

## Remembrance Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016

### RECONNECTING WITH THE PAST

The American presidential election produced a result few expected – and as with the Brexit vote, many people's response was a visceral one of shock and dismay. 'No! Really? How?.'

But notice how quickly the authentic *felt* emotional response in the moment has been tempered by our pragmatism. Even in Germany, where the announcement of the American election result on Wednesday coincided with the observing of the anniversaries of *Kristalnacht* in 1938 and the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, and therefore where the recollection of societal division and racial prejudice were most intense and, consequently, anti-Trump rhetoric most vehement, it only took hours for those in leadership to begin to temper their language and to begin to find ways of pointing to potential common ground with the new 'leader-elect of the free world.'

On one level, thank heavens for pragmatism. The human ability to adapt in the face of change and to make the best of any situation is one of the greatest of all God's gifts. Without it we would long since have become extinct. When the situation changes, so do we. We have remarkable ability to salvage, from apparent disaster and calamity, the building blocks of new futures. We move on. We make do – and more, we make the best of any situation. In truth we find it *easier*, indeed we tell ourselves *better* to move on swiftly, rather than to face the sometimes brutal realities of life. 'Humankind can bear only a little reality,' said T.S. Eliot. We dodge

the pain and the cost. We quickly create a new and better version of things. And we sanitise the stories we tell of what happened. We clean up history. Psychologists call this ability a 'defence mechanism' and if, in some ways, helpful to our survival, something is always lost in this ability to filter and adapt.

Sometimes it is good to reconnect with the past. Shock and loss can have something to teach us. We know things in those moments about ourselves, our passions, our values and our commitments that we need to hang onto. The challenge is that often our adaptive defences blind us not only to the situation's reality, but to ours too. We are often truer, nobler, more passionate, more willing to be fully the people God intended us to be in those moments than in happier and more comfortable times.



This Remembrance Sunday is an annual invitation, in 2 minutes' silence, to set aside sanitised versions of the truth, to suspend pragmatism and adaptive forgetfulness and to reconnect with the brutal agony of conflict and loss. We do so to honour the dead, of course. But this act of remembering and reconnection is about us too. And if we fear that the past can sometimes feel overwhelming, we can reconnect with even its most traumatic parts confident that, in their emptiness and anguish, Jesus Christ has been there before us – and has conquered. We need fear little – except the loss of our true selves.

*Fr Alan Gyle*

# News & Events

## MUSIC AT 11:00 TODAY

This year at 11 o'clock we will hear the choir sing Judith Bingham's newly-composed haunting evocation of life and death in the trenches of the Somme 100 years ago – a blending of words from the Passion of Christ and the poetry of Wilfred Owen written for the Abbey's Somme Memorial Service earlier this year.

## BBC SINGERS

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 14:00 the BBC Singers (conducted by David Hill) will broadcast one of their regular live concerts from St Paul's. The programme, in the week after Remembrance Sunday, includes the world premiere of Philip Moore's Requiem, Jonathan Bielby's 'May choirs of angels receive him', Colin Mawby's 'Do not stand at my grave and weep', Harry Brama's 'The souls of the righteous', John Sanders' 'A Prayer' and Philip Moore's powerful 'Three Prayers of Dietrich Bonhoeffer'. If you would like to be part of the audience, you can apply for free tickets online through the BBC Singers' website.

## PREPARING FOR ADVENT SERIES

Please join us on Wednesday evenings 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November for three 'musical' reflections in preparation for Advent led by Fr Louis ('Hills of the north rejoice'), Fr Nick (Philip Stopford's - Lully, Lulla, Lullay) and Fr Alan (Herbert Howells – Like as the hart). Mass at 6:40pm; reflection from 7:30pm.

## A DAY ON PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS WITH FR LAURENCE FREEMAN OSB

Saturday 17 December 10.30 am – 4.30 pm  
Cost £30 Concessions £20

From the website of the World Community for Christian Meditation: "For several years now Fr Laurence has led a preparation day for Christmas right at one of the busiest times of the year. This season highlights the real priorities in our lifestyle. So often we are driven only by materialistic values and distractions. Yet Christmas dramatically transcends the dualism of Divine and Human or spiritual and material. This is the meaning of these particular days - that can renew us daily. Meditation puts the vision into practice and so will be an integral part of this day of preparation".

## TUESDAY: CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Christian Meditation is practised here on a weekly basis now **at the revised time of 8.30am on Tuesday morning following the Low Mass**. This form of silent, imageless prayer using a mantra or prayer word is rooted in the Gospel, the letters of St Paul and originated with the early Desert Fathers of the 4th century. Newcomers are welcome to share in this space which includes quiet music, a reading from the writings of the late Fr John Main, followed by 20 minutes of silent meditation.

## WEDNESDAY: EVENING SERVICE AT 6.45PM

The daily mass is one of the privileges of our life here at St Paul's. Many people appreciate the reflective character of a weekday mass which lasts no longer than 25 minutes. The Wednesday Evening Service is slightly different in having a simple mass setting, hymn and homily followed by refreshments. Please consider making this part of your own practice.

## PRAYING FOR THE SICK & DEPARTED

There is now a book at the back of church for you to add names to be included in the weekly sheet. Names will be included for a period of four weeks, following which you will be asked if you would still like the name to be included in the weekly prayers.

## THE ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

The parish Advent Carol Service will take place at 6pm on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November. This is a free event to which all are warmly invited.

## THE FOUNDATION CAROL SERVICE

Tickets for the Foundation Carols Service (adults £50 / children £25 in advance) to be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 6:30pm are available on the parish website.

## THE PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

The parish Christmas Carol Service will take place on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7:00pm. This is a free event to which all are warmly invited.

# 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.

Page where the lections are to be found

Date and observance

Colour of vestments

Response to the psalm

Tuesday 5 February – feria

● Mass at 18:00; DEL p.80, year 1;

I will proclaim your name among the people

**COLLECT FOR SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**  
Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in thy beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

O God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion upon the anguish of the world and, by thy healing power, make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## A PRAYER FOR REMEMBRANCE

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SERVICES TIMES

**Sunday 13 November: Remembrance**  
Sunday ♦ Masses at 09:00 & 11:00 (Solemn Requiem);

**Monday 14 November: Samuel Seabury**  
♦ Mass at 18:00; EH p.612 (Common of Bishops)  
*R: Blessed is the servant of the Lord.*

**Tuesday 15 November: feria**  
♦ Mass at 8:00; DEL p. 781  
*R: They shall dwell in your tabernacle, O Lord.*

**Wednesday 16 November: Margaret, queen, wife and mother**  
♦ Mass at 18:45

**Thursday 17 November: Hugh**  
♦ Mass at 18:00; EH p. 518  
*R: Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart, O Lord.*

**Friday 18 November: Elizabeth of Hungary**  
♦ Mass at 18:00; EH p. 521  
*R: Arise, O God, and judge the earth.*

**Saturday 19 November: Hilda**  
♦ Mass at noon; EH p. 524  
*R: I will greatly rejoice in the Lord.*

## We pray this week for:

- Bishop Richard and all involved in training and supporting clergy
- Armed Forces chaplains and all currently serving in the Armed Forces.
- President N and the people of the USA
- all who work in the prison service and those in their care.
- the work of the Royal British Legion.
- all who live with the trauma of war.

## Among the sick and those in need:

Patricia Dopheide; Nick Samuelson; Simon Spence; John Watson; Michael Cooke; John King; Alain Jouret, William Guise; Shands Prevost; Ian Powe; Gregoriy Galitzine; John Udal; Dan Gadow; Mary Ann Brashler; William Guise.

## We pray for all the recently departed

Tim Mason, Elizabeth Francis, and also for Esmeralda Tonge

## We remember all those whose year's mind falls at this time.

Guna Marita Ligere 14 November  
Terry H Stanford 16 November

# ST PAUL'S

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

## WHO'S WHO

### 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; 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 and Fr Louis is unavailable on Fridays.*

### IN THE PARISH OFFICE



**Vicar's PA**  
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**Parish Administrator**  
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### THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



**Director of Music**  
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**Assistant Director of Music**  
Michael Papadopoulos  
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### Music Scholars



(l-r) Adam Mathias (Organ); Findlay Spence (Cello & Composition); Tamila Salimdjanova (piano)

### LAY OFFICERS & OTHER STAFF



**Churchwarden**  
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**Churchwarden**  
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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

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