



ST PAUL'S
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

20 January 2013: Epiphany 3



Christian unity?

Oh dear. The shame of it. At the very start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (annually from the 18th – 25th January), an attempted vote of no confidence in the chairman House of Laity of the General Synod of the Church of England by its members in the wake of the vote on women bishops. It succeeded only (the motion itself being defeated) in parading before an increasingly bemused nation the divisions and disagreements of the National Church over direction of travel and fundamental order. This at precisely the same moment as, in the background, the formal steps are taken to confirm the appointment of our new Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. What a burden it must be to be an 'instrument of unity' in such times as these.

Church life is highly politicised. On the one hand this is a good thing because it points to the fact that people care, often passionately, about fundamental things in the church's life (how much worse, after all, for there to be simply a sea of apathy and for nothing to matter very much!). But passionate debate and disagreement feels to many to be very much at odds with the Church's supposed message of peace and unity – and this perceived dissonance is the more acute in a week set aside for praying for unity within the Body of Christ.

Whither unity? As is so often the case, a little theological reflection is helpful. Christians contend that the unity we seek comes not from our own strivings and skilled politicking. If this were the case, there would be no hope – for however politically adept we are (and it has to be confessed that we have not, as a National Church, demonstrated much political acumen in recent months!) we will never be so skilled that we manage agreement continuously. Actually it is rather a good thing to have disagreement and debate – as a sign of life and of growth and of curiosity. Rather Christians believe that our unity flows from God – and not as a distant ideal, but as an already-experience reality; it comes from our Baptism in which we are made one within the Body of Christ by God. This means that, though we may disagree, the manner in which we must do so is prescribed – not, of course, in terms of procedure (sadly neither Scripture nor tradition quite lay down the way in which Christians should conduct debate and achieve clarity about what to do!), but certainly in terms of fundamental attitude. All our debating, our reflecting, our disagreeing starts with the non-negotiable fact that we are (and must be) together, and that conviction must inform the tone and manner of our debating. The scandal of recent weeks is not the debate itself – but the shrill, unkind, judging way in which so much of it has been conducted. And for Christians, of course, this principle holds true for national debate and for those more domestic or in-house debates and disagreements we have as congregations or families.

We pray, O Lord, for the Church which is one in the greatness of your love, but divided by the littleness of our own. May we be less occupied with the things that divide us, and more with those we hold in common, and the love that enfolds us all, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PARISH NOTICES

MUSIC & PREACHERS

Jan 20: The Third Sunday of Epiphany

Mass in g – Vaughan Williams

My soul there is a county – Parry

Tantum ergo – Duruflé

Preacher: Prebendary Nick Mercer

Jan 27: The Conversion of St Paul

Darke in F

Und al ser auf der wege war – Mendelssohn

The Spirit of the Lord - Elgar

Preacher: the Vicar

PCC MEETING

At its meeting on Monday 14th January 2013, the Parochial Church Council dealt with a number of administrative matters – including the question of how its deliberations might better be communicated to the wider congregation. It was agreed that as a parish we should continue to move towards the creation of a congregation-specific (log-in) web-portal so that all members might have access to all relevant documents that are in the public domain, including minutes – and that until then the minutes of meetings (once approved) continue to be available to all members of the Electoral Roll on request from the Parish Office. In any case, the PCC makes an annual report on the life and proceedings of the Parish to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting – and a summary of points debated might appear in the Weekly Sheet. On Monday the PCC discussed administrative matters including the necessary extension of the Lease on the flats above the Hall in Kinnerton Street, Insurance, Tree works, December use of the Church

by Charitable bodies and our own December programme, and noted forthcoming events. There was substantive discussion of progress on the agenda set at the PCC Away Day in October 2012, including the Database, development of early-morning meditation sessions during the week, and the Volunteering Programme being developed by Roland Brunner.

FR ANDREW SLOANE

Members of the congregation are warmly invited to a Shrove Tuesday pancake party in the Vicarage on Tuesday 12th February at 6.30pm (after mass) at which we will welcome Fr Andrew Sloane our new Associate Vicar. Subsequently Fr Andrew will be licensed by the Bishop of London early on Friday morning of that week – Friday 15th February – in St Paul's Cathedral where Fr Sloane sang as a chorister and learned to serve at the altar! The Friday morning Eucharist at the Cathedral is at 08:00. If you plan to attend either event, please put your name in the blue book at the back of church to assist in planning.

FR STEPHEN YOUNG

Fr Stephen's licensing, by the Bishop of Dover, will be on Wednesday 30th January 2013 at 7.00pm. Those who would like to attend to support Fr Stephen – and who would like to travel together by train on the 30th, should add their names in the Blue Book at the back of church. From 22nd January, Fr Stephen's address will be: St Andrew's Rectory, St Andrew's Road, Deal, Kent. CT14 6AS

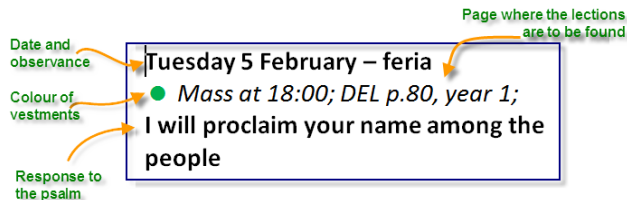


Information for inclusion in the Weekly Sheet should be emailed or handed into the Parish Office by Thursday evening.



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.



Monday 21 January – St Agnes

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: DAY 4

● Mass at 18:00; EH p.42;

Your name, O God, will be ever remembered

Tuesday 22 January – feria of Epiphanytide

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: DAY 5

● Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 265 (year 1);

Proper of Epiphany

The works of God are justice and truth

Wednesday 23 January – feria of Epiphanytide

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: DAY 6

● Mass at 18:45 DEL p. 268 (year 1);

Proper of Epiphany

You are a priest for ever

Thursday 24 January – Frances de Sales

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: DAY 7

● Mass at 18:00; EH p.45;

The heavens declare your glory, O God.

Friday 25 January – feria of Epiphanytide

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: FINAL DAY

● Mass at 18:00 DEL p.273 (year 1);

Proper of Epiphany

The Lord was gracious to his land

Saturday 26 January – Timothy & Titus

● Mass at noon; EH p. 51;

God's faithfulness endures from age to age

In our daily prayers

We pray daily for:

- Our Bishop, Richard
- Our church and neighbourhood
- Our sister parish, St Paul's K-Street, Washington, USA
- Peace, especially for the Middle East, the people of Syria, and for Christian minorities.
- Those on active service overseas

We pray for the Archbishop of Canterbury 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)

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

Richard Thornton; Robin Whyte; Brian Fuller; Matthew; Rosemary Powell; Tim Dally; Juliet Mertz; Ruth Stevens; Annelise Bowser; Alyson Coney; Kelsey Brockbank; Sal Allen; Peter Adcock; Peter Brook; Michael Cook; Kenneth James; John King; Daphne Nugent; Jean Steers; Katherine Davis; John Willmington.

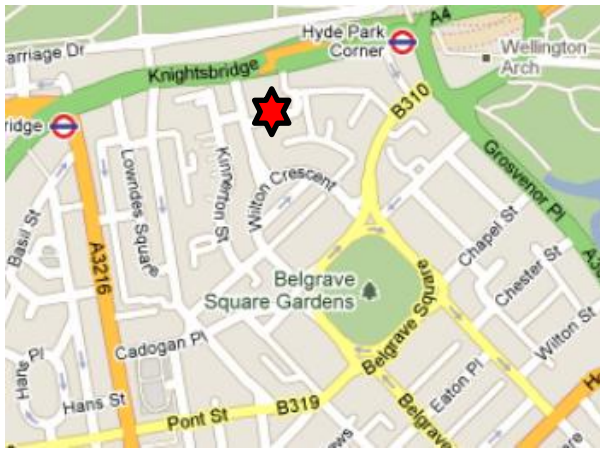
Among the recently departed:

Mary Sherriff

Those whose Year's Mind is at this time:

Donald Bertram Harris	20 January
Stan Sherrington	20 January
Elisabeth Moorwood	23 January
Terence Digby-Seymour	26 January
Eileen Gosse	30 January
Frank Gosse	30 January
Kathleen Mary Cooke	31 January

PARISH CONTACTS



THE PARISH OFFICE

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THE PARISH CLERGY



Vicar

Fr Alan Gyle

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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.

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

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LAY OFFICERS & OTHER STAFF



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