

St Paul's Knightsbridge

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The Vicar

Fr Alan Gyle

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Honorary Assistant Clergy:

The Rt Reverend Michael Colclough

The Very Reverend Victor Stock

The Venerable Nick Mercer

The Revd Prebendary Bill Scott

SERVICES THIS

WEEK:

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

11 March 2018

Family Mass at 09:00 (AG)

Solemn Eucharist at 11:00

Preacher: Fr Alan Gyle

Mon 12 February: Feria of Lent

Low Mass at 18:00 (+MC)

Tues 13 February: Feria of Lent

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Low Mass at 18:00 (NM)

Wed 14 February: Feria of Lent

Morning Prayer at 09:00

The Wednesday Evening Service
at 19:00 (NM)

Thu 15 March: Feria of Lent

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Low Mass at 18:00 (WS)

Fri 16 March: Feria of Lent

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Low Mass at 18:00 (AG)

Sat 17 March: St Patrick's Day

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at 12:00 (AG)

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

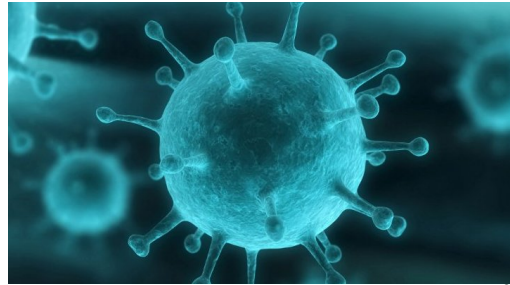
18 March 2018

Family Mass at 09:00 (AG)

Solemn Eucharist at 11:00

Preacher: Fr Victor Stock

Infection and Inoculation



On this day, exactly a century ago, the very first case of Spanish Flu was reported, marking the start of a global pandemic that took the lives of between 3 and 5% of the world's population. Because the pandemic coincided with the end of the First World War, reporting restrictions and a culture of secrecy resulted in an initial gross under-reporting of the impact, but the flu ended up killing people in practically every part of the earth – from Pacific islands to the Arctic circle – and though estimates vary, somewhere between 50 and 100 million people. Epidemiologists differ in their precise explanation of the wide and rapid spread of the virus, but whatever contributed to it, it was one of the greatest natural disasters in the whole of human history. As one writer said, "this flu killed more people in 24 weeks than AIDS killed in 24 years, and more in a year than the Black Death killed in a century." There was no inoculation.

The ability to vaccinate against flu viruses dates only from the 1930s. The flu shot or jab – now universally available – involves giving people a tiny dose of a particular strain of the virus to stimulate the human immune system to produce antibodies to it. Every year, immunologists work hard to identify likely strains against which people – particularly the elderly and immunocompromised – ought to be protected, but it is not an exact science. Even when it is the right strain, it can take the body a couple of weeks to develop resistance – and in the meantime, infection can occur. But thank heaven that thanks to the skill of virologists and the investment in public health, a repeat pandemic is less likely, even if it can't be ruled out completely.

What of the image of infection and inoculation as a metaphor for speaking about the spread of ideas – in particular Christianity?

Infection is obvious. A good idea or a compelling way of seeing the world grips our minds or our hearts; we feel the need to share it with others; our energy for it and our enthusiasm in sharing has the effect of igniting interest in neighbours. We spread the idea. It spreads further. Before long there can be a very positive (or negative) pandemic.

And what of inoculation? Sharing half-baked thoughts, or ideas in a complete or lazy way – exposing people to fragments of half-digested or only half-owned thinking – can be much more than a failure in communication; the experience can actually turn people off the idea and create a resistance in them. "Oh, someone mentioned that to me once, but I quickly dismissed it!" "Oh, I tried church when I was young, but I've given it up." Unless we communicate well and compellingly, we risk creating the very opposite of the effect we are aiming for.

This Lent is not only an opportunity to attend to the faith that is in us: it is a chance to draw others into the health-giving and energising world of Christianity. We know the joys of communing with each other and with God within the life of the Church; we have stumbled on moments of wonder; we have, many of us, experienced that sense of wholeness and purpose that flows from acknowledging our dependence on God. But how do we share that experience?

The author of the First Epistle of St Peter encourages us 'to be ready to give an account of the faith that is in us' (1 Peter 3:15). How do we – individually and collectively – speak of our faith in a way that is likely to infect others – rather than inoculate them against its life-giving impact? And when did you last do so?

Fr Alan Gyle

PCC

The Parochial Church Council meets on **Tuesday 13th March at 7pm** to approve the accounts for 2017. There will be a Low Mass in St Luke's Chapel at 6pm. Apologies for absence to Phil Davies (phil@spkb.org)

Who's who this Sunday At 09:00

Celebrant: Fr Alan Gyle

At 11:00

Celebrant: Bishop Michael Colclough

Deacon: Fr Alan Gyle

Subdeacon: Phil Davies

Reader: Anthony Vernon

Preacher: Fr Alan Gyle

Intercessor: sung by the cantor

The Music Dinner

This year's highly-popular Music Dinner will take place on **Monday 14th May at 7pm for 7:30pm**. Black tie or equivalent – tables of 10, or individual tickets – a ticket cost of £50 with an additional (gift-aidable) donation of £150 means £200pp or £2,000 per table. Please speak to John Tweddle for more information.

Revision of the Electoral Roll

We are required by Church law to undertake a formal process of revision of our 'membership' on an annual basis. If you have been a regular worshipper for more than six months and are not currently on the Electoral Roll, or if you are a regular worshipper living in the parish, please speak to one of the Churchwardens or Clergy – or to the parish's Electoral Roll Officer, Charlotte Wolseley Brinton. Copies of application forms are available at the back of church.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

A reminder that our APCM will take place after Easter on Sunday 15th April, at 12:20 after the Solemn Eucharist. All are warmly invited to attend.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.spkb.org

AND REGISTER FOR OUR WEEKLY EMAIL

Keeping a good Lent...



"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" — Matthew 25:40

The Diocese of London's Lent Appeal this year is a continuation of the appeal launched in Advent, **TRACKLING HOMELESSNESS TOGETHER**. We are seeking to support 15 carefully chosen homeless projects across the city. We, who have so much, need to share of our plenty. Please hand your **generous** donation to one of the Churchwardens.



Copies of the Church of England's little prayer handbook **LOVE LIFE, LIVE LENT**, with a reflection for each day of the Lenten Season were handed out on Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday to members of the congregations. Some copies are still available – please help yourself. If you were given a copy, but have decided it is not for you, perhaps you'll return it to the table at the back of church for reuse by someone else?

There is also an excellent app for your iPhone or tablet which delivers the same material in electronic form. Visit your app store to download it.

Forthcoming Trips and Visits

Please visit the parish website for more information:

Berlin

Thursday 17th May (evening) – Sunday 20th May (after lunch)
The Parish Trip to Berlin – almost fully booked

A three day study weekend looking at Berlin's 20th century's experience of division and reunification with Fr Alan Gyle and Roland Brunner

BOOKING NOW OPEN:

Coventry Cathedral
Saturday 16th June from 08:00 – 18:00



A visit to Basil Spence's remarkable 1960s Cathedral and to reflect on its distinctive ministry in the face of conflict. We will travel by train and enjoy a late lunch together after a tour and Eucharist.

Berwick Church in Sussex,
Saturday 28th July from 09:00 – 17:30



Grade 1 listed church with extensive 20th Century murals which cover the nave walls, chancel arch, screen and pulpit. These were painted during the Second World War by the Bloomsbury artists, Duncan Grant, Vanessa Bell and Quentin Bell; followed by a late lunch in the countryside.

Please pray for...

We pray this week for:

All Christian people embarked upon the keeping of a good Lent;
On this Mothering Sunday, for all mothers;
Sarah, Bishop-Elect, and for +Pete Broadbent our acting Bishop;
for Lorna Gradden and John Tweddle, our Churchwardens; for our staff team;
for those who live within the parish; for all the housebound;

Among the sick and those in need:

John King; Ingrid Gray; Gregory Galitzine; Maya Habboush; Nora Shishkovskaya; Federico Fernandes; Alan Bennyworth; John and Julia; David Eckland.

And we pray for the recently departed:

Gerald Bridgeman.

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

Julian Goldsmid	13 March
Kathleen Baxter	16 March
Margaret Thornton	17 March