



ST PAUL'S
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

1 June 2014: THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Decline?! What decline?

Imagine it, we ran out of glasses! Thursday evening's mass for Ascension Day and the drinks party that followed, was a great success. The plan was to buck the trend with mid-week masses *and* to use the occasion to 'reach out'. So, thank you to those of you who 'brought a plus one' and in doing so doubled the size of the congregation and made for one of the best evenings I've enjoyed here for a while. We ran out of glasses, not wine – and somehow the dark recesses of the Vicarage kitchen cupboards rose to the challenge of feeding, if not five thousand then a goodly crowd. It was a great opportunity for those who are not 'of St Paul's' to experience the place at its best: a beautiful and holy space, fine music, good preaching, dignified liturgy and a warmth of welcome before and afterwards that meant I spent the evening having the "well, I'm not a regular churchgoer, but..." conversation with visitors, over and over again.

So what now? Flash in the pan? Or a glimpse of what *could* happen if we all made growth and outreach priorities? Was it really *so* awkward bringing someone else along? And will you do it again?

Theories about growing churches and strategies for enabling church growth abound. Web sites groan with content and books are written by the handful. All the research, though, points to one predictor of success, and one only: **it is churches that want to grow which grow.**

Against the background of what one writer has described as an 'eschatology of despair' that feeds into an ecclesiology of decline (which makes us believe that, inexorably, English churches are doomed to shrink, and leads us to behave accordingly), the evidence shows that substantial church growth can and is happening in contemporary Britain. And the Diocese of London is certainly one place where growth happens. What does church growth look like? Well, the *start* of it looks a bit like Thursday

night: an invitation, a reaching out, a warm welcome into a community of (relatively!) sane people who give visitors a glimpse of the transformation of world-view and community that the gospel brings... and invites them back.

That's how it *starts*. How it *continues* depends on you, on *us*.

I'd be glad to hear from you what we need to do *differently* and what we need to do *now* to make

days like Thursday not the exception but the rule. Part of that may mean following up with visitors from Thursday. Part of it may mean planning other opportunities. Part of it may simply mean you reflecting on the success of Ascension Day and being encouraged by it to become more 'evangelistic'. After all, what we are inviting people to is a healthy, thoughtful, prayerful church - one in which we encounter God, the source of life - and one which a growing number, not least of younger people find an encouragement when it comes to the challenges of living well, being supported and supportive and thriving in central London. Spread the word.

Fr Alan Gyle (alan @spkb.org)

MANY PARISH CHURCHES ARE THRIVING

Results from the survey of parishes highlight that, across all types of churches, there is **"no single recipe"** for growth (or simple solutions to decline).

But there are some key "ingredients". Where there is growth we are likely to see:



PARISH NOTICES

THANK YOU FOR LAST WEEK...

To all those who made the pilgrimage to Westminster Abbey on Wednesday evening. Some 50 pilgrims from the parish enjoyed an after-hours tour led by Canon Vernon White... ..and as mentioned on the front of the sheet, to all those who brought friends and neighbours to the Ascension Day mass on Thursday.

TODAY: FLOWERS IN CHURCH

The flowers in church this morning are from the Memorial Service for Jeremy James, held last Thursday afternoon.

TODAY: PARISH LUNCH

There is a parish lunch at 1:00pm in the Hall in Kinnerton Street after the 11:00am Mass this morning. All are welcome for drinks – and as many as are already signed up plus those who can be fed, will be fed! **Veronica Scott** is chef du jour.

TUESDAY MORNING: SILENT MEDITATION

Because of travels and absences during the coming summer months, the group will take a break from now until September when it will re-launch.

JUNE RETREAT

IT IS NOT YET TOO LATE TO

DECIDE TO COME! Details of the **Assisi Pilgrimage 9th – 12th June**

are now available on www.spkbinfo.org – and on a flier that can be collected from church or downloaded from the same website. The plans are shaping up well – and include opportunities to learn and to take part in prayer workshops, to visit historic and beautiful Assisi, *and* to enjoy a half-day and evening trip to Farnetta



with a 'rustic dinner' at a local Tavern as part of their annual St Rita festivities! Please register your intention to come as soon as possible, either

online (see above) or with Felicity on 020 7201 9999 / felicity@spkb.org

PCC MEETINGS

There will be a meeting of the Parochial Church Council on Tuesday 17th June 2014 and again on the morning of Saturday 12th July 2014 (from 10:00 till 14:00 with a working lunch). Apologies for absence from either meeting should be sent to the PCC Secretary, Felicity Cranfield.

PILGRIMAGE TO CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

Today is the last chance to sign up for the last of our "Saturday Forums", a parish pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral with Fr.

**LAST CHANCE
TO BOOK!**

Andrew Sloane on **Saturday 7th June**. The cost (now payable to "St. Paul's Knightsbridge" with memo "Canterbury") is 40 pounds which includes transportation and a simple soup and sandwich lunch. We shall depart St. Paul's at 8.30am PROMPTLY. Mass at the cathedral at 11am, followed by a guided pilgrimage and then, in turn, by lunch. Then free time until departure at 16.00 for our return to London arriving back at the church at approximately 18.00. Please sign up at the back of church!

THE MUSIC OF PILGRIMAGE



The final "Knightsbridge Soirée" of the season will be on Thursday 19 June. Continuing our theme of "Pilgrimage", Fr. Andrew will make a

**PLEASE
SIGN UP**

brief presentation, "The Music of Pilgrimage", listening to recordings of music, both secular and sacred, associated with the pilgrimages to Compostella. The evening begins at about 6.45pm at the home of Michael Pate on Montpelier Square and will end by 8.15pm at the latest. Those attending the 6pm Mass can walk over to Montpelier Square with Fr. Andrew, or if you would rather meet at the house please contact Fr. Andrew for the address.

PLEASE REMEMBER

Georgina Hurley and Colin Findlayson who are to be married in St Paul's on Saturday 7th June at 4pm and **Josephine Alexandra Hanne Becker** who is to be baptised on Sunday 8th June at 2pm. Please also pray for **Amalia Schliemann** from Wilton Place who was baptised and has grown up in the parish on the occasion of her confirmation at St Edward's School, Oxford on Sunday 8th.

ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP

Please remember our current Scholar, **Georgina Sherriff**, whose final organ exams take place this coming week. We wish her every success and look forward to her remaining time with us. We are delighted to announce the appointment of Georgina's successor, **Luke Navin**, who will take up his new role in September.

IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS

O God the King of glory,
who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven:
we beseech thee, leave us not comfortless,
but send to us thine Holy Spirit to comfort us
and exalt us unto the same place
whither our Saviour Christ is gone before;
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

We pray daily for:

- The renewal of the Church in Easteride
- our Bishop, Richard
- our sister parish, St Paul's K-Street, Washington, USA
- those on active service overseas
- 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*)
- 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 sick and those in need:

Devon Minchin; Agnes Ligere; Jessica Macdonald Johnston; Elizabeth Gordon; Clariette Wilmot; Lane Davenport; Janet Sturdy; John Soderquist; Carole Taylor; Sara Carroll-Parker; Maggie Millbourn; John Millbourn; Christiane Dupont Nangle; Peter Brook; Michael Cook; John King; Daphne Nugent; John Willmington; Alexandra Holesh; Penri Morgan; Malcolm Walsh; Gordon Gray; Jean Marc Lehut; James James & Ronald James.

Our departed loved ones:

Jeremy James; Stewart James Manders; Leonard Merryweather.

Those whose Year's Mind is at this time:

Hugh Leggatt	1 June
Eric Symes Abbott	6 June
Patricia Farr	7 June
Arthur Colley	10 June

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.

Diagram illustrating the layout of a service card for Tuesday 5 February – feria. The card contains the following text: Tuesday 5 February – feria, Mass at 18:00; DEL p.80, year 1; I will proclaim your name among the people. Annotations indicate: Date and observance (Tuesday 5 February – feria), Colour of vestments (green dot), Response to the psalm (I will proclaim your name among the people), and Page where the lections are to be found (top right corner).

THE SEVENTH WEEK OF EASTER

Sunday 1 June – The Sunday after Ascension

- Masses at 09:00 & 11:00

Monday 2 June – feria of Ascensiontide

- Mass at 18:00 DEL p. 238

Sing to God, sing praises to his name.

Tuesday 3 June – feria of Ascensiontide

COMMEMORATION OF THE UGANDAN MARTYRS

- Mass at 18:00 DEL p. 239

Sing to God, sing praises to his name.

Wednesday 4 June – feria of Ascensiontide

- Mass at 18:45; DEL p.241

Sing to God, sing praises to his name.

Thursday 5 June – Boniface, bishop & martyr

- Mass at 18:00; EH p. 229

I will give you as a light to the nations.

Friday 6 June – feria of Ascensiontide

- Mass at 18:00; DEL p.244

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Saturday 7 June – feria of Ascensiontide

- Mass at noon DEL p. 245 (Year 2)

The upright shall behold the face of the Lord.

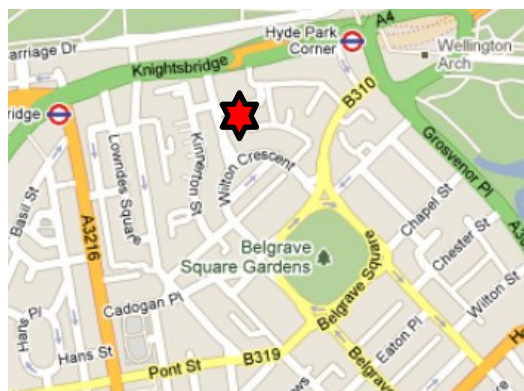
Sunday 8 June – Pentecost

- 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 - or by phone: **0207201 9999**) at your earliest convenience so we can organize some appropriate and enjoyable preparation! Many thanks.

PARISH CONTACTS



www.spkb.org

parish microsite www.spkbinfo.org



@StPKbridge



StPaulsKnightsbridge

THE PARISH CLERGY



Vicar

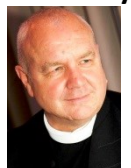
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Associate Vicar

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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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07930 542555

Assistant
Jeremy



Director of Music
Cole



Organ Scholar
Georgina Sherriff

LAY OFFICERS & OTHER STAFF



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Churchwarden

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Treasurer

Noel Craven

Lady Verger & Churchwardens' Deputy

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Vicar's PA

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