



ST PAUL'S  
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

## 19 MAY 2013: THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

### THE WIND BLOWETH WHERE IT LISTETH...

At a wedding reception in Berkshire on Friday afternoon three people to whom I spoke lavished praise on the church service earlier in the day while quickly declaring themselves to be non-churchgoers. "I'm spiritual but not religious," seemed to be the recurring theme.

Poll after poll suggests that one observable trend in our day is that though active commitment to organised religion is diminishing in the West, people's sense of 'spirituality' is alive and well, creating – where people *do* come along – a gulf in the life of the Church between, on the one hand 'spirituality' and on the other 'belief.' Which comes first? Some 'experience' of the spiritual realm – or that framework of agreed understanding about the economy of God and his action in Christ, 'doctrine,' and to which should we give priority?

Our age is at once both 'touchy-feely' and very syncretistic. Kabbalah is fashionable and may be interesting (Madonna certainly thinks so!). Eastern mysticism may delight your desires for the exotic and esoteric. And if your taste is for the native and the home-grown, there is no end of spiritual writing ostensibly derived from the Celtic tradition. Light a scented candle, dim the lights, cradle that pebble and open your heart and mind... It can be soothing, even powerful – but where is the point of connection with what goes on in church?

In our post-modern world many 'believe (something or other) without belonging (to the Church).' And many in the pews 'belong

without believing'... which is to say many people, through the strong communitarian or aesthetic experience of worship and fellowship in places like St Paul's Knightsbridge or Cathedrals and Abbeys, 'sense God's presence but can't quite buy-in to the rest of the package.' They are enquirers, seekers. Many others in the Christian community – card-carrying believers – simply write off 'spirituality' and 'religious experience' in all its forms as obfuscating and ultimately unnecessary.

Where, I wonder, are you in all of this?

Perhaps instead of railing against spirituality, the churches should harness it. At this season of Pentecost, it is good to pause and to ponder that – *and* the Spirit of God 'blowing where it wills.' Clearly much of what passes as 'spirituality' in our post-

modern world is ultimately a distraction. But much of it may not be – and may well be one of the vehicles through which God speaks to our age. Those who are suspicious of 'alternative spirituality' would do well to open their hearts and minds to that possibility. And those who have a predisposition to the 'touchy-feely' would do well to remain alert to the possibility that not all spirituality is necessarily godly. And those who 'belong without believing'? They should perhaps always remember that in Christ we are called from discerning the touch of the Spirit to real discipleship and an active following after Christ.

*Fr Alan Gyle*



# NOTICES

## VISITORS & NEWCOMERS TO ST PAUL'S

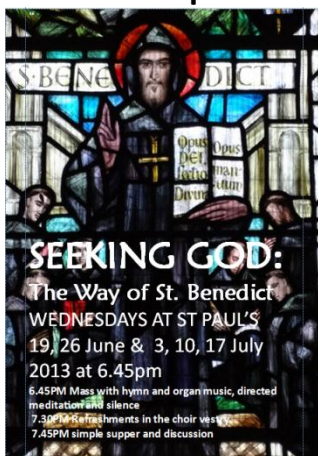
If you are visiting us this Sunday morning, welcome! If you are here from another church, please let us know. All who are in good standing with their own churches of whatever tradition and who are regular communicants are welcome to receive the sacrament at the altar today. Afterwards, we hope you will join us for refreshments – and if you will, pause to fill in a Visitor's Card: we will be glad to add you to our mailing list and to make contact if that is what you'd like. And if you simply wish to visit and slip away, that is fine too!

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

There will be a brief meeting of the PCC after Mass this morning (Pentecost) at 12.15 in St Luke's Chapel to elect officers and appoint sidesmen. The first full meeting of the PCC will be on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at 7pm.



## WEDNESDAY EVENING EUCHARIST & STUDY 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> June and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July 2013 at 6.45pm.



“The world into which St. Benedict was born was a troubled, torn apart, uncertain world. It knew little of safety or of security, and the church was almost as troubled as the secular powers. It was a world without landmarks. It had this in common

with the twentieth century: life was an urgent struggle to make sense of what was happening.” So Esther de Waal begins her first chapter in her classic book on St Benedict and perhaps thus puts her finger on the extraordinary appeal of the Rule of St Benedict in our own age, not just within the church at large but also in our increasingly secularized society.

Esther de Waal is a noted scholar of the Benedictine life and in this book she elucidates and makes very accessible the Rule of St. Benedict, as well as applying it to the spiritual lives of the baptized. In so doing she opens to us an opportunity to explore—among other things—the place of silence and stillness in busy lives and the need for a godly ‘mindfulness’ for our health and wellbeing.

Copies of **SEEKING GOD: The Way of St. Benedict** can be purchased at Amazon, along with both simple and more elaborate versions of the Rule itself.

In keeping with the Benedictine theme of these five Wednesdays, the Mass at 6.45PM will take on a more meditative quality, with a directed meditation in place of the usual homily, and the opportunity for silence. The author, Esther de Waal, will be at St Paul's in person on the evening of Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July to talk about ‘The Importance of Paradox’.

## FORTHCOMING SERVICES

### May 19: Pentecost

**09:00 Family Mass with Hymns** – Fr Alan Gyle  
**11:00 Solemn High Mass & Baptism**  
Missa Dum Complerentur - Victoria  
Loquebantur variis linguis - Tallis  
Dum complerentur – Palestrina  
Preacher: Fr Andrew Sloane

### May 26: Trinity Sunday

**09:00 Family Mass with Hymns** – Fr Nick Mercer  
**11:00 Solemn High Mass & Baptism**  
Credomesse - Mozart  
Lord, grant grace - Gibbons  
Libera nos - Sheppard  
Preacher: Fr Nick Mercer

## IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Today we pray especially for:

Those being baptised and confirmed today

### We pray daily for:

- The renewal of the Church
- our Bishop, Richard
- our sister parish, St Paul's K-Street, Washington, USA
- those on active service overseas, especially Robin Lindsay and the men he commands in Afghanistan
- the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and for the unity and health of the Anglican Communion (*the daily cycle of prayer for the Anglican Communion is to be found at: [www.anglicancommunion.org/acp](http://www.anglicancommunion.org/acp)*)
- our sisters and brothers of the Roman Catholic Church and for Pope Francis I, and for the Eastern Orthodox churches and Bartholomew the Ecumenical Patriarch.

### Among the bereaved, the sick and those in any kind of need:

Robin Cassidy and his family; Phil Davies; Christiane Mingel; Chantal Patel; Tessa Murphy; Matthew; Tim Dally; Annelise Bowser; Kelsey Brockbank; Sal Allen; Peter Adcock; Peter Brook; Michael Cook; Kenneth James; John King; Daphne Nugent; Jean Steers; Katherine Davis; John Willmington; Andrew Westwood; Alexandra Holesh; Teresa Noone; Caitriona Quinn; Clariette Wilmot

### We pray for the bereaved and all the faithful departed, among them especially:

Elizabeth Cassidy,

### and those whose Year's Mind is at this time:

Eileen Goode	18 May
Sally Windham	20 May
Averill Sloane	21 May
Eric Knightley Chetwode Hamilton	21 May
Gerard Doyle	22 May
Dudley Middleton	23 May
Herbert Robinson	24 May

## MASSES & PSALM RESPONSES

There is a mass daily at St Paul's and all are welcome to attend. Service papers are available outside the Chapel or Chancel.

Date and observance → Tuesday 5 February – feria

Colour of vestments → ● Mass at 18:00; DEL p.80, year 1;

Response to the psalm → I will proclaim your name among the people

Page where the lections are to be found → DEL p.80, year 1;

### Sunday 19 May – Pentecost

● Masses at 09:00 & 11:00

### Monday 20 May – Alcuin of York

○ Mass at 18:00; EH p. 153;

**To you, O God, I lift up my eyes.**

### Tuesday 21 May – feria

● Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 348 (year 1);

**Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in him.**

### Wednesday 22 May – feria

● Mass at 18:45; DEL p. 351 (year 1);

**Great peace have they who love your law.**

### Thursday 23 May – feria

● Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 354 (year 1);

**The Lord knows the way of the righteous.**

### Friday 24 May – John and Charles Wesley

○ Mass at 18:00; EH p. 156;

**Sing God's praises among the nations.**

### Saturday 25 May – The Venerable Bede

○ Mass at noon; EH p. 159;

**Nations will speak of God's wisdom.**

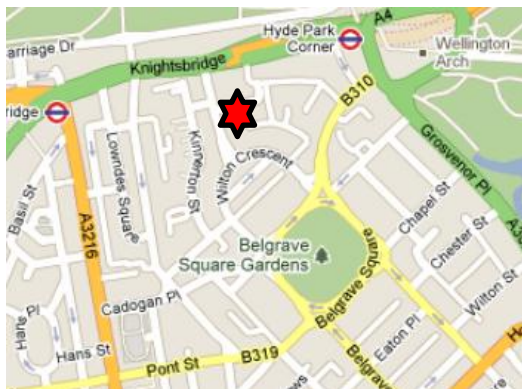
### Sunday 26 May – Trinity Sunday

○ Masses at 09:00 & 11:00

## BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION

Anyone who is interested in or who may have any questions about being baptized and/or confirmed in the coming months is asked to please contact Fr. Andrew Sloane ([AndrewSloane@spkb.org](mailto:AndrewSloane@spkb.org) - or by phone: **0207201 9999**) at your earliest convenience so we can organize some appropriate and enjoyable preparation! Many thanks.

# PARISH CONTACTS



## THE PARISH OFFICE

32a Wilton Place, London SW1X 8SH

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## THE PARISH CLERGY



### Vicar

Fr Alan Gyle  
alan@spkb.org  
020 7201 9999 • 07939 805970



### Associate Vicar

Fr Andrew Sloane  
AndrewSloane@spkb.org  
020 7201 9996 • 07429 806173

## 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 Mondays and Fr Andrew Sloane on Fridays.

## THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



### Director of Music

Stevie Farr  
stephen.farr@yahoo.co.uk  
07930 542555



### Assistant Director of Music

Christian Wilson  
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### Organ Scholar

Georgina Sherriff

## LAY OFFICERS & OTHER STAFF



### Churchwarden

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### Churchwarden

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## Deputy Churchwardens

Nicky Lindsay  
Aidan Linton-Smith  
Jeremy Orlebar

## Treasurer

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## Lady Verger & Churchwardens' Deputy

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## Vicar's PA

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## Parish Administrator

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