



ST PAUL'S CHURCH

WINCHMORE HILL



THE REVEREND TOM SMITH

**A MEMBER OF OUR CHURCH FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS
WAS ORDAINED DEACON AT ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL ON 3RD JULY.
MORE PHOTOS AND A MESSAGE FROM TOM ON PAGE 16.**

Parish Magazine

Price 50p

August 2021

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Dear Friends

Those of you who use the Book of Common Prayer calendar will notice that this month of August begins with something called Lammas Day. You would be forgiven for thinking, What on earth is that?

A helpful bit of context is to understand that the annual celebration of Harvest Festival is a surprisingly modern initiative. It was the invention of an eccentric Victorian clergyman, Robert Hawker of Morwenstow. (Perhaps the subject of another letter in the future!) Harvest Festival is a thanksgiving for the completion of the harvest –

hence the line in one of our Harvest hymns, ‘All is safely gathered in’ – and is why Harvest Festival doesn’t have a fixed date in the Church’s calendar; it varies according to the climate of where you are in the country.

Wonderful though Harvest Festival is, its popularity has, rather sadly, eclipsed what was a series of days in the Church’s calendar which marked the agricultural year, principally Plough Sunday, Rogationtide, and, on 1 August, Lammas Day.

The word Lammas is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Hlafmaesse* – or ‘Loaf Mass’. It was a thanksgiving for the first-fruits of the wheat harvest, marked by the offering of a newly-baked loaf at the Mass of the day. (A custom which, in some places, has found its way into Harvest Festivals. The parish in which I grew up had a friendly baker, who always baked an elaborately decorated loaf to rest in front of the altar for Harvest.)

As many of you know, I am a keen – if not expert – grower of my own

THE CALENDAR: WITH THE TABLE OF

AUGUST hath XXXI Days		Morning Prayer		Ever
		1st Lesson	2nd Lesson	1st Lesson
1	c Lammas Day	Proverbs 27, to v. 23	Romans 2, to v. 17	Proverbs 1 to v. 15
2	d .....	..30, to v. 18	..2, v. 17	..31, v. 10
3	e	Eccles. 1	..3	Eccles. 2, to v. 12
4	f .....	..3	..4	..4
5	g .....	..5	..5	..6
6	A Transfiguration of our Lord	..7	..6	..8
7	b Name of Jesus	..9	..7	..11
8	c .....	..12	..8, to v. 18	Jeremiah 1
9	d	Jeremiah 2, to v. 14	..8, v. 18	..5, to v. 1
10	e S. Laurence, Archd. of Rome and Martyr	..5, v. 19	..9, to v. 19	..6, to v. 2
11	f .....	..7, to v. 17	..9, v. 19	..8, v. 4
12	g .....	..9, to v. 17	..10	..13, v. 8 to v. 24
13	A .....	..15	..11, to v. 25	..17, to v. 1
14	b .....	..18, to v. 18	..11, v. 25	..19
15	c .....	..21	..12	..22, to v. 1
16	d .....	..22, v. 13	..13	..23, to v. 1
17	e .....	..24	..14, & 15, to v. 8	..25, to v. 1
18	f .....	..26	..15, v. 8	..28
19	g .....	..29, v. 4 to v. 20	..16	..30

produce. Of course, I don't grow wheat, but, nonetheless, one of the things I have become more aware of as I've tended a small kitchen garden, is how I am more attuned to the seasons of the year, and the need to work in collaboration with nature. I now more fully understand why, historically, the calendar of the Church was peppered with feasts linked to the agricultural year. And, at least to me, Lammas Day ceases to be an archaic and obscure celebration in the Book of Common Prayer, but rather part of the rhythm of praise and thanks to God for the wonder of his creation.

Something to think about when you next sink your teeth into a loaf of bread!

With my love and prayers

Fr Daniel

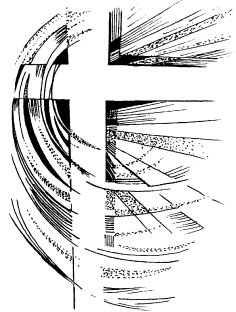
FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

10th July Orson Scott
31st July Farah O'Brien

MEMORIALS

17th July Geoff Sharpe
24th July Peter Hodge



AUGUST 2021 FLOWER ROTA

7 th August	Sally Sherman
14 th August	Elaine Bunce
21 st August	Sharon Saunders
28 th August	Adele Houldsworth

Our Flower Arranging Organizer, Adele Houldsworth, would be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to join the team. Both experienced flower arrangers and people who would like to develop their skills would be very welcome. To contact Adele ring 020 8360 3676.



Calendar



AUGUST 2021

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

8am Holy Communion (tickets not required)

9am Family Service (Eucharist on 2nd and 4th Sundays)

10am Family Service (Eucharist on 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays)

11am Parish Eucharist

Tickets for the Sunday services at 9 am and 10 am can be booked via office@spwh.org or 020 8886 4290. Other services are not ticketed.

REGULAR WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday: 11am Holy Communion

Monday-Thursday: 9am Morning Prayer, 5pm Evening Prayer

Monday to Thursday the church is open for private prayer from 9 to 5.15

ADDITIONAL SERVICES IN AUGUST

9 am on Friday 6th August Transfiguration

9 am on Tuesday 25th August St Bartholomew

A PRAYER FOR THE OLYMPICS AND PARALYMPICS

Eternal God,

Giver of joy and source of all strength, we pray for those taking part in the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.

For the competitors, their support teams, their loved ones and the many who support them.

In a world where many are rejected and abused, we pray for a spirit of tolerance and acceptance, of humility and respect and for the health and safety of all.

May we at the last be led towards the love of Christ who is more than gold, today and forever.

Amen

LUMINARIES: TWENTY LIVES THAT ILLUMINATE THE CHRISTIAN WAY

MEISTER ECKHART (1260-1328?)

In this chapter of his book *Luminaries* Rowan Williams lays out firstly some biographical details (such as we know them!) and then gives a precis of Eckhart's work, and finally delves into a couple of theological points that Eckhart explores.

Condemned as a heretic in his lifetime, Meister Eckhart has always been a complex character in church history and theology, and provides many obstacles when assessing his work. Williams puts it like this, 'He's difficult, he's controversial and he often gives the impression of not taking your worries quite seriously'.

Of this difficult theologian, we know actually very little. Born around 1260 in mid Germany, he studied for some time at the University of Paris. We know that he was head of the Dominican Order in Saxony, known as the Order of Preachers for their distinctive vocation to preaching the Gospel. Their white habit has earned a mark as a scholarly order, and they are respected for this charism even to this day. Indeed, Eckhart was constantly involved in preaching. Unusually, and certainly in comparison to Thomas Aquinas, he was known to preach in the vernacular as well as Church Latin. Indeed, there is something of a different character between his Latin and German sermon.

Which brings us on to how we know what we do about him: extant still are many sermons and some treatises, seen both as theological and philosophical. He clearly was sought after as a preacher and thinker in his own lifetime, but after that, his history is slightly more chequered. His influence was felt on both sides of reformation arguments, and particularly the 'not minor' point about his teaching in the vernacular. However, since the 16th century, his works dwindled from prominence, except according to Williams, 'he appealed to some people who thought he was a king of Buddhist in a Dominican habit'. There have been issues of translation, and it was not until the mid-20th century that his work was reliably translated into English. He now has something of a resurgence in popularity.

Aside from teaching, study, and preaching, he was also in demand as a spiritual director. He worked as a mentor and inspiration behind some lay Christian communities, who lived together under a 'loose shared rule'. While many of his ideas are technical and cerebral, therefore, it is also true to say that he was not a distant figure. His sermons in the vernacular,

for example, tended further from the dogma of the church, and have a more creative sense about them. However, in order to understand more deeply his writing and beliefs, it is helpful to turn to his very technical use of Latin for subtle nuance. Williams notes that, '[although he was] someone who certainly *thought* that he was an orthodox Catholic...you might well be forgiven for thinking that 'orthodox Catholic' is not the first phrase that would spring to mind'.

One of his particularly complex positions that Williams explores, which has been accused of swerving towards heterodoxy, is that of the *Gottheit*. In English we could interpret it something like 'Godhead', but the English sense of this word is not helpful in this context, so Williams clarifies it with the word 'Godness'. It is the position that God exists as God, but is also *in* all things. While the eagle-eyed will notice that this position certainly tends towards a Gnostic heresy, Eckhart explains it thus:

I take a bowl of water and put a mirror in it and set it under the disc of the sun. The sun sends forth its light-rays both from the disc and from the sun's depth, and in the sun is a sun, and yet is what it is. So it is with God. God is in the soul with His nature, which His being and reflection of the soul in God is God, and yet she is what she is.

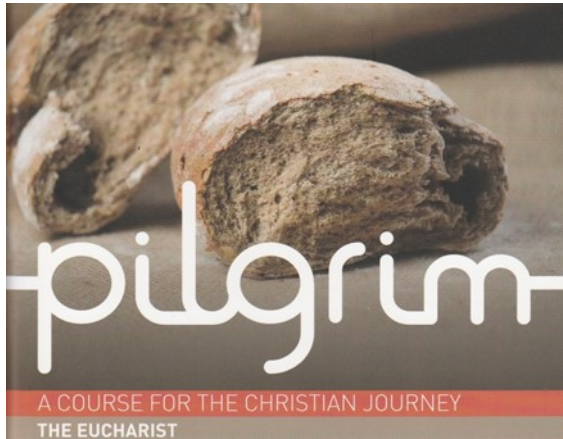
In other words, as Williams puts it, 'God distinguishes God from creation, and there I am, and *I* can say 'God' because now I'm separate from God I'm distinguished by God...the sun is in the mirror, but the mirror is not the sun.'

Williams then works this out in terms of our relationship with God, and what we can learn from it. He says that this distinguishing between God and 'Godness' names the 'mysterious inner life about which we can't find any words that are any use'. And this is in some way a refraction of God, made manifest in creation.

Helpfully, Williams leaves us with these thoughts, 'We can talk about what God does; we can't talk about what God is'. We meet God in the things that he does as he is reflected in creation, and in this way we can come to know of God. He even delights that this eternal reality gives us a place to live and allows us to be 'carried on the wave of God's inner contemplation'.

As he said, it all can be quite muddling!

Calum Zuckert



A course for the Christian Journey

The Eucharist

Thursday 9th, 16th, 23rd September 2021

Pilgrim is an innovative and inspiring programme to explore our faith further. It approaches the great issues of faith through participation in a pattern of contemplation on scripture and discussion in the company of a small group of fellow travellers.

This short course explores how Christians know and worship God. Its six sessions reveal the reasons why The Eucharist is celebrated as a memorial of Christ's saving passion and stands at the very heart of Christian worship.

It is particularly suitable for those who have been recently confirmed, but is open to all.

Venue: tbc (31 Station Road, N21 or online)
smartiehouse@hotmail.com for further details.

In March 2020, St Paul's (with Father Daniel's lead) set up a network of volunteers to support members of the congregation who lived alone or were required to 'shield' during the early stages of the pandemic. At that time, our first priority was to ensure that vulnerable members of our community had access to essential supplies and to provide companionship and support to help combat loneliness and isolation.

I have had the privilege of leading in the coordination of this group, originally named the 'St Paul's Covid Taskforce', for more than a year. During that time, I have witnessed some remarkable acts of kindness in our community and the creation of strong neighbourhood bonds within our parish, and across generations, that might never have existed otherwise. It has been uplifting to see such positivity and community spirit emerge from challenging circumstances.

More recently, this network (now re-named the St Paul's Neighbourhood Support Team) has become an important part of the St Paul's renewed Pastoral Strategy. As we start to emerge from the pandemic, it will continue to support the parish community on a longer-term basis.

The NST volunteers will remain as the day-to-day points of contact between their allocated parishioners and the church, to act as the 'eyes and ears' of the Pastoral Team to help identify any bespoke support needs. In doing so, we will aim to expand our reach to all those in our parish community who would benefit from support – whether this is help with occasional errands, prayer support, staying connected with church news, or just a regular friendly chat.

It has been a rewarding and humbling experience to work with our fantastic volunteers, whose dedication and commitment has helped make a real difference during these unprecedented times. In the coming weeks, I will be handing over the co-ordination of the NST to Jane Reed (Pastoral Team Coordinator) and my successor and fellow volunteer, Carla Aylott-Wennekes. I trust I will be joined by the whole parish community in wishing them both every success in continuing this important role. On my part, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of our past and present NST volunteers – you are all amazing!

Kaisa Patsalides

THINGS ARE GRADUALLY RETURNING TO NORMAL

During last few weeks we have witnessed the gradual lifting of the restrictions we have had on our day-to-day lives and the way we have been able to meet and worship during the pandemic.



Service books, hymn books and singing have returned



Books are now being used for some services which means the screen is not needed. So once again we can see the beautiful east window depicting the Ascension.

18 JULY
2021

1100

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Please see website for more information on what to expect when you arrive at church during current restrictions
ST PAUL'S CHURCH
WINDHAM HILL

Due to the pandemic, from March to July 2020 public worship was not permitted and all services and Sunday School meetings were streamed online and our congregation worshipped at home within their family bubbles. So it was with great joy that from 26th July 2020 we met in church and worshipped together once more, albeit with hand hygiene requirements, social distancing, masks, a ticketing system and no books or singing - all to minimise any risk of spreading the virus. During this period the number of people permitted at weddings, funerals and memorial services was very restricted, which was understandably distressing for many. But things have changed.



Internment of Peter Hodge's ashes on 24th July 2021 after the lifting of restrictions



Refreshments being enjoyed once more after the Parish Eucharist

Since the middle of last month, July 2021, the restrictions have gradually been lifted, so it was with great pleasure that from 25th July we were once more able to sing together in all services, to use hymn books and service sheets and meet to socialise together in the Hayward Garden or Church Hall after the Parish Eucharist, which, like our 8 am Sunday services, is no longer ticketed.

The opening up has also meant that the annual Mothers' Union Garden Party was able to go ahead. Over thirty Mothers' Union members and friends enjoyed a sunny July afternoon together in the garden of Sue and Michael Laurie.

Lifting the restrictions has also meant that once more we can meet freely with friends and family in the local cafés and restaurants.



Mothers' Union Garden Party



Some MU members enjoying coffee in a local café after the Wave of Prayer Service on 9th July

MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION REFLECT ON HOW THE COVID PANDEMIC AFFECTED THEIR LIVES

Church members across the generations have written about how their lives have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic that has caused lockdowns and disruption during 2020 and 2021. In this edition Jane Reed and Rebecca Clark share their reflections, both penned in August 2020.

Jane Reed wrote:

The old stone statue of Matilda has a strong presence, full of grit and resilience, her lower arms lost to wear and tear a long time ago. Saturday 14th March 2020 at The Royal Foundation of St Katharine was the last time I visited London. Matilda was their founder and her photo, taken that day, now on my study wall reminds me of her fortitude, an icon for the times.



Lockdown has been full of different moods and emotions. We have been fed, we have been challenged. Things that fed me have been based in great gratitude. That I have a home and garden; as a night shelter volunteer, I had already stopped taking those essentials for granted. Secondly, the strength of the community at St Paul's and the rhythm of daily prayers and offices that Fr Daniel and Fr Calum put together so beautifully, as well as the weekly call from a member of the congregation. The street where I live becoming a community of support and care, nothing ever too much. Likewise, our wonderful house group meeting weekly to support and care for each other online.

The challenges were also there. Up until Easter there was both survival and shock; but the narrative of the Lenten dark and light accompanied those responses. More time was available to reflect and pray; to grieve the loss of life to the virus as well as honouring our frontline workers. On Maundy Thursday Fr Daniel commented that his usual reminder of the command to love each other was not needed this year; we were all too busy living it. That stuck with me, made me cry and helped.

The weeks after Easter, despite the Resurrection narratives to support them, felt much harder. The weather was lovely, the streets were quiet, many who weren't working were finding creative or useful things

to do. But the tragic death of George Floyd and the racism in our midst shouting to be seen, the exigencies of home schooling, businesses under threat, the silent pain of those needing help to find food, the dying continuing and stories emerging from otherwise healthy people of how very ill they had been, gave a very challenging context to an already tricky journey.

On returning to Church I am so glad we are working on our strategy for SPWH. I was wondering too, as an article in *The Tablet* suggested, what God is now asking of his Church going forward, in a changed world from the one we were in in January 2020. We aren't returning as the same people that we were.

I find myself asking how we might gather up all the resources of resilience and forbearance we have each practised, to sharpen and deepen the movement between our 'In-reach' (caring for each other), and our 'Outreach' (the way we develop our collective ministry where we live and work) at St Paul's. How might we set out anew to remain still and prayerful, but active, vigilant and effective in living like Christ? How might the pandemic be changing our ideas about what we are here for at SPWH?

I look forward to conversations about this as we return more fully in coming months.

Thank you Matilda, for your fortitude, for reminding me of the long view and helping me trust that the Kingdom is nearer than near in the learning as well as the suffering of this pandemic.

Jane Reed
August 2020

Rebecca Clark wrote:

The NHS celebrated its 72nd birthday on 5th July 2020 and I am fortunate to have been a part of it for the last 10 years working as a physiotherapist. Five years ago I specialised in Cancer Rehabilitation.

Returning from my second maternity leave in January 2020 I could not have anticipated what was to come. The next few months saw huge changes to the way we were used to working. Daily meetings, staff deployments and refresher training for ITU respiratory skills made the

reality of the situation sink in.

Working in an outpatient setting we were directed to cancel all non-essential appointments and we started telephoning patients to provide support instead. I was lucky that I didn't need to be redeployed, but the effect the pandemic was having on patient services was drastic. A big part of my role was ensuring our most vulnerable patients were safe and managing at home, supporting them in the absence of their normal networks and acting to prevent hospital admissions. Those that we did see were met with full PPE. It took some getting used to and was stressful at times but the feeling that I was able to do something to help during this crisis was rewarding.

Home life was quiet but after the initial shock of lockdown it felt good to stop, pause and take some time to appreciate each other. I missed my family greatly but with all of them living so close we found ways to see them by chatting through windows or decorating their drives with rainbows.

We are by no means through the pandemic and the uncertainty continues. The effects will long exceed the virus in both mental and physical health but I believe there are positives that will come from this. An appreciation of what we have, of loved ones, a revolution in the way we work and much better hand hygiene!

I have always been proud to work for the NHS but, having seen how colleagues have stepped up and shone, I have never been more honoured to be a part of it.

JOAN IRELAND RIP

Some of you will have already heard of the sad passing of Joan Ireland. She died peacefully in hospital just 10 days before her 100th birthday – such a shame. We will all treasure the memories of her and that smile she gave everyone. Her time spent at Bletchley Park during the war, the time she taught at Eversley School and the time spent at SPWH were just part of the testament to a wonderful life spent in service to the community. RIP Joan.

Martyn Caswell

**THE POSTPONED CHARITY FOOTBALL
TOURNAMENT HAS BEEN RE-SCHEDULED**

15

**CHARITY 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL
TOURNAMENT**

SUNDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2021

**AT ST PAUL'S SCHOOL
BEGINNING AT 12 NOON**

If you would like to play contact:

Fab on fabrizio-ditano@hotmail.co.uk or 07967 098032

or Uke on ukegbu_k@yahoo.co.uk or 07713 011 540



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Tom Smith, who for over two decades was a very active member of our church, was ordained a Deacon at a wonderfully joyous service in St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday 3rd July. Tom's family and some friends were there to celebrate with him at the service and others watched the service online.



We continue to pray for Tom as he begins his ministry at St Michael's Church in Wood Green.

Since his ordination, Tom has sent us a message (see below) and a photo of the home communion set that was bought for him with the collection we held before his ordination.

Dear Fr Daniel and the St. Paul's Church Family,

I found it a real encouragement through all the love and messages that I have received during my training in Cambridge, and especially in the build-up to my recent ordination. I can honestly say that I have witnessed being held by all your prayers that you have offered in support of myself, Dayna and our family during this time.

I am now two weeks into my new role as assistant curate at St. Michael's Church in Wood Green, and it has been a real joy! I have done much including meeting many members of the church, sipped many a cup of coffee, and been introduced to the children and staff of the church primary school. The experience so far has been wonderfully tiring!

May I take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to you all at St. Paul's for all your prayers, cards, gifts, and goodwill messages. I was thrilled to receive the generous gift of the home communion set, which I have yet to use but hope to do so as and when pastoral visiting fully returns.



St. Paul's will always be a special place for me, and I will always remember those who contributed to my discipleship and calling. I pray that the presence of God, through word, sacrament, and fellowship, continues to stir and guide you all in your journey of faith, creating new teachers of faith including those discerning the path to ordination.

With all my love and prayers,

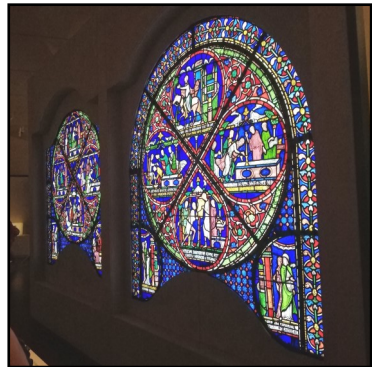
Tom

THOMAS BECKET: MURDER AND THE MAKING OF A SAINT

The Becket exhibition in the British Museum continues until August 22nd and is well worth a visit. For those who went on the parish pilgrimage in 2016, it will bring back memories of visiting the site of Becket's murder in Canterbury Cathedral and hearing the story leading up to his martyrdom.

The exhibition includes some wonderful exhibits dating back to when Henry II reigned and had the fall out with his once closest ally, Thomas Becket. It also has artefacts from the following centuries as the cult of St Thomas grew and spread.

The exhibition is truly wonderful with so much to see, ranging from large stained glass windows to tinier items, like a small illustration from a coteremporaneous book showing Henry II arguing with Thomas before his death.





MOTHERS' UNION NEWS AUGUST 2021



Although our branch of the MU will not meet in August, there will be special virtual events throughout the month to mark the centenary of the death of our founder, Mary Sumner.

On **Sunday 1st August**, there will be a service of Compline at 9 pm.

On **Monday, 9th August**, Mary Sumner Day, there will be two online events.

At 10 am there will be a virtual tour of Mary Sumner's Church (where her husband was Vicar) and the grounds of Old Alresford.

At 3 pm the same day there will be a special service to mark Mary Sumner Day, during which a new musical setting of the Mary Sumner Prayer will be heard for the first time and there will be contributions from around the world.

Throughout the whole of August there will be a series of inspirational videos about the work of the Mothers' Union worldwide.

Links to all of these events will be available on the Mothers' Union Facebook page.

THE ANGLICAN CENTRE IN ROME

Everyone who went on the parish pilgrimage in 2015 will remember the visit we made to the Anglican Centre in Rome in the Palazzo Doria Pamphilj, where our former curate, Marcus Walker, was Associate Director at the time. The Anglican Centre is somewhere where Christians of diverse cultures meet and work towards unity between Anglicans and Roman Catholics. During the last year the Centre has been unable to welcome visitors to Rome or to run any of its usual courses and events and, like so many other religious centres, it finds itself in financial difficulties.

After the parish pilgrimage, some of our church members became Friends of The Anglican Centre, which organises occasional fund raising events in London. A small group from our church recently enjoyed one such – a tour of the Church of St Bartholomew-the-Great followed by afternoon tea, hosted by Marcus Walker, its Rector. To find out more about the Anglican Centre in Rome, its events in London or to support its ecumenical aims, go to <https://www.anglicancentreinrome.org/uk-friends>.

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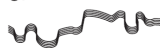
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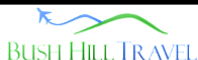
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