



O – The O Antiphons
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at www.spkb.org

ST PAUL'S

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

St Luke the Evangelist • 18th October 2015

DR BEECHING

Writing in The Guardian this week, Giles Fraser said:

“The Church of England is the custodian of 15,700 churches. A whopping 78% of them are listed. And they are a millstone around our necks, sapping the energy of our wider social and religious mission, and transforming the church into a buildings department of the heritage industry. Indeed, I suspect that if every single one of them were blown up tomorrow, England would be a much more Christian country in 10 years’ time. Theologically, they are little more than rain shelters. And yet the C of E treats them with a reverence that ought to be reserved for God himself.

The problem is most acute in rural areas. As a new C of E report admits, a quarter of rural churches have fewer than 10 people in the pews on a Sunday. Half of them have fewer than 20. Of the 9,000 churches in rural areas, 3,200 are Grade I-listed and 3,100 are Grade II*. They are, of course, beautiful buildings, beloved by Nikolaus Pevsner and Simon Jenkins and many others. But it’s a total nonsense for the C of E to have 57% of its buildings in rural areas, where only 17% of the population actually live. For most of these, we should hand the keys over to the council and turn them into much-needed community centres or the like.

OK, yes, like BT, we have an obligation to maintain what business calls a “universal service provision” (pun intended), but we would better discharge this obligation by concentrating resources. Instead of one over-stretched vicar covering six or eight rural churches, we should copy the way in which England was first evangelised through the establishment of minsters – churches that are supported by a community of clergy – some pastors, some evangelists, some theologians; churches that also have the scale to maintain good organists, choirs and Sunday schools. They would cover a much larger area than the present parish system, but they would be worth travelling to. These high-morale, better-resourced bundles of energy could then become local campaign headquarters for the re-evangelisation of England. The needs of the post-Christian society

are remarkably like the needs of the pre-Christian society.

But the C of E is mired in nostalgia: first, for a parish pastoral in which the local vicar, who knows everyone, wanders around in some wheel of benevolent aimlessness; and second, for an age where churches were full, thus justifying their number and place in the establishment. As the sociologist Robin Gill has shown, many of these churches were never full in the first place, many being built at a time when the C of E was locked into some crazy theological contest with the Methodists and free churches, each vying for ecclesiastical prominence.

Now these surplus buildings are needed even less. In order to find itself again, the C of E needs to be leaner and, yes, a little bit meaner. No more Mr Nice guy – or Miss Congeniality. An over-emphasis on the pastoral role has rendered us theologically inert.

But the English do love their heritage. When Islamic State blew up a temple to Baal in Syria, there was an outcry. When Syrians turn up at our doorstep fleeing death, we snootily turn them away. Our priorities are so out of whack it is ridiculous. Not just because we care more for old stones than we do for people. But also because we religious people care more for stones than we do for God.

The appropriate theological response to all this is called iconoclasm – creative destruction. And it is deep in the Judeo-Christian tradition. When Moses returned from receiving the Ten Commandments, he found his people worshipping a fancy golden statue. So he smashed the statue. And this has been the proper theological response to idolatry ever since. But the C of E’s idol worship is so genteel and popular, its buildings so loved by those who take no other interest in the church’s proclamation, that it doesn’t have the balls to do what Dr Beeching did to the railways. Moses didn’t have to worry about the hole in the roof. He worshipped in tents not temples. And we must learn to do the same.”

Discuss?

Parish News & Events

BRYANSTON SCHOOL

The London Concert will take place this coming Friday evening at 19:00

FANY MEMORIAL SERVICE

The annual memorial service will take place on Saturday 24th October at 11:00am.

JUMBLE SALE

10 a.m. Saturday 31 October at 10.00am.

The time for the Autumn Jumble Sale is upon us. Please will members of the congregation rifle through cupboards, drawers and attics and bring contributions, either giving them to Niki Bartman on Sundays or arrange with her to collect them or deliver them to the church office. The Preview, for members of the congregation, is in the church hall is on the evening of Friday 30 October for free wine and a good browse. The Jumble Sale itself is on the Saturday and anyone who would like to help sell should have a word with Niki Bartman.

PROJECT 'O' – online now

Between now and Advent Sunday, we're going on a creative journey. Members of the congregation – Thomas Hyde, composer, and Clare McCaldin, mezzo-soprano – along with Stevie Farr, Director of Music, and the St Paul's choir and choreographer Hubert Essakow are creating a work of music, song and dance in an interpretation of The O Antiphons of Advent. O will be performed at St Paul's Knightsbridge on **Advent Sunday at 6.00pm on 29 November 2015**. A series of films, under the title O – The O Antiphons, will record the creation of the

8. O – The O Antiphons – Father Alan Gyle Talks To The Choreographer Hubert Essakow



work. All are welcome to the service. You can become part of the creative journey by following its progress online. Visit www.spkb.org

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Two 'must-attend' dates for your diaries for this coming Advent and Christmastide. The

FOUNDATION CAROL

SERVICE will take place on

Tuesday 1st December at

18:30 with a line up of

celebrity readers led by

Alexander Armstrong,

music by the Choir of St

Paul's, the Knightsbridge

School and this year for the first time,

Francis Holland School too. Afterwards, a

sparkling reception in the marquee outside

the church – and then on to bless the

Christmas Tree in Wilton Crescend Gardens.

Tickets are available online from

www.spkb.org



The **PARISH CAROL SERVICE** takes place on

Thursday 17th December at 19:00. No

tickets for this event – just the chance to

enjoy a traditional sequence of carols and

readings for Christmas, and afterwards

mulled wine and mince pies.



Please visit the Parish Website

(www.spkb.org) to find out more about

CAPITALMASS, a programme developed by

the Diocese of London to help engage and

support every parish in the Diocese of

London in tackling poverty and the causes

of poverty – with content to help you think

through a Christian response to the current

Refugee Crisis and links to agencies you may

wish to support which are bringing frontline

help to those directly involved.

BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION

If you are an adult who hasn't been baptised or confirmed, please note that there are plans for a service on Sunday 6th December 2015 at 11:00am. Please speak to Fr Alan or to one of the other clergy to find out more and to talk about preparation.

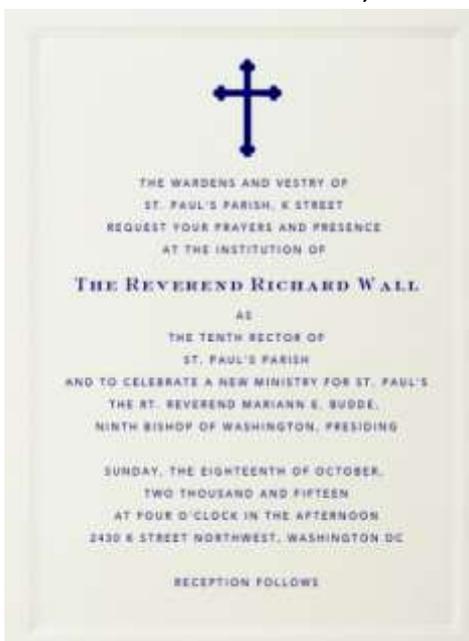
K-STREET

Please pray for **Fr Richard Wall**, to be



instituted as Rector of our sister parish, St Paul's K-Street in Washington DC this Sunday, 18th October. We will be represented at the event by one of our

Churchwardens, Phil Davies. Father Wall comes from St. Andrew's, State College, in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, where he has served as Rector for almost six years. Fr. Wall was born in South Staffordshire, England. He did his undergraduate and seminary work at Oxford, studying at Christ Church and St. Stephen's House, respectively. Sponsored for ordination by the Diocese of Liverpool, he was ordained in Chelmsford Cathedral in 2002, and served as Curate for almost three years in commuter-belt Essex. On Valentine's Day 2005, Fr. Wall "crossed the pond" in response to a call from St. Clement's, Philadelphia, where he served as Curate for four and a half years. Fr. Wall is now a naturalized citizen of the United States.



ALMA MEETING

Thanks to Bianca Dally for carrying the flag for our emerging mission link with the parish of All Saints Nhamavila in Mozambique. With the recent staff changes



and with Bishop Michael's current indisposition in hospital, she could use some help and support! There is an ALMA meeting this coming Tuesday 20th October 2015 from 6-8 pm (with light refreshments from 5.40pm) in the Main Hall at London Diocesan House (36 Causton Street, London SW1P 4AU Nearest stations: Pimlico and Vauxhall) The programme for the evening includes Rolling power points during refreshments time (ALMA Sunday pictures; Co-ordinator's Visit to Mozambique; Twinning Officer's visit to Angola; ALMA Updates + distribution of newsletter; Visit report from St Mary's Stoke Newington team - with music; Reflections and poems on Visit to Niassa - Nikkita Robert (Southall Group); Small group sharing according to partner diocese: Angola; Lebombo; Niassa. If you are free to support this initiative and would like to go along on Tuesday evening, please contact Bianca: 07808 579550.

PARISH LUNCH

Please make a date now to join us on Sunday 1st November at 1:00pm for lunch in the Parish Hall in Kinnerton Street. At our regular monthly parish lunches, volunteer members of the congregation cook lunch for around 30 people. It is a good opportunity to meet other members of the congregation. You can become involved by speaking to Caroline Docker. In November we thank **Robert Clouston** for being chef du jour.

VISITING PREACHERS



We look forward to welcoming two visiting preachers between now and Christmas. On All Saints Sunday, Sunday 1st November at 11:00am, **The Reverend Jennie Hogan, Chaplain of Goodenough College** will join us. Jennie is a former Chaplain of London Art Colleges, a writer and reviewer and is in charge of pastoral care of students and staff at Goodenough College, an international College in the City of London whose



student community of 650 now represents over 90 countries. On the Feast of Christ the King, Sunday 22nd November at 11:00am, the preacher will be **The Reverend Dr Neil Evans**. Neil is currently Director of Ministry for the Diocese of London, responsible for the policy and strategy for clergy and lay ministerial training and development, and parish development across London Diocese (around 1,000 clergy and 480 parishes). He coordinate a team of around 30 full- and part-time officers with professional ministry responsibilities. He also undertake a variety of ministry and parish consultancy, including working with parishes on Mission Action Planning and strategic development, residential work with clergy at significant points in ministry and undertaking training and development courses.

INTRODUCTION TO MINDFULNESS

On the Parish Website you will find information about Mindfulness and Meditation. Please note the following one day course which is open to all here in Central London: **A One-Day Workshop at the home of**



London Meditation: The Penthouse, 89 – 95 Parkway, Camden Town, NW1 7PP. Facilitator/teacher Susann Herrmann. As human beings, most of us instinctively fight negative experiences and find fault in ourselves when things go wrong: "This shouldn't be happening!" "What's the matter with me!?" Unfortunately, this tendency just adds stress to our lives and the critical self-talk defeats us before we know what we're doing.

But what would happen if, instead, you took a moment to calm and comfort yourself when you felt bad, just because you felt bad – much like you'd do for others? In other words, what if you learned the art of mindful self-compassion: Bearing witness to our own suffering (mindfulness) and responding with kindness and understanding (self-compassion). It's an emotional skill that can be learned by anyone. This workshop will provide simple tools for responding in a kind, compassionate way whenever we suffer, fail, or feel inadequate – essential steps toward living a happier, more fulfilling life. You'll learn: how to stop being so hard on yourself ; how to handle difficult emotions with greater ease; how to motivate yourself with encouragement rather than criticism; mindfulness and self-compassion exercises for everyday life.

We will take a journey into mindfulness and self-compassion, including meditation, exercises, and discussion. Dates / Time: Sat Nov 21 – MSC Workshop (2.00 - 7.00pm) Doors open: 15min before the start of the course. Cost including handout: £ 95 **www.london-meditation.co.uk**

Pilgrimages and Trips in 2016



THE HOLY LAND 2016

An invitation from our Sister Parish, St Paul's K-Street, Washington DC.

A pilgrimage to the Holy Land is a trip like no other. And the opportunity is there for members of our parish community to make just such a trip October 30-November 13, 2016.



The itinerary would include the principal holy sites in Jerusalem (the Holy Sepulcher, the Way of the Cross, the Palm Sunday route down the Mount of Olives, the Upper Room) Bethlehem, Nazareth and the Galilee (Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes, Church of the Loaves and Fishes). We would worship with local Episcopalians in Nazareth and at the Cathedral of St. George in Jerusalem, and visit several of the humanitarian institutions of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, including St. Savior's School in Jordan which St. Paul's has supported financially for nearly 10 years. While in Jordan, we would visit the fabled city of Petra, and in Jerusalem, would see

both the Jewish holy site of the Western (or "Wailing") Wall and esplanade above (the Haram al-Sharif or Temple Mount) with the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque.

Fr. Richard Wall would lead the pilgrimage together with local guide Iyad Qumri, who is a lay Canon of St. George's Cathedral.

While the dates are more than a year away, we need to know now whether there is sufficient interest to make a 2016 pilgrimage viable. Land arrangements (inclusive of accommodation in a double room, all meals, entry fees, local transportation and tips) are \$2800 a person. Single rooms (limited numbers available) cost an additional \$650. It's hard to say this far in advance, but air fare currently would run about \$900.

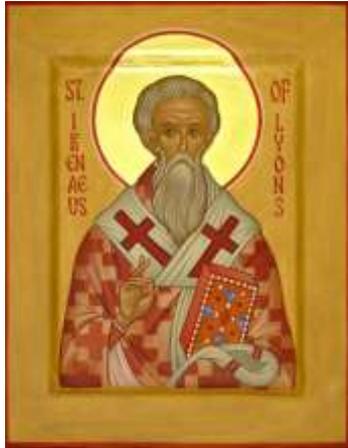


Please email Ann Korky (akkorky@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating. If there is a sufficient number, we would ask those interested to share in an initial, non-refundable deposit of \$1500 to secure our dates. (Cost of the deposit per person would depend on the number of participants.) Fr. Richard and Ann are available to answer questions.

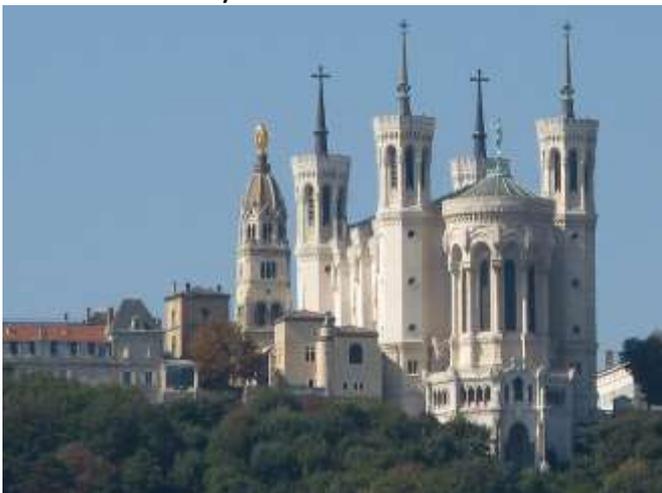
LYON, FRANCE JUNE 2016

As part of our 'We Are Theologians' Christian Formation Programme, please join us in Lyon, 6-9 June 2016.

Lyon, one of France's most spectacular cities, was the home of St Irenaeus, an early second century bishop and theologian and a champion of Christian



Orthodoxy in the face of second century gnosticism. It will be home to a party from St Paul's Knightsbridge during the week beginning Monday 6th June 2016 – and from Monday evening until Thursday lunchtime, Fr Alan Gyle will be leading an exploration of the city (with its spectacular Roman remains and rich cultural history) and of Irenaeus's theology – making connections with concepts of gnosticism in the 21st century.



As usual, trips organised by St Paul's allow you to make the choice of how to travel and where to stay (Eurostar has trains from London St Pancras via Lille – and British Airways fly to Lyon; hotels and other accommodation is plentiful and cheap).

We will meet daily for prayer and study; time will be left free for you to use as you wish – whether as a tourist or as a pilgrim; and in the evenings we will gather for dinner together in a city judged to be one of the gastronomic centres of France.

To register your interest, please email Felicity Cranfield (felicity@spkb.org).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL

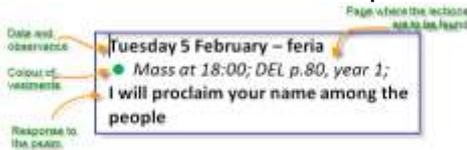
You are invited to join us for a day trip to Lincoln Cathedral on Saturday 16th July 2016



Lincoln Cathedral is one of England's most beautiful places of worship. For almost 300 years it was the tallest building in the world. John Ruskin famously said of it: *'I have always held and proposed against all comers to maintain that the Cathedral of Lincoln is out and out the most precious piece of architecture in the British Isles'* On Saturday 16th July you are invited to put his thesis to the test on a day trip that will include a guided tour of the Cathedral, lunch together and time to explore the ancient and picturesque city. We hope you will join us. To register your interest, please email Felicity Cranfield (felicity@spkb.org). plenty of time for questions and answers.

The Ordo & Intercessions

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



COLLECT FOR TRINITY 20

O God, giver of life, whose Holy Spirit welleteth up within thy Church: fill us with the gifts of that same Spirit to live the gospel of Christ, and make us ready to do thy will, that we may share with all thy whole creation the joys of eternal life; 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.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God our Father, whose Son, the light unfailling, hath come from heaven that he may deliver the world from the darkness of ignorance: may the eyes of our understanding be opened through these holy mysteries that we, knowing the way of life, may walk in it without stumbling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday 18 October: The Feast of St Luke the Evangelist

[Proper of St Luke the Evangelist; DEL week 29, year 1]

♦ Masses at 09:00 & 11:00 – Red

Monday 19 October: Henry Martyn, translator & missionary, 1812 - White

♦ Mass at 18:00; EH p. 358

R: The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory!

Tuesday 20 October: feria - Green

♦ Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 720, year 1

R: Have compassion on my, O Lord; guard me with your love and faithfulness.

Wednesday 21 October: feria - Green

♦ Mass at 18:45; DEL p. 722, year 1

R: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Thursday 22 October: feria - Green

♦ Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 725, year 1

R: The Lord knows the way of the righteous.

Friday 23 October: feria - Green

♦ Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 727, year 1

R: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes.

Saturday 24 October: feria - White

♦ Mass at noon; Votive Mass of Our Lady; EH p. 457 (mass with Gloria)

R: The Holy Spirit will come upon you

We pray daily for:

- For our Bishop, Richard
- our sister parish, St Paul's K-Street and its new Rector
- our emerging mission link with All Saints, Nhamavila in Mozambique
- the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby
- 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:

Jeremy Black; Fabienne Frichot; Sheridan Swallow; Maggie Millbourn; Jean Marc Lehut; Anne Marie Fratani; Jamie Britten; Alan Lintott; Bishop Michael Colclough; Vivienne Mallinson; Margot Stewart; Jane Elstub; Sal Allen; Clariette Wilmot; Elizabeth Gordon; Carole Taylor; Michael Cooke; John King; Alexandra Holesh.

We pray for all the recently departed,

Marjorie Isabel Wilcox; Arnold Sunderland; David Loveridge; Radcliffe McCormick

For: Ian and Jean Steers

And for those whose year's mind falls at this time:

Vic Higgs	18 October
Mac Showers	19 October
Kay Bonham-Carter	20 October
Robert Dean	21 October
Emily Rose Welsh	22 October
Valerie Middleton	24 October
Nadine Killearn	24 October

ST PAUL'S

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

WHO'S WHO

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THE PARISH CLERGY



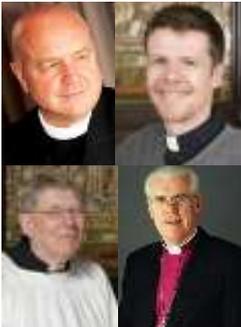
Vicar

Fr Alan Gyle

alan@spkb.org

020 7201 9999 • 07939 805970

Honorary Assistant Clergy



(l-r) Fr Nick Mercer; Fr Andrew Norwood;
Fr Graham Palmer; Bishop Michael Colclough

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.

IN THE PARISH OFFICE



Vicar's PA

Felicity Cranfield

felicity@spkb.org

020 7201 9999



Parish Administrator

Kimball Bailey

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020 7201 9999

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



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Assistant Director of Music

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Organ Scholar

Charlie Warren

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Churchwarden

John Tweddle

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Churchwarden

Phil Davies

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Deputy Churchwardens (Sidesmen)

Roland Brunner, Caroline Docker, Margaret Gadow, Gardenia Griffith, Nicoletta Lindsay, Aidan Linton-Smith, Jeremy Orlebar, Susie Thornton, Tom Tull.

Treasurer: Noel Craven

Lady Verger & Churchwardens' Deputy

Veronica Scott

veronicamscott@hotmail.com

020 7603 7680