



THE CLARION

The Community Newsletter of St Michael & All Angels, Bedford Park

GOLDEN JUBILEE FESTIVAL 2016

£1



GOLDEN JUBILEE

Father Kevin writes:

This year is the 50th Bedford Park Festival and next year the 50th year of the Festival. So, we have a whole year in which to celebrate its Golden Jubilee.



The Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Richard Chartres, has agreed to be President of the Festival throughout the year. He has written to us: "The Bedford Park Festival emerged out of the swinging 60s when many were predicting the imminent collapse of the Church of England. At that time, my predecessor, also the Festival President, Bishop Robert Stopford, expressed his hopes that "your parish church of St Michael and All Angels will be increasingly at the heart of the community."

Fifty years on, the Festival has grown and flourished and the parish church continues to work alongside many others to provide a focus for the community. I hope that this year's Festival will be an opportunity again for us to celebrate our diversity, creativity and common humanity in this much-loved London 'village'."



I have very much enjoyed looking through the photographs that people have submitted documenting 50 years of Green Days. I see Fr Jack Jenner, the Vicar behind the first of the Festivals, familiar faces (still) and the various stalls and activities, the ways in which Green Days has developed, and certainly got bigger over the years, and the charities we have supported. Amidst all the happy smiling faces, the sunshine, the fancy dress, the beer and the various stalls, I am aware of how much work people have put in for half a century and the fun they have had. I also remember that for the first few Green Days of my time it poured with rain. 'It never rained in Fr Jenner's day,' people would tell me, 'but then he had a lucky Panama hat.' I bought a hat. It was sunny the next year.

The Bedford Park Festival incorporates the aims of our church community: that the church should be at the heart of the community, worshipping God, serving others and seeking to help those less fortunate than ourselves. We do this, I hope, by fostering a sense of community all around us, that sense of dependence on others, a greater neighbourliness and care for others and our environment.

Also, through an engagement with the arts in which we encounter and are provoked by beauty, ideas, craft, skill, the deep things which resonate within our souls in poetry, music, art, drama, photography, history and gardens. For me it is part of the human response to the Divine stirring within our hearts.

And of course seeking to support those charities that are serving those in need. This year, through the Mulberry Centre, those living with cancer and their families and friends, through the Upper Room, the homeless and the vulnerable and through Msaada, those in Rwanda as they create communities and livelihoods after the genocide there.

The Servant Queen and the King she serves



This year as part of our Church Fête (*Green Days*) we are also celebrating the 90th birthday of HM The Queen with Chiswick's biggest street party.

In a recent booklet, *The Servant Queen and the King she serves*, one of the royal biographers describes two things that stand out in The Queen's life, her 'constant sense of duty' and 'her devotion to God. Of this she speaks humbly but openly, especially in her Christmas broadcasts.' In one such broadcast she said quite directly: "God sent his only son 'to serve and not be served.' He restored love and service to the centre of our lives in the person of Jesus Christ."

The Queen, looking back over her long life, has written:

".....the extent of pace and change has been truly remarkable. We have witnessed triumphs and tragedies. Our world has enjoyed great advances in science and technology, but it has also endured war, conflict and terrible suffering on an unprecedented scale.... I invite you to join me in reflecting on the words of a poem quoted by my father..."

I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way."

Looking back over fifty years, it is difficult not to be proud of what we have achieved together and to celebrate it with joy. We are mindful of those who have died and the difficulties that our world has experienced, and experiences still, and, as the Queen reminds us, of our need for faith to bring light into darkness.

I pray such faith resonates joyfully throughout our Festival time.

Father Kevin Morris

St Peter's Church

A place for mission and evangelisation

On May 4 the Bishop of Willesden, the Rt Revd Pete Broadbent, came to St Peter's Church for the Collation and Induction of Fr Kevin as Vicar and for my licensing as Associate Vicar in the newly christened parish of St Peter's Acton Green.

Historically this was the original name of the Church when it was built in 1915, and later became the "Parish of Acton Green" with St Alban's and All Saints' churches. After the pastoral reorganisation, this wonderful place of worship has returned to its origins and it is now a 'stand alone parish.' How exciting! In a way, it is a new beginning. We start afresh with a congregation that wishes to grow and thrive despite the difficulties and the challenges. We are all well aware of our weaknesses, but as a community of faith, we feel more than encouraged by St Paul's words: "So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, for whenever I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12: 9 - 10)

Many things have happened since we started the mission project at St Peter's. A brand new office has been set up and Tassy Russell, our parish manager, has proved to be not just a very efficient and proactive manager, but a true lay missionary, fully committed to this mission and evangelisation project. We can summarise all we have done so far during the first year of this 'Church planting project' in three words: DOORS WIDE OPEN.

From the very beginning we thought that the worst that can happen to a church is to be - and look - redundant and locked. Now we feel the wind of Pentecost urging us to proclaim the Gospel to our local community.



Our Little Fishes Toddlers and Babies Group is now thriving and bursts into life in our church every Friday morning. The Italian Storytelling *Un'ora insieme* is currently building a sense of community from a group of Italian families who meet regularly every Friday afternoon. The Christmas Fair in December, Lenten and Easter activities, the Flamenco show and the family concert



in May have been wonderful opportunities to welcome many new people and families, to engage with them and help them to get to know one another.

I hear the same story over and over: "I live around the corner, but I have never been into this church. It's beautiful!" Yes, it is. I personally fell in love with St Peter's as soon as I saw it.

Now I feel I wish I could tell everyone how beautiful and spiritually rich our church is: "Come, enjoy this place of worship, make it yours, feel it is the church you belong to and can be the centre of a new community, a church family of which you can be a real part.



A big thank you to St Michael's for the support, financial and practical help and the prayers of the congregation in helping us to move in the right direction. We have just started and there is lot to do! Join us in this wonderful mission.

Fr Fabrizio Pesce, Associate Vicar

Clockwise from bottom left: Italian storytelling, Un'ora insieme; Flamenco evening; the Musical Zoo family concert; the Bishop of Willesden at the Collation and Induction of Fr Kevin as Vicar and the Licensing of Fr Fabrizio as Associate Vicar of St Peter's Acton Green on 4 May 2016.

Lent – Fast or Feast?

St Michael's certainly serves up a full and varied programme to sustain us as we journey from Ash Wednesday through Lent to Holy Week and Easter.

Life in the Psalms was our Lent book, containing reflections on 30 Psalms, among them some of the best known and loved. Those of us who used the book learned more about the Psalms and found that reading the Psalm and the reflection for each weekday and then meditating on it was indeed food for the journey. Psalm One promises that those who do this 'shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season.'

The sermons at Mass on Lent Sundays (see website) were about worship: What is worship? How and why do people worship? What does it do for us?

There were two courses on offer this year. *Christ on Trial – an exploration of Christian belief* was given by Fr Fabrizio at St Peter's. He used biblical stories relating to Holy Week and Easter to explore subjects such as 'Does God exist?'; 'Jesus - mad, bad or Son of God?' and to consider Christ's suffering and the Resurrection.

On Sunday morning after Mass there was a series of four talks given by Fr John Gibaut, a Canadian priest who attends St Michael's regularly. He has been part of the Anglican team working with Christians from other Churches to produce agreed statements about Christianity, working on what we hold in common rather than arguing about what divides us. Fr John was therefore in a very good position to help us understand something of what it means when we say that the Church is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic.



And then there were the by-now traditional excursions. This year Sarah Lenton led a trip to St Lawrence Jewry and the Guildhall, including the Roman amphitheatre. We visited Dr Johnson's house (left) and learned about his life and his Dictionary. The Churchill War Rooms proved to be much more extensive than I had ever imagined and we all enjoyed the terrific

exhibition about Winston Churchill including some film

of his state funeral in 1965, probably the first big state occasion I remember. A group went to the Lyric Theatre in Hammersmith to see *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It was a modern production and although it wasn't entirely to everyone's taste we all agreed it would have made the play much more accessible to the many teenagers in the audience.

Our last excursion was a visit to the grounds of Chiswick House, led by our own Cathie James, who is a fully-accredited guide for both the house and the gardens. We learned a lot about the history of landscaped gardens and enjoyed the camellias. This proved to be Rosalind Loney's last parish outing as she died just a few days later. It will be good to remember how much she enjoyed the day. **Anne Mower**

From Fr Kevin - our New Curate

Edward Barlow and his family will be arriving to be our curate this month. He will be ordained deacon at St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday 2 July at 3pm along with Sarah Lenton. Please do try and come and support them both at their ordination.

A former Curate now a Vicar

Fr Stephen Stavrou was made Team Vicar at St Michael and All Angels, Barnes on 20 April. There was a very good turn out from our St Michael's to see Fr Stephen licensed by the Bishop of Kingston, who said to the assembled throng: "I now present you your new parish priest. May he be richly blessed in the ministry now entrusted to him." Amen to that.

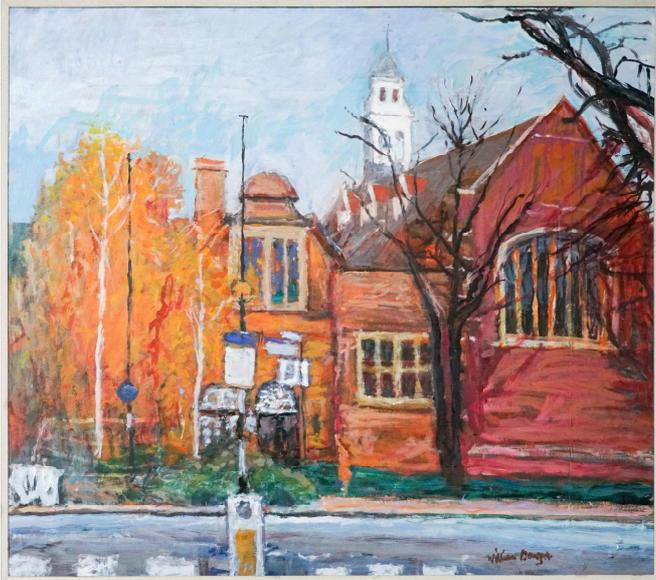
A Vicar in Plurality

I am now a 'vicar in plurality,' which I know sounds like a Gilbert and Sullivan song. Thanks to all who made my induction and Fr Fabrizio's licensing at St Peter's Acton Green, such a memorable occasion on the eve of the Ascension. Just over a year after being licensed there as priest-in-charge, the Bishop of Willesden came back to make me the Vicar there, which is a sign of his confidence in the revival of that parish.

Mother Eileen

Many of St Michael's went to St Nicholas on Sunday 5 June on a glorious summer evening to support Mother Eileen McGregor as she was licensed by the Archdeacon of Middlesex, Stephen Welch as Associate Vicar of St Nicholas, Chiswick.

Legacy from William Bowyer's family



The Bowyer family have kindly donated to St Michael's this painting of the church, following the death of Chiswick artist William Bowyer in March last year at the age of 88. He specialised in British landscapes, as well as being a much respected portrait painter. He took his much of his inspiration from the River Thames and the Suffolk coast. Two of his portraits - Arthur Scargill and cricketer Viv Richards - are owned by the National Portrait Gallery. He lived and worked in Chiswick for over 60 years. One of his pupils when he taught art in the late 40s at the Gravesend School of Art was Peter Blake. William Bowyer was a long-time supporter of the St Michael's Summer Exhibition.

New residents in the cupola



Swifts have found nesting places in the buildings of the UK for over 2,000 years but since 1995 we have lost nearly 39% of the population. This, to a great extent, is due to the loss of

nesting places. The use of modern building materials, techniques and regulations and refurbishment of old buildings have filled the gaps and holes that swifts have traditionally inhabited.

The RSPB has a programme of encouraging building owners to provide homes for swifts by fitting swift boxes (there are already some in Priory Road and Woodstock Road).

With the advice of Catherine Day, the RSPB's Central London representative, who lives in Chiswick,

St Michael's is to provide homes for six swift families in the cupola, while we have scaffolding up for repairs and decorations. Six RSPB



timber swift boxes, kindly donated by local resident Clare Williamson, will be fitted above the arches of the cupola (see left). There will be a sonar device, which can be switched on to emit swift sounds as a calling system. We won't get any this year, as the swifts have already nested, but let us hope that next

May we have some very welcome new visitors.

Oliver West

Barbara Reeve (1931-2016)



Barbara was born in Dorset and when she left school she trained and worked as a nanny on a large estate near Dorchester. She and Bernard moved to Chiswick in the 1960s with small daughter

Susan, soon to be followed by her sister Helen. They were married for 62 years. As a dedicated teacher at Belmont School, Barbara befriended generations of families in the Chiswick area and maintained her interest in the school's activities throughout her retirement – she could not walk down the High Road without greeting a former pupil or parent.

A lifelong churchgoer, Barbara became a member of the St Michael's congregation after many years of loyal service to Askew Road Methodist and United Reform Church, where her husband Bernard was also a lay preacher. They very quickly became a regular fixture at St Michael's, particularly enjoying and contributing to the Bible Study Group. They were both very involved with the Boys' Brigade, taking groups of boys on camping holidays. Barbara went weekly to Fulham to read for Talking Newspapers for the Blind. Books were her greatest pleasure until her eye problems would not allow her to read any longer; she also loved theatre and opera.

Barbara was always a welcoming neighbour to many past and current residents of Ramillies Road, and we are particularly grateful for her friendship and generosity, not to mention the multiple occasions on which she would rescue stranded children who had forgotten their keys, as she was keyholder for half the street!

Alyson Mitchell

APCM 2016

The APCM took place on Sunday 24 April, attended by approximately 60 people. Nicola Chater and Dinah Garrett, replacing Jane Trigle, were elected as Churchwardens. Jane was warmly thanked for all her



hard work over many years. She will still be a member of the PCC. (see page 10). A slide show of events from the past year

was shown: among them the Confirmation and Carol Services, Green Days, the Bedford Park and Book Festivals and the pilgrimage to Turkey. We remembered fondly those in the congregation who had died: Bert Wilkinson, Dorothy Young, Barbara Reeve, Rosalind Leney.

Fr Kevin thanked all for their ministries and looked forward to the arrival of the new Curate, Edward Barlow and to Sarah Lenton becoming Deacon in July.

Michael Pownall spoke to the Annual Report & Accounts for 2015. Although planned giving had increased significantly, the Church Account showed a slight deficit overall. Hall income was up but costs had increased due to some financial support for St Peter's, refurbishment of the Parish House, additional staff costs arising from Sarah Pask's retirement, and from an increase the hours of the now job-shared caretaker post. Expenditure on St Peter's would be identified separately in the 2016 Accounts. Profits from the Bedford Park and Chiswick Book Festival were well up and fundraising for our charities had increased significantly. Michael thanked all those who assisted in financial matters: Giles Tibbitts, who would shortly stand down as book-keeper; John Little, who banked all payments; Tony Simpkin, the Festivals Treasurer and responsible for gift aid and David Foster who administered the payroll.

Fr. Kevin spoke about his first year as Priest-in-Charge at St Peter's, and the challenges facing us there. Thanks were due to Fr. Fabrizio for his ministry there, and also to Tassy Russell for her administrative help. St Peter's had held their first APCM and had formed a PCC. An organist had been appointed and a choir started. Fr. Kevin stressed the importance of growing the congregation and encouraging members of St. Michael's to worship there.

Kay Porter

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THE PAINTED WAGON TOURING MAY - SEPTEMBER 2016

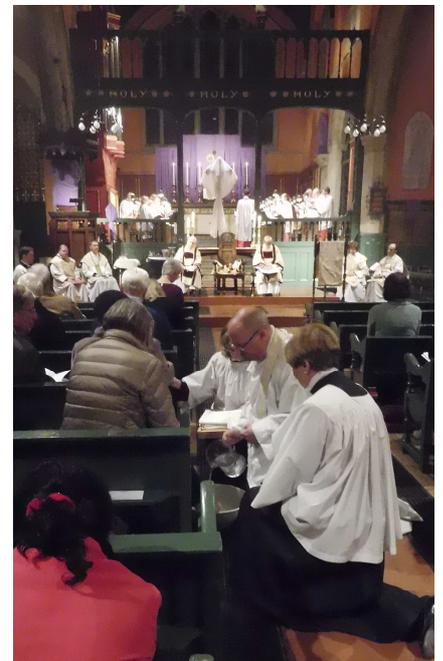
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Mothering Sunday, Easter, Annual Parish Church Meeting, Corpus Christi



*Clockwise from top left:
Father Kevin blessing the flowers on Mothering Sunday; Palm Sunday procession; Maundy Thursday: the washing of the feet; the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday; Family music at St Peter's; the Children's Good Friday service; Easter flowers.*





Clockwise from top left:
 Welsh Breakfast on Easter morning; Easter Sunday;
 Corpus Christi; the cupola really needed repairing; the
 late Rosalind Loney at a Festival Lunch; Fr Stephen and
 Mthr Eileen, now licensed in their new parishes;
 Children's Church selling cakes to raise money for the
 Choristers' ruffs; celebrating at St Peter's on 4 May;
 Children's Church; stunning view over Bedford Park
 from the top of the scaffolding - next year hopefully a
 swift's eye view.



PCC 2016

This is the full PCC after the APCM on 24 April.

Fr Kevin Morris * (Incumbent and Chairman)

Fr Fabrizio Pesce (Associate Vicar)

Nicola Chater * (Churchwarden and Vice Chairman)

Dinah Garrett * (Churchwarden)

Michael Pownall * (Treasurer)

Kay Porter *(Secretary)

Lawrence Brooks

Mark Critchlow

Allan Donner

Lesley Ebbetts Wilson

Ian Flatman

Leslie Lyle

Mary Pears (Diocesan Synod Representative)

Jane Trigle

Christina Whiteway

Phoebe Woollam.

* Members of the Standing Committee.

Baptisms

Amara Lo

Theodore Griffin

Wedding

Sara Gracia Browne and

Martin Vazquez Pageot

Funerals

John Lester

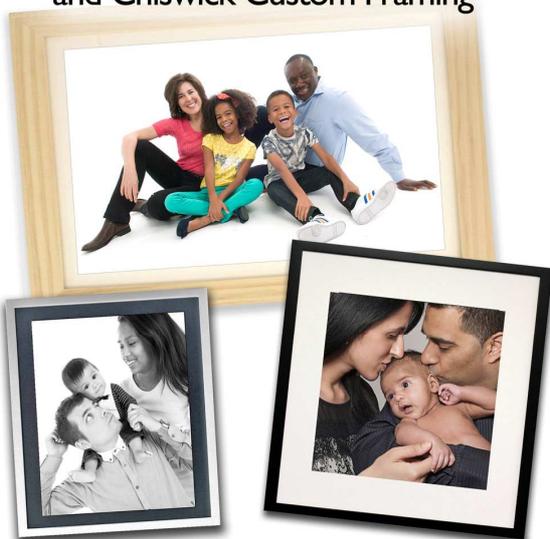
Roger Gower

Barbara Reeve

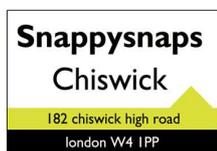
Rosalind Leney

Maureen Everett

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2016 Dates for your Diary

JUNE 2016

BEDFORD PARK FESTIVAL
 Friday 10 June - Sunday 26 June



Saturday 11 Green Day Fête

Sunday 12 Green Day Fête

10.30 **Mass on the Green**
 Preacher: Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin,
 Bishop of Kensington

Sunday 26
 10.00 **Festival Mass**
 Followed by lunch in the Vicarage Garden

JULY 2016

Sunday 3 Patronal Festival at St Peter's
 10.00 Choral Eucharist; Preacher Fr James
 Elston, Team Rector, St Pancras Old
 Church and St Paul's Church

Monday 11 Parish Pilgrimage to the shrine of
 - **Friday 15** our Lady of Walsingham

AUGUST 2016

Sunday 14 Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 10.00 Choral Mass

SEPTEMBER 2016

Thursday 15 8th Chiswick Book Festival
 - **Monday 19**

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CONTRIBUTORS

Many thanks to all those who have contributed copy to this issue and especially to the photographers who have taken the great pictures included - David Beresford, James Cox and Lawrence Brooks.

CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

St Michael's is looking for help.

We need someone to take over the book-keeping of the Parish, working with Treasurer Michael Pownall. We also need someone to edit and set *The Clarion*, working with a small team.

If you are interested in either role then do please call the Parish Office on 0208 994 1380.



Who's Who at St Michael's

Clergy, via Parish Office	8994 1380
Reader and Sacristan, Anne Mower	8992 7347
Churchwardens, Nicola Chater	8742 1097
Dinah Garrett	8994 7252
Treasurer, Michael Pownall	8994 1380
PCC Secretary, Kay Porter	8747 9233
MC and Servers, Cathie James	8995 1947
Director of Music, Jonathan Dods	07899 654 358
Crèche, Judy Miller	8748 6818
Children's Church, Christina Whiteway	8746 7780
Baby & Toddler Group, Tassy Russell	3663 1021
Safeguarding Officer, Jane McCabe	8994 1380
Sidespeople, Nicola Chater	8742 1097
Readers, Jane Trigle	07795 421 875
Brass Cleaning, Lifts to church Lis West	8994 8614
Flower Arrangers, Sue Jordan	8995 5589
Electoral Roll, Vicky Brooke	07909 688362
Planned Giving, Gerald McGregor	8994 1380
Charities Group, John Clark	8994 1380
Clarion Team, via Parish Office	8994 1380
Refreshments, Sue Hunt	8749 7677
Social Events, Ian Flatman	8994 1380
Publicity, Torin Douglas	8994 3572
Baptism Visitors, Parish Office	8994 1380
Reflection Group, John Beastall	8998 6315
Book Club 1, Jane Thomson	8747 0906
Book Club 2, Tassy Russell	3663 1021
Justice and Peace Group, Ros Lister	8994 6692
Women's Group Marjolein van Kampen	8994 1380
Men's Society Ian Flatman	8743 4066

Weekly Services

Sunday	10.00am	Parish Mass Crèche and Children's Church in term time Family Mass 1st Sunday Choral on Feast Days and 3rd Sunday
	6.30pm	Evensong
Monday	5.30pm	Evening Prayer
	6.00pm	Mass
Tuesday	8.00pm	Compline (sung)
Wednesday	Noon	Angelus and Midday Prayer
	12.30pm	Mass
Thursday	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Mass
Friday	5.30pm	Evening Prayer
	6.00pm	Mass
Saturday	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Mass

Parish Clergy

The Vicar:	Fr Kevin Morris
Associate Vicar	Fr Fabrizio Pesce
Hon Assistant Priests:	Fr Graham Morgan Kt Fr Neil Evans Mthr Maggie Davidge-Smith

Please enquire at the Parish Office for marriages, blessings, baptisms, confirmation and funerals, and taking communion to the housebound, sick or dying.

The Parish Office

Open weekdays 9.00am-12.30pm 2.00pm-5.00pm

Parish Managers: **Anna Benson** and **Sarah Cullen**

St Michael & All Angels Parish Office

Priory Avenue, W4 1TX

Tel: (020) 8994 1380

E-mail: parishoffice@smaa.org.uk

More information on:

www.smaa.org.uk

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