



7 JULY 2013: TRINITY 6

## Health check...

How healthy is St Paul's Knightsbridge? And is that a meaningful or a meaningless question?

At a recent meeting, I was discussing with leaders of companies and organisations of all sorts (secular and religious) notions of 'health' – not of individuals *within* organisations (whose individual flourishing and wellbeing is nonetheless an important issue for leaders, of course), but the 'health' of organisations as a whole. Is your organisation 'healthy'? Some, frankly, struggled. A metaphor too far!? Without any clear definitions of what it means to be healthy, and lacking – perhaps – the turn of mind that makes 'figurative' thinking easy or natural, some felt that to begin to talk about 'organisational health' risked being a distraction from the clear and measurable indicators of business performance they were familiar with (gross margin, profit, headcount, and so on). But others leap into the idea with enthusiasm. Sitting light to the need for clearer definitions, they knew (they 'felt' they



'sensed', they just 'knew instinctively') when things felt healthy and unhealthy – and they were ready to enumerate the signs and indicators to one another: health "is when people love to belong", "it is when everybody is 'aligned'", "it is when it feels good to be there!").

I have a pet theory (a little thing of mine own which has yet to make it into the form of a book!) that 'health' in any organisation has to do with being in that place where three overlapping and interlocking 'systems' are in harmony with each other: first, the 'mechanics' of your shared life (i.e. "do people know what to do, how to do it and when" – which is often not the case!); second, the 'people bit' (i.e. are you all clear and honest about the relationships, connections, passions and – let's be honest – enmities which are at work in the organisation); and third, the 'value bit' (i.e. are you, as an organisation living out of what you believe and hold to at a deep level?). 'Task system' – 'sentient system' – 'value system'. As I say, this will – one day – be a book, and you can all come to the book launch!

Let me be frank. I have a concern about the health of St Paul's. I think that as never before in my time here as Vicar we are clear about 'task' – and things work, pretty well, most of the time! Great team. Good systems. Clear leadership from clergy and churchwardens. And we are so (so!) much better on the human/sentient piece too (gone, by and large, are the days of sulks and tantrums, passive aggression and of fallings out being the dominating story of our life!!). *And* we are pretty clear on our values too – *except* that in this area we are not yet entirely integrating what we 'say' we believe with what we actually 'do'. This is my concern. We speak of the generosity of God and thank him for all that he gives us (in this most prosperous place on the planet) and yet our giving back to God here from what he has give us is, in many cases, *not* generous. As an organisation we continue to fiddle at the edges of the 'giving and stewardship' question (and I'm anxiously fretting about our managing a deficit budget yet again!). More significantly, we speak about the call of Christ and the imperative of mission – and yet our focus drifts again and again onto questions about living for self, rather than living for others.



[Ctd...]

We are going to be healthier! There are two 'initiatives' on the horizon at St Paul's – and I commend them to you. You must, please, come and be part of them. The **first initiative** begins on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July after mass at 6.45pm** when we will begin a focussed conversation on mission and outreach. The question to focus our thinking: "if we ceased to exist tomorrow, who – except for ourselves – would notice we'd gone?". By the end of *this* initiative we will have in place a series of well-considered and profoundly practical expressions of our faith in God – so that people will look and say (not only) "wow, St Paul's Knightsbridge, beautiful place with wonderful music.." but ""wow, St Paul's Knightsbridge, beautiful place with wonderful music, and you know the work they do and support speaks more eloquently than building, music or sermons ever could about the God they believe in...". The **second initiative** is linked, and **begins after the summer**. It is a major push on giving and stewardship. To be the healthy church we want to be, we all (*all* of us) need to be stepping up a gear in our financial support of the work God has given us here – and that means (in crude terms) adding at least another £50k to our existing pledged giving (and actually I should push and say we really should aim at significantly more than £50k p.a. – so that we can not *just* do what we are already doing, but can extend – in planned and focussed ways – our outreach and mission). How will we know we've achieved this goal? Because people will no longer look and say "...you know St Paul's, that posh church in that rich part of town...", but will say "St Paul's – you know – that place where Christians whom God has blessed with plenty give back to him and to others with a similar generosity!"

Will we then be 'fixed' and 'healthy'? Well, no. We'll need another health check then! Being healthy – whether as an individual or as an organisation – is all about constant attentiveness to a complex mix of factors and to the environment in which we seek to flourish. But we would... no, we *will* be healthier... and we will *feel* that deep in our hearts and souls.

Fr Alan Gyle, Vicar

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## PARISH NOTICES

### THIS WEEK: SEEKING GOD

Our Wednesday evening series exploring the spirituality of St Benedict continues on 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July 2013 at 6.45pm. This week (10<sup>th</sup>) highlights of chapters VI to X of Seeking God by Esther de Waal. Next week (17<sup>th</sup>), what can we take from the Rule of St. Benedict in application to our own spiritual journeys corporately and personally. All welcome.

### THIS WEEK: DAY PILGRIMAGE IN WALSINGHAM



please join us on a Day Pilgrimage from our parish to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk on Saturday, July 13. Prompt departure at 8AM from in front of the church. Arrival at Walsingham at about 11 AM. First Visit to the image of Our Lady of Walsingham upon arrival. Pilgrimage Mass in the shrine church at Noon followed by lunch in the refectory.

2.30PM Sprinkling at the well. 4.15PM Benediction and Last Visit. Departure from Walsingham at about 5PM returning directly to the St. Paul's by about 8PM. Cost per person: £34. This covers transportation and lunch. It does not include tip for the driver which we'll collect for on the return journey. Please bring checks made out to St. Paul's Knightsbridge or cash with you on Saturday. Any questions to Fr Andrew Sloane.



## FORUM ON MISSION



In our desire as a parish to reach out beyond ourselves, we are all invited to a special **FORUM ON MISSION** which will be held on Wednesday, July 24 following the 6.45pm Mass. This will be an opportunity for us to have an initial conversation together as we seek to discern the opportunities that could lie before us in God's call to us here to engagement in mission both at home and abroad. In preparation, please do email any suggestions for projects that you think we should consider. We shall be looking for projects not only that we can support financially, but also with which we can build and sustain meaningful and prayerful relationships. We will also look at opportunities for us to join in partnerships for outreach with other organizations. We shall be looking to the strengths and passions of our own congregation and matching those with needs around us and overseas. If you have any ideas, please do email them in advance to Fr. Andrew Sloane at [AndrewSloane@spkb.org](mailto:AndrewSloane@spkb.org). or mail them to his attention at the parish office.

## PARISH GARDEN PARTY – NOTE THE DATE NOW!!



On **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September** we will hold our annual Garden Party in the Vicarage Garden, from 6.30pm till 9.30pm. The Garden Party is a great occasion on which to welcome in neighbours and guests from the parish and further afield – and we hope that you will use it as a chance to expend hospitality to any who might enjoy an encounter with the life of St Paul's Knightsbridge. Drinks, music, food and some stalls – and all in the best company! Please note the date now!

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## IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS

O God, who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward thee that we, loving thee in all things and above all things, may obtain thy promises which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### We pray daily for:

- 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
- peace stability in Egypt and Syria
- 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:

Stephen Humbert; Robert Trory; June Poland; John Soderquist; Robin Cassidy and his family; 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; John Millbourn

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

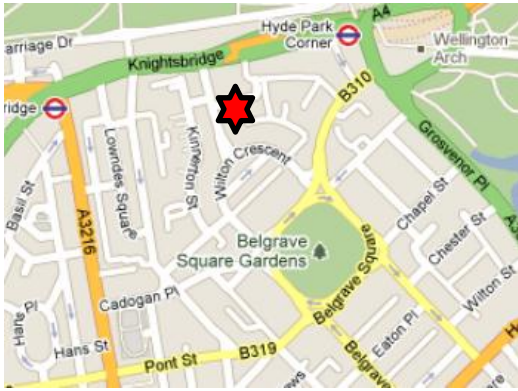
Katherine Flowers Gerke; Elizabeth Cassidy; Jean McGrath; Doris Kathleen Jennings

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

Archibald Bertram Cooke	6 July
Peter Moore	6 July
Simon Constable	8 July
George Quayle	9 July
Georgie Quayle	10 July
Jasmine Lydia Bligh	10 July



# PARISH CONTACTS



## THE PARISH OFFICE

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## THE PARISH CLERGY



### Vicar

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### Associate Vicar

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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 Mondays and Fr Andrew Sloane on Fridays.

## THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



### Director of Music

Stevie Farr  
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### 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

2012-13  
(till 28/7) Nicky Lindsay  
Aidan Linton-Smith  
Jeremy Orlebar  
2013-14  
Noel Craven  
Phil Davies  
Nicky Lindsay  
Susie Thornton

## 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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