



ST PAUL'S CHURCH

WINCHMORE HILL



Parish Magazine

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April 2024

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I am taking a period of extended study leave, also known as a sabbatical, from 1 April, returning to parish duties on 1 July. The Diocese of London allows clergy to do this after every 10 years of ministry. This my first sabbatical since I was ordained in 2009.

What am I doing?

The theme of my sabbatical is Walking Norfolk's Churches. I am undertaking over 30 (mostly circular) walks, visiting around 200 churches. Norfolk has the highest concentration of medieval churches in Europe, and I will be reflecting on how they are an inheritance of faith and emblems of Norfolk's distinctive culture and history, and celebrating the ways in which they continue to play an important part in faith and culture today. You can follow what I'm up to on

Instagram @walkingnorfolkschurches

or my blog: <https://walkingnorfolkschu.wixsite.com/home>

I'll also be covering services some Sundays in villages where there isn't a resident priest.

The Diocese of London recommends that a third of the study leave is spent on proper rest and relaxation, so there'll be a good amount of family time too.

Stepping back

An important part of a sabbatical is having the opportunity to step back completely from the demands of parish ministry. This means I won't be checking my emails or my answerphone. As a family we will be living between here and Norfolk, with Elise and Cosmo here more than they're there, and me there more than I'm here. If you see us around Winchmore Hill, please do say hello, but Elise and I would be grateful if you didn't talk to us about parish matters! Fr Pete or the churchwardens will contact me, at their discretion only, if there's something which absolutely needs my attention.

Arrangements in the parish

St Paul's is a well-oiled machine, and everything will run as normal. When the Vicar is absent from their parish, the churchwardens are legally responsible. Fr Pete will also take on extra responsibility. Ann Petrides will step down as churchwarden at the Annual Meetings in

May, but she's kindly offered to continue as an 'acting churchwarden' until I'm back to provide continuity. Paul Prigmore has agreed to stand for election as churchwarden, together with Phil Morehen, for the coming year.

For specific enquiries which would normally come to me:

Worship and priestly ministry: Fr Pete

PCC, governance and practical stuff: Churchwardens

St Paul's School, including admissions: St Paul's School directly

Everything else: Parish Office

If in doubt, contact one of the people above and, if necessary, they'll forward your enquiry to the right person. Don't email them all at once, otherwise they'll be inundated with emails.

And finally

I am immensely grateful to everyone who is stepping up while I'm stepping back. While I know that one of the fruits of this sabbatical will be a refreshed and revitalised vicar in July, I am also conscious that a sabbatical can also be a fruitful time for those who might feel the call to step up and take on responsibility. It's a bit like an interregnum (the gap between one vicar leaving and the next arriving), except that it's shorter, and you know what (or who) you're getting at the end of it! So, as I allow the Holy Spirit to guide me in a very differently-shaped three months, I hope and pray the same is true for you.

Fr Daniel

PRAYER BOARD

Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace
of Easter Sunday, every day.

Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice.
Let us have eyes that look upon your grace and rejoice in
our salvation.

Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell your good
news to the world.

Services in April 2024



Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are said publically Monday-Thursday at 9.05am and 5pm ST PAUL'S CHURCH

WINCHMORE HILL

The church is open for private prayer Monday-Thursday from 9am to 5.15pm

Day	Date	Observance	Time	Services	Prayer Intention
M	1	Monday of Easter Week			Joy in the Risen Lord
T	2	Tuesday of Easter Week			The unity of Christ's Church
W	3	Wednesday of Easter Week	12.30pm	Eucharist	The persecuted Church
T	4	Thursday of Easter Week			The mission of the Church
F	5	Friday of Easter Week			Those baptised at Easter
S	6	Saturday of Easter Week			The faithful departed
S	7	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER	8am 9.15am 10.30am	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Eucharist Sung Eucharist	Our parish and its people
M	8	THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD TO THE BVM	12.30pm	Eucharist	Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary
T	9				Refugees
W	10			No Eucharist today	Our volunteers
T	11				Racial justice
F	12				Victims of climate change
S	13				The elderly
S	14	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	8am 9.15am 10.30am	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Sung Eucharist	Our parish and its people
M	15				Our families
T	16				St Paul's School
W	17		12.30pm 8pm	Eucharist Mothers' Union Lady Day Eucharist	The Mothers' Union
T	18				Those preparing for baptism and confirmation
F	19	St Alphege			Sarah, Bishop of London
S	20				HM The King
S	21	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8am 9.15am 10.30am 12pm	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Eucharist Sung Eucharist Holy Baptism	Our parish and its people
M	22				Politicians
T	23	St George	9am 12.30pm	Whole School Service Eucharist	The English people, and all who seek George's patronage
W	24		12.30pm	Eucharist	Local businesses
T	25	St Mark	12.30pm	Eucharist	Anderson, Bishop of Edmonton
F	26				Victims of war
S	27				Our ministry team
S	28	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8am 9.15am 10.30am	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Sung Eucharist	Our parish and its people
M	29	St Catherine of Siena			Our spiritual lives
T	30				The media

Services times are subject to change. Please contact the Parish Office for details. Contact the clergy if you would like to speak to someone regarding your spiritual life, or to make use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession)

THE LIFE OF ST CATHERINE OF SIENA (1347 – 1380)

St Catherine's feast day is April 29th. She is one of the foremost mystics of the Middle Ages, a spiritual teacher and a powerful advocate for peace and reconciliation in her time. She is patron saint of Italy, one of only a few women other than the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus to be a country's patron.

Born as the 24th of 25 children Catherine Biencasa felt her vocation as a young child, having a vision of Christ at the age of six, and taking a vow of perpetual virginity when she was only seven. Her family were indulgent to her spiritual fervour at first, but it became more problematic for them once she reached adolescence, when they felt she should grow out of it and instead marry as tradition dictated. When she protested by cutting off her hair, she was punished by being forced to be the maid servant of the house, and by being prevented from having her own room. Catherine seems to have taken this as part of her spiritual formation, delighting to serve her family and to constructing for herself an 'inner cell which no one could take away from her'. One day her father came across her praying and he saw a white dove above her head. From then he decided Catherine's vocation was real, and she was permitted to pursue it – that Christ would be her husband.

At sixteen, Catherine became a *Mantellata*, a tertiary member of the order of Saint Dominic. The early part of her time with the order was marked by a period of solitude where she spent almost three years in prayer and silence, and subject to extreme spiritual discipline. Nevertheless, she was tormented for much of this time and felt Christ to be absent from her, struggling in her prayers. Finally, she was rewarded with a real sense of intimacy with Christ and her prayers were answered in the form of a betrothal, she received a ring visible only to her. It would not have been surprising if Catherine had remained devoted in her contemplation, but instead, shortly before her twentieth birthday, Christ called her from her cell, telling her the 'service you cannot do me, you must render your neighbours'.

As a *Mantellata*, she was expected to nurse the sick and infirm at the hospitals in Siena. She talked and listened, treating all as members of

her family. She began to attract disciples, firstly two women who accompanied her but later young men also, who wrote all of her correspondence for her. As her influence grew, the wider community of Siena would come to her with their troubles asking for her wisdom and her intercessions. People would be changed just by being with her, something about the way she looked at them, with enormous interest and understanding glowing from her.



The marriage of Catherine of Siena
Lorenzo d'Alessandro da Sanseverino
The National Gallery

Soon, there were reports of supernatural events taking place and the news of Catherine and her following spread much further. She was summoned to Florence to be examined by the Master General of the Dominican order. They were impressed by her sanctity and assigned her a Dominican superior and confessor, the Blessed Raymond Capua. He is responsible for the record about Catherine, documented in detail in 'The Life of Catherine of Siena'.

The last seven years of her life were marked by her attempts to broker peace between the warring factions within Italy. Some years earlier the French Pope Clement V had relocated the papacy from Rome to Avignon, and there it had remained, becoming more and more corrupt.

This caused tensions with the city states of Italy, such that eventually, in 1375, Florence declared war against the papacy. Catherine stepped into this conflict in an attempt bring peace, by pleading with the current pope (Gregory XI) to return to Rome and to reform the Church. She spent time travelling between the Florentine cities, attempting to negotiate a peace, eventually settling in Rome for the

THE LIFE OF ST CATHERINE OF SIENA continued

final two years of her life. Her popularity was such that the Pope ordered three priests to accompany her at all times in order to hear the confessions of the crowds of people who upon seeing her would ask for the sacraments!

Along with the many letters she dictated in her effort to bring peace, she also dictated 'The Dialogue'; an account of her mystical conversation with God. Its central metaphor is of Christ as the bridge, with humanity at one end, divinity at the other, uniting in the figure of Christ.

Her final months were pervaded with grief; her efforts at a lasting peace had been thwarted by an even worse outcome – that of a schism within the Church, and of her disappointment at the behaviour of the new Pope (Urban VI). She suffered what may have been a stroke in January of 1380 and lingered on until her death on April 29th, at the age of 33.

Reading the details of her life; the extreme ascetism, the mystical experiences, miracles and fantastic happenings can be rather alien to contemporary minds, but what comes across is an influential woman (no mean feat in her time) with a deep love of Christ and of all people, who was beloved by many and who changed the lives of those around her.

Sarah Elkins

The Prigmore family are sad to announce the passing of Lydia, our much loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother who fell asleep on Monday 18th March.

There will be a service of thanksgiving to celebrate her life on Friday 5th April at 12 noon in St Paul's Church N21, followed by a reception at Bush Hill Park Golf Club.

APRIL 2024 FLOWER ROTA

6 th April	Sally Shearman
13 th April	Elaine Bunce
20 th April	Adele Houldsworth
27 th April	Sharon Saunders

Our thank go to our Flower Arrangers for the beautiful posies of daffodils that they produced for Mothering Sunday. They were greatly appreciated.



FROM THE REGISTERS FEBRUARY 2024

BAPTISM

4th February Montgomery Hezelgrave



LENT APPEAL 2024

Our Lent Appeal this year was to raise funds to support the work of ALMA. The cash collections after the main Sunday services on 10th and 17th March raised just over £364.

Our PCC also gives an annual donation to the work of ALMA and this was increased at the last PCC meeting from £400 per annum to £500.





St Paul's Trust Quiz Night

Friday 19th April



in the Church Hall at 8 p.m
(doors open 7.30 p.m.)

Tickets - £10 each or £70 for a table of 8.

French bread, cheese, etc. provided.

Please feel free to bring additional nibbles.

Drinks available from a licensed bar.

Please reserve tickets by 13th April at the latest by emailing Alan Davis (a.davis14@btinternet.com), calling the Parish Office (8886 4290), or speaking to a Trustee in the hall on a Sunday.

Payment can be made on-line to the Trust's CAF account (sort code 40-52-40, account number 00020539) – please include your name as a reference - or by cheque made payable to St Paul's Trust.

You are all welcome to a

Parish coffee morning

Saturday 27th April, 10.30am-12pm

In the Paulin Room, St Paul's Church

Come and have a chat over coffee and cake and get to know some new people- bring your family and friends!

Table activities for children

The proceeds will go to Parish Funds



ST PAUL'S CHURCH
WINCHMORE HILL



The St Paul's branch of the MU met in church for their AGM on Thursday 14th March. The meeting began with Fr Daniel enrolling two members - Lilian Gibbens and Sara Bird.

This was followed by reports on various MU events during the last twelve months, including monthly branch meetings, fellowship meals, finances and action and outreach activities.



Committee elections then took place. Sue Chambers stepped down as the MU leader after seven years and Theresa Davis was warmly welcomed as the new MU leader. Cheryl Humphreys was then re-elected as Secretary, Will Sheldon as Treasurer and Sue Laurie as Action and Outreach Officer.

Finally, Hilary Crocker, Anne Croxford, Chris Hey, Chris Holder and Sue Chambers were elected to the committee.

After the meeting, members enjoyed a delicious cream tea in the Hall.

MOTHERS' UNION DIARY APRIL 2024

THURSDAY 18TH APRIL AT 2 PM IN CHURCH

PETER GRAY WILL GIVE A TALK ABOUT
20TH CENTURY DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE

**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ALL OUR MOTHERS' UNION MEETINGS AND EVENTS,
SO DO COME ALONG AND JOIN US ON 18TH APRIL
AND STAY FOR REFRESHMENTS IN THE HALL AFTERWARDS.**

Many congratulations to Edna and Terry Baker who celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary on 6th March. This special day was marked by the arrival of a card from King Charles and Queen Camilla and also a small family party at West Lodge Hotel.

Terry and Edna met while taking part in a school production of Romeo and Juliet when they were both 16. Six years after meeting in the crowd at Verona, they were married in 1954 at St Michael's and All Angels Church, Stoke Newington. They have two children, Philip and Alison, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Terry and Edna have been members of St Paul's Church for over fifty years. Terry is one of our Welcomers (formerly known as Sidesmen) and Edna is a member of our Mothers' Union.



Congratulations also to Brian Chapman, a former Church Warden of St Paul's Church. Brian celebrated his 90th birthday with a party at West Lodge Hotel for family and friends, including many from St Paul's.

Congratulations to David and Bridget Nash on the arrival of their newest grandchild Frida, seen here with her mother Emily. Frida was born on St Paul's Day in January, which Emily sees as a special link with our church and her childhood spent in the Vicarage.



Alison Stiles invites you to a
Parkinson's Coffee
Morning
 in aid of research into
 Parkinson's Disease



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10.30 till 12

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Thank you for your continued support of our Foodbank collection point in the church porch. All donated food is available for local people living in food poverty to help themselves to six items per visit. Any surplus food is shared between the North Enfield Foodbank and distribution schemes run by other local churches.

The North Enfield Foodbank has a list of much needed items. These include a number of tinned foodstuffs (vegetarian meals, meat, fish, fruit, vegetables, tomatoes, pasta sauce, rice pudding and custard). In addition to these tinned foods, they would welcome long life milk, rice, noodles, coffee, hot chocolate, shampoo, toilet paper and washing powder.

HALL HIRE

The main Church Hall can be hired for weekend birthday parties.
 £52.50 per hour. 3 hour minimum for a party booking
 Discounts available for regular use. For more information,
 contact our Facilities Manager, Ayse Eris,
 at facilities@spwh.org or 07946 852 110

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