: feria Green

Pray for our sister parish

Psalm: *Sing to the Lord a new song*

Gospel reading: Luke 6.12-19

Weds 8th: Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary White

Pray for our daughter parish, St Mary's Bourne Street

Psalm (no.131): *O Lord, my heart is not lifted up, my eyes are not raised too high;*

Gospel reading: Luke 1.26-38

Thursday 9th: feria Green

Pray for the poor

Psalm: *O Lord, you have searched me out and known me.*

Gospel reading: Luke 6.27-38

Friday 10th: feria Green

Pray for peace

Psalm: *How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts!*

Gospel reading: Luke 6.39-42

Saturday 11th: feria of the B. V. Mary White

Pray for unity

Psalm: *I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving*

Gospel reading: Luke 6.43-47

Mailchimp, our new email distribution system is up and running – but if we don't have your email address we can't help you to connect 'virtually' with our life and keep you up to date. If you're not on our list, fill in a yellow slip and either pop it into the collection plate or hand it to us after the service.

