

# ST PAUL'S

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

## Epiphany Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2016 “SHAKESPEARE IS RUBBISH”

As Downton Abbey's very English and somewhat meandering tale of anguished aristocracy in turbulent times becomes a mere memory, an extravagant new Sunday evening costume drama steps boldly into its place. Engaging the same themes, albeit a century before and now in the elegant salons of St Petersburg and Moscow, Tolstoy's magisterial **War & Peace** – often claimed to be the longest novel ever written, and certainly one of the most complex – has been adapted for the BBC in as few as six hour-long episodes, each as elegantly contrived as a Romanov soirée and as tightly packed as a hussar's breeches. This is £10M worth of drama, shot in three countries and, say the critics, worth every penny. Just don't miss the start: you'll never catch up with the plot!



Hopefully this re-presentation of the plot line of his greatest novel will spark renewed interest and re-engagement with the author, Leo Tolstoy, whose real life story is as fascinating as any of those conveyed in his novels. Born into a privileged world, Tolstoy's life's journeying was at once geographical and psycho-spiritual. Born in 1828, his lot was to grow up in the backwash of the French Revolution – whose violent shift from monarchy to republic was keenly felt in the Russia of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and which forms part of the anxious background to the

events of War and Peace. He held robust views about the cultural heritage of Western Europe (Shakespeare, he said, was rubbish - without genius, a mediocre talent whose plays were beneath criticism!). If he journeyed widely (not least in the late 1850s to France where he met Victor Hugo and witnessed there public execution by guillotine which had a profound impact on him), it is his *internal* journey that is the more fascinating. He grappled with faith, the quiet background religion of his childhood being radicalised by his life experiences – not, in his case, to violence; rather, Tolstoy penned a spiritual *apologia* for his life and became a convinced pacifist. His influence was

not inconsiderable, even if his church disowned him. He served as a model and exemplar for later world figures, among them Mahatma Ghandi and Martin Luther King Jnr.

Tolstoy held firm views in open hands. You might agree with him or not. He was unafraid to speak out or to resist the popular flow – but he was equally prepared to change his mind and his stance when experience shaped them. As such, he is a very modern and a thoroughly compelling human being. Read him. And why not watch War and Peace: BBC 1, tonight at 9:00pm.

Fr Alan Gyle

# News & Events

## SPRING CLEANING!

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January is the date of the church's great spring clean morning. There are jobs for all who come: polishing, dusting, scrubbing and de-waxing – with refreshments and words of encouragement straggled throughout the day! So whether you have skills, or just energy and enthusiasm, come and join us. A great way to get to know others in the congregation – and to see parts of the church you normally don't reach! A 10am start.

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

**Study sessions at St Paul's Cathedral this spring:**

### CELTIC PRAYER with ANTONIA LYNN

Saturday 6 February 2016 | 2 - 4.30pm

At the heart of faith, prayer is at once the simplest and most mysterious of tasks, but it often feels like one of the most difficult.

£15. The afternoons will take place in City churches close to St Paul's Cathedral; details will be sent with bookings. Bursaries are available for those for whom the charge would make it difficult to attend. **To book visit [www.stpauls.co.uk](http://www.stpauls.co.uk)**

Celtic spirituality is an ancient way of Christianity which weaves the natural seasons and the beauty of Creation together with the Christian year, and attends to the sacred in the everyday. Often thought of as belonging to the countryside, it can be deeply refreshing to Christians in any context and perhaps particularly in the city, allowing us to bring the poetry of the natural world and our own lives to prayer. In this pre-Lent workshop, we will explore how it might renew our own prayer lives.



*Antonia Lynn is on the directing team at the London Centre for Spirituality, an experienced Spiritual Director and leader of retreats and prayer workshops.*

### HOW TO READ THE BIBLE: FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD – THE FOURTH GOSPEL with DAVID FORD

Saturday 20 February 2016 | 2 - 4.30pm

It is sometimes said that there are more unread copies of the Bible than of any other book in the world. Dauntingly complex and the centre of so much controversy, it is in reality a whole library of books, letters, songs, unfinished manuscripts, prophecy and hundreds of different stories of people looking for, losing, and finding God.

£15. The workshops will be at St Paul's Cathedral and details will be sent with bookings. Bursaries are available for those for whom the charge would make it difficult to attend. **To book visit [www.stpauls.co.uk](http://www.stpauls.co.uk)**

John's is the last of the Gospels, written after many decades of meditation. Often talked about as the most spiritual and poetic of the Gospels, it is also the most dramatic: almost all of it is vivid narrative about what Jesus does and says. And amongst all the action, John weaves theological commentary which challenges his first readers – and us – to engage with his revolutionary message about the nature of God: at the heart of his Gospel is the mind-blowing concept that the universe is centred on love.



*David Ford is Regius Professor of Divinity at the University of Cambridge. He is writing a commentary on the Gospel of John, has given the 2015 Bampton Lectures at the University of Oxford on *Daring Spirit: John's Gospel Now* and is the author of *The Drama of Living: Becoming Wise in the Spirit* (Canterbury Press 2014).*

# 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 THE EPIPHANY

O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles: mercifully grant that we, who know thee now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of thy glorious Godhead; 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

O Lord our God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: grant that we, who with the wise men have been drawn by thy light, may discern the glory of thy presence in thy Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SERVICES TIMES

### Sunday 3 January: The Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord

[Proper – Epiphany; DEL proper weekdays after Christmas]

♦ Masses at 09:00 & 11:00

### Monday 4 January: feria of Epiphanytide

♦ Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 73

**R: Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth.**

### Tuesday 5 January: feria of Epiphanytide

♦ Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 74

**R: Be joyful in the Lord, all the earth.**

### Wednesday 6 January: feria of Epiphanytide

♦ Mass at 18:45;

### Thursday 7 January: feria of Epiphanytide

♦ Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 80

**R: I will give you the nations for you inheritance.**

### Friday 8 January: feria of Epiphanytide

♦ Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 82

**R: Righteousness and peace shall flourish.**

### Saturday 9 January: feria of Epiphanytide

♦ Mass at 18:45; DEL p. 83

**R: Righteousness and peace shall flourish.**

### Sunday 10 January: The Baptism of Christ (Epiphany 1)

[Proper – The Baptism of Christ; DEL week 1, year2]

♦ Masses at 09:00 & 11:00

## 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.
- Peace and justice in God's world

## Among the sick and those in need:

Ian Powe; Judy Beecroft; Geoffrey Wilcox; Barbara Farrell Wilson; Fabienne Frichot; Sheridan Swallow; 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; Fr Alan.

## We pray for all the recently departed, and for those whose year's mind falls at this time:

Valerie Maurice	5 January
Irene Dawson	8 January
Isabel Llewellyn	8 January
Julia Candlish	8 January

# ST PAUL'S

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

## WHO'S WHO

### THE PARISH OFFICE

32a Wilton Place, London SW1X 8SH

Telephone 020 7201 9999

info@spkb.org

### THE PARISH CLERGY



**Vicar**

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



**Associate Vicar**

Fr Louis Darrant  
louis@spkb.org  
020 7201 9992 • 07779 103826

### 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  
pa@spkb.org  
020 7201 9999

### THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



**Director of Music**

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



**Assistant Director of Music**

Michael Papadopoulos  
michael.pap514@gmail.com



**Organ Scholar**

Charlie Warren

### LAY OFFICERS & OTHER STAFF



**Churchwarden**

John Tweddle  
john.tweddle@bidwells.co.uk  
020 77363878



**Churchwarden**

Phil Davies  
philip@spkb.org  
07989 387198

### 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