



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY PRIESTED CURATE! (REPORT ON PAGES 10 AND 11)

Parish Magazine



August 2023

St Paul's Church, Church Hill, London N21 IJA

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Dear Friends

On one of the Sunday of July I preached on the theme of rest. The sermon clearly resonated with people, and I hope you don't mind if I repeat some of what I said as the basis for this letter. After all, August is a month of rest for many of us.

In the West we have developed an unhealthy culture of busy-ness. We measure worth by how busy a person is; we measure value by action. We teach ourselves that we ought to be busy; and, if we're not busy, that we should at least give the impression we are. The opposite of being busy is being idle, and no one wants to be accused of that! I think the culture of busy-ness is particularly prevalent in suburbia, where the nature of people's employment and family life can lead to a sort of addiction to busyness. We make ourselves busy even when we don't need to be.

Into all of this, Jesus says, 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.' He doesn't say, 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you more jobs to do!'

Rest is important, and has a strong place in the Judaeo-Christian tradition. At the very beginning of the Bible, in the story of creation, God rests for a whole day. Throughout the gospels we see Jesus withdrawing from the crowds, finding space to be alone, to pray. He takes the sabbath seriously.

For those of you taking holidays this month, there's something to be learnt here. For goodness' sake, take your holiday *well*. Let your out-of-office be your friend. Discover the off-button on your mobile phone. And allow your holiday time to inform how you spend your time *not* on holiday. The Judaeo-Christian understanding of sabbath is that we rest *regularly*. I think we all know what it is to go on holiday, but to return to work and undo the good of the holiday in just a few days. Christian leadership expert, Carey Nieuwhof, recently wrote, 'Time off won't heal you when the problem is how you spend your time on.'

This summer, may we learn a slower pace. May we rediscover what is to rest, to cease from labour, to give ourselves time and space. And, most of all, may we come to Jesus, the one who offers us perfect rest in the deep ocean of his love.

With love and prayers

Fr Daniel

Services in August 2023

Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are said publically Monday-Thursday at 9am and 5pm



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

Day	Date	Observance	Time	Services	Prayer Intention
Τ	1				Those on summer holidays
W	2		12.30pm	Eucharist	St Michael's Negage
Т	3				The unemployed
F	4	St Jean-Baptiste Vianney			Parish clergy
S	5	St Oswald			Those in leadership
S	6	The TRANSFIGURATION of our LORD	8am 9.15am 10.30am	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Eucharist Sung Eucharist	Our parish and its people
М	7				Racial justice
Т	8	St Dominic			The Dominican order
W	9		12.30pm	Eucharist	Farming and agriculture
Т	10	St Laurence			Deacons
F	11	St Clare of Assisi			The Franciscan order
S	12				Those is debt
S	13	The TENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY	8am 9.15am 10.30am	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Sung Eucharist	Our parish and its people
М	14			-	Peace in Ukraine
Т	15	The ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	9am	Eucharist	Devotion to the BVM
W	16		12.30pm	Eucharist	Ecumenism
Т	17				Victims of climate change
F	18				Our house groups
S	19				The judiciary
S	20	The ELEVENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY	8am 9.15am 10.30am	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Eucharist Sung Eucharist	Our parish and its people
М	21				The media
Т	22				Our friends and families
W	23			No Eucharist	HM Armed Forces
Т	24	St Bartholomew			Bishops
F	25				The peace of the Holy Land
S	26				Victims of gun and knife crime
S	27	The TWELFTH SUNDAY after TRINITY	8am 9.15am 10.30am 12noon	Said Eucharist Joyful Noise Sung Eucharist Holy Baptism	Our parish and its people
М	28	St Augustine			Theologians
Т	29	The Beheading of St John the Baptist			Victims of persecution
W	30		12.30pm	Eucharist	Children and young people
Т	31	St Aidan			The faith of our land

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)

AUGUST 2023 FLOWER ROTA

4 th July	Sally Shearman
12 th July	Sharon Saunders
19 nd July	Elaine Bunce
26 th July	Adele Houldsworth

Our Flower Arranging Organizer, Adele Houldsworth, would be 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. To contact Adele ring 020 8360 3676.



HALL HIRE

The main Church Hall can be hired for weekend birthday parties. £50 per hour. Discounts available for regular use. Contact our Facilities Manager, James Wilson for more information 07354 714043 or <u>facilities@spwh.org</u>



LIKE SINGING?

THEN BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY CONCERT ON **SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4TH AT 3PM**.

This is for all ages & an opportunity for families to sing together

The songs are FUN and will be learnt at two workshops:

<u>Saturday Sept 30th 2-4pm</u> <u>Saturday Oct 30th 10.30am— 12.30</u> with a final run through on the day of the concert

To sign up, please complete slip at back of church & place in box provided or contact Sue Jeffreys on 02032310049 or 07973427799

PRAYER BOARD

Loving Lord, we thank you for holiday times and the wonder and excitement that they engender in all our hearts. We thank you for the many blessings we gain from these times of holiday fun and family reunions.

During this holiday season we remember those that are alone, or ill, or going through times of stress or difficulty. We pray that you would draw close to each and every one of them and that they may they know your peace in their hearts.

Amen.

ST PAUL'S NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEERS

There are many areas of church life that rely on volunteers, so we are always looking for more people to help - and volunteering is a great way to get to know other members of our church family. Just two areas where more volunteers would be very welcome are:

- + Counting and banking collections and other cash. This requires a commitment of just 1 to 2 hours every few weeks and you would be counting with another volunteer. It is straightforward work and training would be given. For more information email Alison on treasurer@spwh.org.
- We also need more volunteers on the coffee rota to help to make and serve refreshments after the services on Sundays. The more people on the rota, the less often you would be called on to help. This is another great way to get to know more people and make friends. To find out more email <u>coffee@spwh.org.</u>



INTRODUCTION

'With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.' (Colossians 3.16)

The Book of Psalms is the part of the Old Testament I treasure the most. So I am delighted that members of our Ministry Team will be writing a series on the psalms for this and the next seven issues of the Parish Magazine, and that I have the pleasure of writing this introduction.

The psalms are, quite simply, the people of Israel's hymn book. Sometimes referred to as 'the Psalms of David', traditionally they have been viewed as the work of King David. In reality, much like our hymn book, the psalms' authorship is many and varied – as the psalms are themselves. Indeed, their variety is similar to our hymn book. There are psalms which are full of celebration, yet there are others which express the deepest sorrow. Some psalms are clearly written for liturgical use, or reflect a season or feast in the Jewish year. Some psalms contain elements of penitence and confession.

One of the problems with the psalms is that, while some of the psalms clearly belong together (e.g. 42 and 43) there is, on the whole, little rationale behind their order. Imagine taking *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, removing all the subject headings at the top of each page, and then mixing all the hymns up. That's pretty much how the Bible presents the psalms.

We have reason to be very grateful, therefore, for the scholars of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries who started to apply form criticism to the psalms. The German, Hermann Gunkel (1862-1932) was the pioneer in this field.

Gunkel examined the psalms' Sitz Im Leben – the purpose for which they were written, and the context in which they were used. Gunkel identified five clearly defined psalm types, each of which will be the subject of articles in this series: (1) hymns, (2) communal laments, (3), royal psalms, (4) individual laments, and (5) individual thanksgivings. He also identified, among the individual laments, psalms of confidence in which the psalmist expresses confidence in God's willingness to deliver him from that which causes him to lament. Gunkel also identified some further minor psalm types, which will form the basis of another article: communal thanksgiving psalms, wisdom psalms, pilgrimage psalms, entrance liturgies and mixed poems.

The work of Gunkel and his contemporaries, and of Biblical scholars since, has been invaluable in helping us understand the psalms and their contexts, and offers us an indispensable insight into the worship of the Jerusalem temple, and the role of the King in that worship.

But the reason I love the psalms so much is the way in which they are just as relevant in worship today. They have always played a significant part in Judaeo-Christian worship. We read in the gospels that Jesus knew his psalms, and there are numerous references to them throughout the New Testament. St Paul, instructing the Colossians, writes, 'with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.' (Colossians 3.16)

In Christian worship the psalms have had an integral place in the Liturgy of the Hours – the offices recited by monastic communities. In our own Church of England liturgies psalms have played an important part in the offices of Morning and Evening Prayer. Thomas Cranmer, when devising the Book of Common Prayer, ordered the psalter to be recited in its entirety over the course of a calendar month, and this is still the tradition in some of our cathedrals and greater churches. The liturgical reforms of the twentieth century, recognising that most Christians were not attending Morning or Evening Prayer, introduced the psalms to the Eucharist – indeed, here at St Paul's we use responsorial psalms at our Sunday Sung Eucharist. And many of our best-loved hymns – 'The Lord's my shepherd' and 'All people that on earth do dwell', for example – are metrical versions of psalms.

And I find that, thousands of years after their composition, they resonate with me today. As a priest, they form an essential part of my prayer life. I don't imagine there are many texts which are so deeply a part of me. As over the next few months our Ministry Team helps us to learn more about the psalms I hope and pray that the same may be true for you too.

'O praise the Lord, all you nations; praise him, all you peoples!' (Psalm 117)

Fr. Daniel

On a hot Saturday afternoon on June 24th. a sense of both excitement and anticipation pervaded platform I at Winchmore Hill station as a group of friends from St. Paul's, as well as family members, waited to board a train en route for St. Pancras Euston for the Ordination of ten Ordinands, including, importantly, our Curate, Father Pete.

The enormous Regency period Church was packed for the service which was conducted by the Bishop of Edmonton who, following the last hymn, laid down the Edmonton Crozier as he moved on to other great responsibilities.

Before the service started, the candidates made their Declarations of Assent and took their oaths of Allegiance and Canonical Obedience. Bishop Rob set out to them the enormous range of duties and responsibilities that they would be taking on as Priests, to be Priests called to be servants and shepherds among the people to whom they are sent. The Declarations were made in response to questions put to them. The Bishop emphasised that they could not bear the weight of this calling in their own strengths but only by the

grace and power of God.

Following prayers the Ordains knelt before the Bishop and the Priests of the individual parishes to which they were being sent, who laid their hands upon their heads, followed by prayers. The Archdeacon, on behalf of all, welcomed them as ambassadors for Christ and saying, ' let the word of Christ dwell in you richly'. They were then



congratulated upon their great achievements by rounds of applause. There then followed the Litany of the Eucharist.

Bishop Rob was warmly acknowledged by applause upon laying down

the Crozier, for all his good services to the Churches that have been under his care.

So, we came away into the heat of the Underground system feeling very proud of Father Pete who has given us his friendship, and who has served us so well as our Curate. There was great support for him from his own family and from his many friends at St. Paul's. We wish him well for the future.

The refreshments at the end of the service were excellent, largely fresh fruit. The choir, organ and congregational singing were outstanding.

David G. Orfeur

The celebrations continued the following day, Sunday 25th June, when Fr Pete celebrated the Eucharist for the first time in St Paul's Church. During the service Fr Daniel presented him with a gift from the parish to mark the occasion of his ordination.

INSTALATION OF TENTH BISHOP OF BLACKBURN



On Saturday 24th June, a former boy chorister here at St Paul's Church and pupil of St Paul's School, Philip North, was installed as the tenth Bishop of Blackburn. He had previously served as the Bishop of Burnley for eight years.

During an interview soon after his new appointment had been announced, Bishop Philip talked about

his love for Lancashire and its people and also his future mission. He mentioned three areas in particular - firstly, creating joyful Christian communities in every corner of the county, secondly, being a strong voice for justice for all. including the poor, the marginalized and the forgotten and thirdly, young people and finding new ways of working with them.

A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Following a three year delay due to Covid, John and Christine Hey were finally able to go on their Pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

We travelled with Rev Sulaiman Shahzad, (whom we first met 26 years ago when he was a young curate at St Paul's Church), and members of his parish, St. Andrews, Bostall Heath, Bexley. On Tuesday 16th May 2023 the party flew to Tel Aviv from Heathrow, returning on Thursday 25th May.

It is impossible in a short article to detail the wonderful experience of the complete pilgrimage. We have instead identified several events which we found particularly moving and relevant to our Christian journey.



During our stay we visited the Mount of Olives, Ein Karem (birthplace of John the Baptist), Bethlehem (Grotto of the Nativity) and the Shepherds' Fields, Nazareth, a short cruise on the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum and Tabgha (site of the miracle of the loaves and fishes). We also visited Masada and floated in the Dead Sea, both very interesting experiences.

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Celebrating Holy Communion on the shores of the Sea of Galilee was a most moving experience. Walking to a secluded spot by the water, we could hear the gentle waves lapping on the shore whilst Sulaiman led our service.



Another powerful memory was our visit to the Garden of the Tomb in Jerusalem. Near the entrance we started with some readings and a prayer. Throughout the pilgrimage members of our 14-strong party took it in turns to read passages and lead prayers. After a short walk through the

beautiful gardens, with very well-maintained paths and quiet corners, we arrived at a larger open area where we found the tomb we were visiting. This was a very popular site and we waited our turn to enter the tomb and reflect that this may have been where Jesus' body had lain.



Immediately after this, we enjoyed a walking tour within the Old City of Jerusalem. It was here that the group paused at the stations of the Cross, indicated on the walls of the Via Dolorosa. This felt a very special experience, each reading a passage from the Bible whilst in the midst of a very bustling, noisy ancient thoroughfare. Since this was a Saturday, the crowds were a mix of Christians, Jews and Palestinians.

No pilgrimage would be complete without an opportunity to renew our baptismal vows. This we were able to do with water which Sulaiman had

collected from a source of the River Jordan at Banias in Caesarea Philippi. Each of us was rebaptised individually, with the River Jordan bubbling along, fish swimming amongst the reeds, and the sun shining.



After this, there was time for quiet reflection under the shade of nearby trees, and the pleasure of eating an ice cream.



THANK YOU ELOUISE! At the end of August, Elouise Nell, our Children and Families Worker will be stepping down from this role after an amazing year during which she has provided numerous exciting opportunities for our children and young people to enjoy hearing the Christian message and to join in celebrating our Christian festivals. She has worked with babies and pre-school children at the Toddlers Group as well as school aged children up to KS3 in

our Sunday groups (Sparks, Ignite and Ablaze) and at other events she arranged. Thank you Elouise!







VICARAGE GARDEN PARTY ON 16TH JULY



Once again, the garden party was the highlight of St Paul's social calendar, with a delicious lunch, courtesy of Cooking Champions, and musical entertainment supplied by younger members of our church. Our thanks to Daniel and Elise for hosting it and the Social Committee for organising such a successful event.





APPEAL FOR FOOD DONATIONS

Even though many of us are planning or enjoying our summer holidays right now, please spare a thought for the many families who are struggling with food poverty. This is especially true for families who rely on school meals to provide their children with a cooked midday meal in term times. For these families school holidays are difficult. Non-perishable foodstuffs that are left in the food bank collection boxes in the church porch will help to feed these families, so please keep the donations coming during the school holidays and thank you in advance for your generosity.

NEWS FROM THE MOTHERS'UNION

We were once again blessed with good weather for our annual garden party on the afternoon of 20th July. Thirty members and their guests relaxed in the wonderful setting of Michael and Sue Laurie's garden, and the delicious afternoon tea provided by the Committee was greatly appreciated. Two table guizzes were enjoyed by our guests - one on coronations across the years, the other a picture guiz of famous Elizabeths, including the abbreviations of Liz, Bessie and Beth. Quite a challenge, but the answers brought back many happy memories of many long forgotten politicians, actresses and historical figures.





MOTHERS' UNION DIARY AUGUST 2023

THERE WLL BE NO MOTHERS' UNION MEETING IN AUGUST

Our next meeting will be on

IN CHURCH ON THURSDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER AT 2PM FR. DANIEL WILL GIVE A TALK ON HYMN TUNES (The theme of this talk was suggested at the end of Revd Preb David Nash's talk on hymn writers in February 2023.)

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ALL OUR MOTHERS' UNION MEETINGS AND EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE

Any articles, information or adverts for events for the September magazine should be sent to the editor by the 16th August.

magazine@spwh.org

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ST PAUL'S NEW ANNUAL CHARITY CHRISTIAN AID



In July, at the first meeting of the new PCC year, it was agreed that the next annual charity for St Paul's Church would be Christian Aid.

This Christian charity has responded to humanitarian emergencies and

disasters around the world since 1945. It provides immediate emergency relief and longer term support in places of need and works to promote gender justice and alleviate the effects of violence. It also campaigns against climate change that is causing increased temperatures, famine and flooding, often in parts of the world that have done the least to contribute to the devastation that climate change brings.

Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty, by challenging structures and systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised. Examples of its work include:

- In **Africa** strengthening peace-building in South Sudan, promoting resilient farming in Kenya and challenging inequality in Sierra Leone. It is also working with women to increase their access to green and sustainable energy in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Malawi.
- In **Asia**, programmes include promoting women's rights in Afghanistan, justice and peacebuilding in Myanmar and ensuring people can access the services they need in Bangladesh.
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, it helps to promote gender justice in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Guatemala, peace-building in Colombia, and in Honduras, Nicaragua and Haiti it supports marginalised communities to adapt their livelihoods to climate change.
- In the **Middle East** it defends people's rights in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, protecting women at risk of violence in Iraq and providing humanitarian assistance to refugees in Lebanon.

Our Charity Committee will be fund raising for Christian Aid from September 2023 and July 2024, beginning with our Harvest Roast.



The Parish of St. Paul's thanks these local advertisers for their continuing help and hopes that whenever possible you will support them.

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