

St Paul's Knightsbridge
The Parish Office
32a Wilton Place
London SW1X 8SH
Phone 020 7201 9999
E-mail info@spkb.org
Website www.spkb.org

DAILY SERVICES

Sunday 12th :

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Family Mass at 09:00 (AG)

Sung Eucharist at 11:00 (AG)

Preacher: Fr Alan Gyle

Monday 13th : Feria

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Tuesday 14th : **Matthias**

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Low Mass at 18:00 (AG)

Wednesday 15th : Feria

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Wednesday Evening Service at

19:00 (AG)

Thursday 16th : Caroline Chisholm

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Friday 17th : Feria

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Saturday 18th : Feria

Morning Prayer at 09:00

No Mass today.

Sunday 19th :

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Family Mass at 09:00 (VS)

Sung Eucharist at 11:00 (VS)

Preacher: Fr Victor Stock

PCC MEETING

Members of the PCC are reminded that the Council will meet at 7pm on Tuesday, 14th May, in the Church Hall, 77 Kinnerton Street. There will be a Low Mass in church at 6pm. Apologies for absence to Phil Davies, please.

SERVICES NEXT WEEK

The parish retreat to Chartres will take place next week, 20th-23rd May. As such there will be no weekday services at St Paul's 20th-24th May inclusive.

IT'S A LOTTERY...OR IS IT?!



"They proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles."

Tuesday is the Feast of St Matthias, the patron saint of alcoholics, carpenters and tailors and – most significantly – the man chosen to make up the number of the Twelve after the death of the traitor Judas. Although none of the Gospel accounts tells of his addition to the Twelve, the Acts of the Apostles does – and it describes the way in which he was elected: by lot.

Doesn't that strike you as an odd way to make such a significant appointment: a completely random choice? Perhaps, of course, there was nothing to choose between Justus and Matthias and so the casting of lots was the equivalent of tossing a coin to help to make an impossible choice. But why not say so? Coins were clearly in circulation: Jesus mentions them on several occasions! The casting of lots seems to suggest something more than a binary choice between two equal candidates. It suggests that there *was* a choice to be made, but that the responsibility for that choice was not exercised by rational human process. Nor, I suspect, is it implying that it was merely a matter of luck. Rather, the story suggests that in drawing lots, the choice was handed over to God.

But is that how our relationship with God works? Can we really just abdicate responsibility for making decisions and hand them over?

In the 20th century it became fashionable to play with the idea of 'chance' and 'randomness', not least in music and art. Some visual artists (Jackson Pollock *inter alia*) splattered paint at random and said

the result was art. John Cage and Charles Ives were composers who explored the impact of indeterminacy in music: John Cage famously conceived of one 'piece' in which the audience just listened to random noise for 4 minutes and 33 seconds and were invited to consider it as a 'musical composition'; Charles Ives asked two brass bands to march toward each other from opposite ends of a town with the 'audience' standing in the middle, observing the resultant noise – and again invited the hearers to consider this randomness as a piece of music. Aleatoric theory is a step beyond this – inviting not randomness but complete chance into the equation ('alea' being the Latin for dice). Composers who have gone this step further include Boulez and Stockhausen, and in art, Miro and Dali.

What these approaches have in common is their fascination with what happens when human artifice cedes 'complete' control and embraces the vagaries of the unplanned and unintended. However, in none of them is the human input incidental or dispensable. What is essential to these approaches is the *conjoining* of artistic endeavour *and* randomness.

And what of this in our relationship with God? Is it right that we just give up and let God take the lead? It seems to me that the parallels are close. We are often at our best when we relinquish our death-dealing hold on things and embrace something of the apparent randomness of the world beyond ourselves. This feels like the realm of true creativity. God has, after all, created a wonderful world with which we are invited to connect and by which we are meant to be stimulated. But randomness is not God. Our ancient stories also tell us that God has created us with dignity and 'in his image' – so that our part in creativity is not incidental or dispensable, but is necessary. Just to 'park' our amazing (God-given) nature and to 'shake dice' or 'draw lots' when it comes to making decisions or being creative seems like a huge abdication of responsibility. We need to be part of decisions – and to shape them with the best endeavours that we can.

What do you need to let go of in your decision making in this week ahead? And what do you need to bring to the table? How will you exercise your authority responsibly?

Fr Alan Gyle



Who is doing what this Sunday?

The Family Mass at 09:00

Celebrant & Preacher: *Fr Alan Gyle*
Server: *Phil Davies*
Reader: *Sarah Bender*

The Sung Eucharist at 11:00

Celebrant & Preacher: *Fr Alan Gyle*
Subdeacon: *James Wilcox*
Reader: *Susie Thornton*
Intercessor: *Christopher Stephens*
Hospitality: *Louise Nixon*

For your prayers

We pray this week for:

Sarah, Bishop of London; Lorna Gradden and Rob Clouston, our Churchwardens; for our staff team; our Sister and Partner Parishes, St Paul's K-Street in Washington DC and All Saints, Nhamavilah, Mozambique.

We pray for those who lead the church that they may do so with integrity, and we pray for the constant renewal of the church.

Among the sick and those in need:

Maya Habboush; Sall Allen; David Eckland; Nicky Lindsay; Penny Higgs; Amanda Orlebar; Tessa Murphy; Reg Francis; Philippe Romano; Ronald Bartle; Paule Bedford.

All the recently departed:

Armel Cates.

And we pray for those whose year's mind falls during the month of May:

Michael Taylor	2 nd
Timothy Green	2 nd
Michael Barney, priest	5 th
Meriel St Clair Green	7 th
Helen Newton	14 th
Sophie Hodgson	15 th
Cecilia Lawson	17 th
Eileen Goode	18 th
Sally Windham	20 th
Eric Knighley Chetwode Hamilton	21 st
Gerard Doyle	22 nd
Dudley Middleton	23 rd
Herbert Robinson	24 th
Robin Hodgson	30 th
Dyan Elizabeth Wade	31 st

UPCOMING EVENTS...

SONGHAVEN CONCERT & TEA

Saturday 18th May at 3:00pm

A 45 minute dementia-friendly music concert followed by afternoon tea.

Clare McCaldin and **Eleanor Ross**, both from our Choir, accompanied by **Adam Mathias** in singing favourite melodies from the operatic stage, classic musicals, and well-loved songs from the past. Tickets are free, but should be reserved by visiting www.spkb.org or calling the parish office. All welcome!



ASCENSION DAY MASS & PARTY

Thursday 30th May at 7:00pm

All are warmly invited to the Solemn High Mass on Ascension Day followed by drinks and canapés in the Vicarage. Bring your friends!

Music by the St Paul's Choir:
Mass in C – Schubert,
God is gone up – Finzi,
Coelos ascendit – Stanford



PARISH LUNCH & RECITAL

Sunday 2nd June

Join us after the 11AM Mass on Sunday, 2nd June, for Parish Lunch followed at 2pm by a recital given by Sam Jenkins from the St Paul's Choir.



PENTECOST: CONFIRMATION & FAMILY BRUNCH

Sunday 9th June at 9AM

Bishop Michael will preside over Mass with Confirmation at 9AM on the Feast of Pentecost - 9th June - followed by a Family Brunch. Brunch free of charge to regular members of the 9AM congregation and their guests. £5 for other guests – please sign-up at www.spkb.org/brunch.

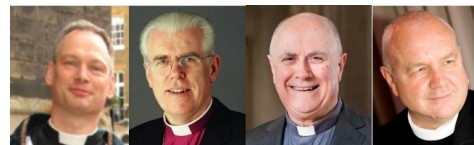
DAY TRIP: YORK MINSTER

Saturday 6th July

Join us in York for a guided tour of the great Minster, including restoration of the Great East window. Tickets: £48 to include coffee, entry to Minster, guided tour and lunch. Participants will make their own travel arrangements. Full details at www.spkb.org/york or by calling the parish office.

WHO'S WHO at ST PAUL'S?

THE CLERGY



(l-r) **The Vicar** Fr Alan Gyle (alan@spkb.org); **Honorary Assistant Clergy** Bishop Michael Colclough; Fr Victor Stock; Fr Nick Mercer.

A priest is available before or after services 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.

LAY OFFICERS



(l-r) **Churchwardens:** Lorna Gradden & Robert Clouston (wardens@spkb.org)
Treasurer: Noel Craven
Safeguarding officer: Margaret Gadow

The Deputy Churchwardens & their responsibilities:

Caroline Docker (Hospitality); Gardenia Griffith (Welcoming); Roland Brunner (Volunteering); Serena Butt (Incorporation) Margaret Gadow (Safeguarding); Virginia Craven (Children's Advocacy); Susie Thornton (Communication & brand); Sarah Tytherleigh (Vestments, fabric & plate); Tom Tull (Wednesday evenings); Aidan Linton-Smith (Family Mass); Jeremy Orlebar (Building maintenance)

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



(l-r) **Director of Music** Dr Stephen Farr (sforganist@gmail.com)
Assistant Director of Music Michael Papadopoulos (michael.pap514@gmail.com)
Music Scholars Benjamin Newlove (organ) & Findlay Spence ('cello and composition)

IN THE PARISH OFFICE



(l-r) **Vicar's PA:** Felicity Cranfield (felicity@spkb.org), Claire Pilton (claire@spkb.org); **Head of Future Programmes:** Phil Davies (phil@spkb.org); **Caretaker:** Adam Modzelewski