

All Saints Parish Paper

MARGARET STREET, LONDON W.1

DECEMBER 2007

£1.00

VICAR'S LETTER

Railway stations have played a considerable part in my life. We spent 13 years living next to Edinburgh's Waverley Station and during that time spent a good deal of my time travelling to and from London on what my children called the "bedtime train". I much prefer railway stations, even if they can be cold and draughty, to airports which tend to be rather soulless places. Euston station now looks like something trying to be an airport when it grows up. St Pancras, for long the Cinderella of London's great termini, with its magnificent Victorian neo-Gothic hotel standing empty and unloved, has undergone a renaissance to become the new terminal for Eurostar. I am already looking forward to beginning next year's summer holiday in France from there.

The restored station includes a statue of Sir John Betjeman — as a reminder that without his efforts the place might well have been demolished. Simon Jenkins pointedly remarked that many of those who are cheering its renovation would have been the same people who would have happily seen it replaced by some concrete monstrosity. One of the rôles of the newly renovated station is to provide fast transport to the site of the Olympic Games; the cost of which has already drastically reduced the amount of money available for the conservation of important buildings like

churches. But Christmas is coming, so let's be positive.

A railway station is a place of departures and arrivals. We embark on journeys and arrive at destinations. Railway people call the track "the permanent way". Scripture speaks of the Christian life as "the Way". It is a pilgrimage, a journey of faith. A church is a place where people begin that journey, or a new stage of it, or come to the terminus of a particular stage of their journey; perhaps the final stop in this life.

Just before Christmas I will be going to King's Cross to meet my parents off their train from the north. Like a railway station, a church is a place of meeting, to which people often come saying that they have come home, that they have arrived. It is a place of meeting, of meeting with God, it is a place of reunion after a long period of separation.

Railway stations are filled by an enormous variety of people; some confident regular travellers who know where they are going. Others are nervous and unsure of themselves, needing reassurance from staff or fellow-passengers that they are in the right place at the right time for their train. There are students setting off to university for the first time. There are children wide-eyed with excitement at a journey which is a great adventure. So too, churches

have a mixture of folk. Some of us have been travelling a long time, others are just beginning, or just nervously thinking about setting out. Churches are places of new beginnings, of the challenge of the Gospel and the adventure of the Christian life.

A railway station is at once both a community and a place of anonymity with countless thousands of people just passing through. So All Saints has both community, the people who staff it; and by that I mean not just the clergy but its regular congregation. We are the people who have to ensure that the services start on time, that the dining car is well-provisioned, that people know where to go. There are people who come to us for a while and then move on; there are those who pass through perhaps only once; there are the regular travellers.

Christmas is of course a hectic time on the railways and it is for churches too. Both church and railway station are thronged with many people who are not really used to being there. And that makes particular demands on our hospitality and patience. Services like Midnight Mass and Festivals of Carols are of course attended by large numbers of people we don't see at any other time of the year. They are often unfamiliar with our ways, unsure what to do, when to stand or sit. Sometimes they forget to turn off their mobile phones. It is important that we see these people as the ones for whom Jesus was born, just as much as we are. And it is our privilege and calling to welcome and serve them. Just as preachers have to resist the temptation (and not all do), to beat up Christmas worshippers for their non-appearance during the rest of the year, all of us have to make a special effort to make our church a place of welcome.

This year, we are having an extra service

which is for us an innovation; although hardly novel in the wider Church. On Monday December 17th at 6.00 p.m., we will have a **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** with the choir. At this service we will launch the choir's new recording of Christmas music. We will be inviting people who live and work around us to the service. It will also be an opportunity for you to bring your friends and family to All Saints. It will also provide a chance for the considerable portion of the congregation who are not in London over Christmas to enjoy something of our Christmas worship.

One person who admits cheerfully to loving Christmas is our new assistant priest, **Fr Gerald Beauchamp**. Fr Gerald comes to us with a wealth of experience and gifts. A Londoner by birth, he was taken as a child to St Alban's, Holborn. After training at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, he was ordained in Southwark Diocese. He then moved north of the river and worked in both the Willesden and Kensington areas. His last post was as Vicar of St Mary the Boltons. He left there to go to the United States to test his vocation in the Society of St John the Evangelist in Cambridge, Massachusetts. His return to London means that he will be able to start work with us very soon. A part of his time will be spent on developing chaplaincy work in the stores and other businesses of Oxford Street. Many of the congregation have already had the opportunity to meet him and I am sure that he will be made warmly welcome among us. One lady from St Mary the Boltons made a special trip to All Saints to tell us how lucky we were to be getting him.

With all good wishes for Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

Alan Moses

THE FESTIVAL 2007

All Saints has always been unusual in the enthusiasm with which it celebrates its feast of title. In the time when Fr Holden wrote about in the passage in this month's "**One Hundred Years Ago**", there were not as many services as there would be later, when there would be High Mass and Choral Evensong daily through the Octave, each service with a visiting preacher, but certainly more than we have now. The High Masses were at 11.00 in the morning, so we must assume that only the leisured classes were able to attend! Still, I know of no other parish which has five major choral services with visiting preachers every year for its patronal festival.

Our present music staff bring the same care and attention to the music of the Festival as did Walter Vale a hundred years ago. There have been times when we could have been accused of using the same old favourites — and there is a place for that. Our present director of music is not afraid to try something new. Most of us tend to be suspicious of change, especially in matters of music and worship; so the very idea of a Mass setting written for a cathedral in Mexico could be predicted to send shivers down the spine of some. Fr Reddington, who was with us for All Saints Day too, admitted to being of their number but confessed afterwards that he had been wrong. The Mass setting by Juan Gutierrez de Padilla was an undoubted triumph. We ought by now to know enough of Paul Brough's musical and liturgical skills to trust his judgement! Paul is not the first director of music to experiment at festivals. On Festival Sunday we had Haydn's "Grosseorgelmesse" which had

been introduced by that great innovator Dr Harry Bramma.

In my student days, I visited Puebla and attended Mass in its cathedral, although the choir were not singing at the time. Thirty years ago, the Metropolitan cathedral in Mexico City still had a large boys' choir and capitular Mass was sung each day. I sometimes attended when I was working in an archive nearby.

As well as having Fr Reddington with us, it was a delight to have back in choir Canon David Hutt, as well as clergy and parishioners from other churches in the deanery.

On All Souls' Day, just to show that we had not abandoned tradition entirely, the choir sang the Vale Requiem.

Just as 100 years ago, we were well served by our preachers. We began with Prebendary Christopher Gower, the Rector of St Marylebone, who amused and edified us greatly. The Vicar gave a plug to Fr Gower's new book "*The Sacraments of Healing*" (published by SPCK). Copies were on sale after the service and Fr Alan sought to boost sales by offering the prize of a free drink to the first person who came to him with their copy of the book and told him the page on which All Saints is referred to. The reference speaks approvingly of our provision of three Masses each weekday. The winner, the next day, was Caroline Farrer and Fr Alan bought her the promised drink.

Our preacher on All Saints Day was the Bishop of Southwark, familiar to many from BBC Radio Four's "*Thought for the Day*". He was given rather more time to expand on his theme.

On All Souls' Day, we had **Father Robert MacSwain OGS**, the chaplain of St Chad's College, Durham. He based his meaty sermon on the writing of Austen Farrer, a selection of whose works he has co-edited with Professor Anne Loades of Durham University. The prize-winning Caroline Farrer is Austen's daughter.

On Festival Sunday, our preacher at High Mass was the Dean of Chichester, the Very Revd Nicholas Frayling. This was meant to be the return match after the Vicar had preached at Chichester Cathedral, but he was taken into hospital the day before, so another date will have to be arranged.

At Evensong on Festival Sunday our preacher was the Revd Jeremy Crossley, the Rector of St Margaret, Lothbury, and Area Dean of the City. Fr Jeremy began by paying tribute to the gracious welcome he had received behind the scenes here at All Saints. It was much warmer than that he had received in another anglo-catholic parish which he, an evangelical, had preached in.

Our guest preachers' sermons will appear in the Parish Paper in due course.

Like the Festival a hundred years ago, our Festival was again "bright and blessed".

The Festival Appeal

Our Appeal this year was for our Mission Projects and the restoration of the tile panels in the church so that they all look as splendid as the two on the north wall which have already been done.

The sum raised so far is **£9,118.61**. Thanks to all who contributed so generously.

AM

PARISH NOTES

Andrew Arthur

On Festival Sunday, the Vicar took the opportunity to say some words of appreciation about the Festival music. He then went on to congratulate Andy on his appointment as Director of Music at Trinity Hall, Cambridge. It is difficult to believe that Andy has been with us for eight years. He has made an enormous contribution to the life of All Saints and the church has a place in his heart. The arrangements for him taking up his new post, and therefore leaving this one, are still to be finalised. When they are known, we will make suitable arrangements to bid him a proper farewell.

Dennis Davis

On the same day, we also paid tribute to Dennis. The Vicar had been told by an angelic messenger (well Fr Reddington actually) that Dennis had begun work here on All Saints Day 1982, so he had been with us 25 years. Priests have silver jubilees, so why not a parish administrator! Dennis, on the wise advice of Fr David Hope, worships at his local church, St James's, Islington, on Sundays, but an invitation to lunch at the Vicarage afterwards lured him here on Festival Sunday.

The Vicar writes:

"Dennis has now seen All Saints through three Vicars and countless people. Dennis and I have worked together for more than twelve years. If I should answer the 'phone during office hours, people automatically address me as "Dennis". In fact, our telephone answering voices have become so similar that many cannot distinguish

between us! I often say that it is when Dennis is on holiday that I am reminded forcibly how much he does. The only time it is possible then to have an uninterrupted period of study or writing is before the parish office opens. Come 9.00 a.m., 'phone and door bells begin ringing, often simultaneously, emails and faxes and the post come pouring in. All Saints is greatly blessed by the number of volunteers who help maintain our busy schedule and life. Dennis has a key rôle in organising and supporting them. Without him much of this would simply not be possible. He is also responsible for organising the day-to-day maintenance of our buildings, organising the Mass and confessional rotas, the banking of money, the paying of bills and the keeping of financial records, the production with Anne Merritt of service booklets and notice sheets as well as the Parish Paper, dealing with enquiries, publicity, groups of visitors, homeless people asking for meal vouchers, and a hundred and one other things; some scheduled, others not. If I was told that I could have either a curate or an administrator, but not both, I would have to opt for an administrator. I can always say more Masses and preach more sermons but that weight of administration would impede my ministry severely. Dennis manages to be patient and friendly with the extraordinary variety of people who belong to All Saints or come into contact with it. He can, when necessary, be splendidly fierce with tradesmen who have failed to turn up when they said they would."

Dennis writes:

I was quite taken aback on Festival Sunday by Fr Alan's very gracious words and presentation of a lovely card with many of your signatures and kind messages

in it marking my 25th anniversary of service here at All Saints. If that were not enough, a most generous HMV Gift Card accompanied it. I am truly grateful, dear people of All Saints, for your kindness and support.

Bishop Michael Marshall

Bishop Michael (Vicar of All Saints 1969 - 75) having reached the age of 70, at which the clergy have to retire from stipendiary ministry, has now resigned from his post at Holy Trinity, Sloane Street.

There were several services and events to mark his retirement including a Choral Evensong on Saturday October 13th at which both Canon David Hutt and Fr Alan were present and robed. Three out of four surviving Vicars of All Saints under the same roof!

The preacher at the service was Canon John Andrew, the former Rector of St Thomas's, Fifth Avenue, in New York. Canon Andrew's sermon appears in this issue.

We wish Bishop Michael a well-earned rest in his retirement and hope to see him at All Saints before too long.

The Sick

Those who receive the Parish Paper by post will know that **Doris Sanders** has been the person sending it to you for a number of years now. Unfortunately, she had a fall during the summer and ended up in hospital with a broken femur. She is now home although not yet fully recovered. Doris managed to get to church on All Saints Day before she was due to return to hospital for further treatment. We wish

her a speedy recovery. Her duties have been taken up for the time being by the indefatigable **Mrs Christine Ellis**.

We were shocked to hear that our Friends of All Saints Secretary, **Juliet Windham**, had collapsed at Heathrow after getting off a plane from Australia where she had been visiting family. She was taken to the coronary care unit at Hillingdon Hospital. We are relieved that she was able to go home after a few days and was back at church with us shortly afterwards.

It was good that **Lovinia Miller** was able to be with us on the Eve of All Saints, even while she has been receiving treatment. Since then the Vicar has taken her the Sacrament at home.

A New Resident at No. 8

The Revd Jim Rosenthal moved into Fr Gaskell's old flat in November. Jim is the Communications Director of the Anglican Communion Office and an old friend of All Saints. He was ordained deacon at Petertide this year and is serving his title at All Hallows by the Tower.

“The Good Old Days”

The clergy have to live with being told that things were so much better in times gone by.

I am sometimes told how huge the congregations were, how wonderful the music was in the days of the choir school. Well, I am sure that, however good the music was in those days, our present efforts must bear comparison with it.

A recent historical inquiry led me to look back to Parish Papers from the time of Fr Kenneth Ross. My eye fell on a piece where he was writing about the length of

services. He wrote that it was the aim to complete the High Mass in an hour and a quarter — but people must bear in mind that there would be a hundred people to communicate. Well, we usually take an hour and half these days, but then there are now an extra reading and a psalm as well as more congregational hymnody — but there are also more people.

It is also the case that we now have a Festival Appeal which is not devoted to paying off last year's deficit!

I was also struck by the fact that the Parish Paper was a good deal less substantial than it now is. We were conscious that last month's issue was rather thin; in part because of the postal strikes which held up material. Normal service has now been resumed.

AM

Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham

Fr Nick Mercer, who is Director of Ministry for the diocese of London, spoke to a meeting of the Cell on praying the rosary. As we would expect from Fr Nick, his talk was both informative and amusing; leavened by illustrations and anecdotes from his earlier life as a Baptist minister and a curate at St Mary's, Bourne Street!

The Cell meeting this month on Saturday December 8th, the feast of the Conception of our Lady, we will have a talk from an old friend, Prebendary Bill Scott, the Sub-Dean of the Chapels Royal.

St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy

As many of you know, the Vicar is the chaplain of St Luke's Hospital not far from us in Fitzroy Square. The hospital re-opened this summer after refurbishment to bring it up to current clinical standards. This was in time for Fr Alan to walk up

every couple of days to have his dressings changed and visit sick fellow clergy.

This year St Luke's celebrated the centenary of the opening of the hospital with a service in St Paul's Cathedral attended by the Duke of Edinburgh who had been patron of the refurbishment appeal. The sermon was preached by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

On a rather less grand scale, the Vicar went to St John's, Markyate, in St Alban's Diocese, to preach on behalf of St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy at a Deanery Evensong for Wheathamstead. He was delighted to find among the assembled clergy several who had been patients at St Luke's or had connections with All Saints. He was even more delighted to find in the congregation Myrtle Hughes, often on duty here in the All Saints Shop.

Chapel Centenary at Oxford

A number of us were at the convent of the All Saints Sisters in Oxford for a Mass to celebrate the centenary of the consecration of the chapel. The chapel, designed by Sir Ninian Comper (also responsible for our Lady Chapel and work in the sanctuary) was originally the chapel of St John's Home for the Elderly. It continues in this rôle as well as being the chapel for the Sisters, as well as Helen and Douglas Houses, hospices for children and young people with terminal illnesses, which are in the grounds of the convent.

The celebrant and preacher was the Archbishop of Canterbury. He and the sisters were having a busy day as they had to go on to Christ Church for the 25th anniversary celebrations for Helen House.

Fr Alan and Theresa were able to spend

some time, and enjoy a convivial glass of sherry, with **John Welch** who lives in St John's Home. They were followed by Philip and Yvonne Harland. John sends greetings to all his friends at all Saints.

Sr Jean Margaret and **Sr Anne Frances**, formerly of Margaret Street and latterly of Hemel Hempstead, have now moved to Oxford.

Holy Baptism

Isabel Nada Rose and **Sofia Violet Vjera Comer**, twin sisters, were baptised at All Saints on Monday October 29th.

One of their godmothers is Croatian and provided baptismal candles and white garments from her home country. The Vicar was assisted by our head server Cedric Stephens, who was able to share his expertise as a godparent.

From the Director of Music

CAROLS: 'Four Services and a Recording'

I am delighted to have this opportunity to introduce this year's Christmas music.

The *'Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols'* on December 17th at 6.00 p.m. is a 'first' for All Saints. This will serve not only as a launch for the new CD recording *'Carols from All Saints, Margaret Street'* which will by then be on sale, but also an opportunity to bring people into church who are not regular attenders. So, not only will our advertising be targeting office workers and others in our parish, but regular members may wish to bring a friend or two. Just think, if every member of the electoral roll brought two friends each we would have an overflow of people watching by videolink

in the Parish Room... For many of us, our ever deepening faith was kindled first by hearing magical music in church.

year, all the choral and organ material on the new recording will be presented.

Enjoy, and rejoice.

Through the four carol services this

Paul Brough

CONFESSIONS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Monday 17 December

12.00 - 1.00 p.m. The Vicar *No evening confessional*

Tuesday 18 December

12.00 - 1.00 p.m. Fr Gaskell 5.00 - 6.00 p.m. Fr Bunker

Wednesday 19 December

12.00 - 1.00 p.m. Fr Beauchamp *No evening confessional*

Thursday 20 December

12.00 - 1.00 p.m. The Vicar 5.00 - 6.00 p.m. Fr Beauchamp

Friday 21 December

12.00 - 1.00 p.m. Fr Bunker 5.00 - 6.00 p.m. The Vicar

Saturday 22 December

5.30 - 6.00 p.m. Fr Bunker

Monday 24 December

12.00 - 1.00 p.m. Fr Beauchamp *No evening confessional*

DIARY DATES

Sunday 2 December — The First Sunday of Advent

11.00 a.m. **Litany in Procession and High Mass**

Preacher: The Vicar

6.00 p.m. **Advent Carol Service**

A service of Readings and Music for Advent with the Choir of All Saints.

Thursday 6 December

7.05 p.m. **Holy Hour** led by Fr Neil Bunker

Saturday 8 December — Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Walsingham Cell Event: The third event of the All Saints Walsingham Cell 2007 - 8 programme will be a Mass at 11.00 a.m. followed by “*Conceived and Chosen*”, a talk by Fr Bill Scott, Sub-Dean of the Chapels Royal and sometime Vicar of St Mary’s, Bourne Street. The event will conclude with a buffet lunch and drinks.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Wednesday 12 December

7.00 p.m. (immediately after the 6.30 p.m. Mass) *School of Worship 2007 - 08*

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST: Hearing the Word — Readings

Thursday 13 December — 7.45 p.m.

CHANDOS CHAMBER CHOIR

Christmas Concert 2007

'O Magnum Mysterium'

Christmas music from the 16th and 20th centuries

Programme includes motets and carols by:

**Byrd, Clemens, Victoria, Gardiner, Hadley, Leighton,
Pierce, Bennett, Terry, Todd and Walton**

The programme will be interspersed with audience carols.

Wine and mince pies will be available in the interval.

Organist: **Stephen Farr**; Conductor: **Andrew Arthur**

Tickets £10 (available on the door).

Friday 14 December

12.30 p.m. Lunchtime Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Courtyard (*NB no 12.30 p.m. Confessional or 1.10 p.m. Mass today*).

Volunteers are needed on the day to help with refreshments. Please see Janet Drake or contact the Parish Office. Donations of mince pies or money for the wine will be gratefully received.

Monday 17 December

6.00 p.m. Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols with the Choir of All Saints, and the official launch of the Choir's new CD for Priory Records '**Carols from All Saints, Margaret Street**'.

Wednesday 19 December

5.15 p.m. Wells Street Family Proceedings Court Carol Service

NB No 5.30 p.m. Confessional or 6.00 p.m. Evening Prayer today.

Thursday 20 December

Carol Singing in the Plaza and in and around Oxford Street at 6.30 p.m.

(Starting from the Courtyard) All welcome, particularly those with good voices!

Names please to Janet Drake, Telephone: 020 7278 9930.

Saturday 22 December 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

THE COMPLETE ORGAN WORKS OF BUXTEHUDE

played by

ANDREW ARTHUR

to mark the composer's 300th anniversary year

A sponsored event in support of the All Saints Restoration Appeal

This huge undertaking will involve Andrew in training and physical commitment on a par with running a marathon race. The church website, Chris Self, Churchwarden or the Parish Office can give you details of how you can recognise this superb effort by sponsoring him financially and by joining the audience for part (or all!) of the concert.

This sponsored event will be our main fund-raising effort before Christmas, and we confidently hope that every member of our congregation, our visitors and all music lovers will wish to support it as generously as possible.

CHRISTMAS AT ALL SAINTS

Monday 24 December
11.00 p.m. Midnight Mass

Tuesday 25 December
11.00 a.m. High Mass of the Day

Sunday 6 January 2008 — The Epiphany of Our Lord
11.00 a.m. Procession and High Mass

Preacher: The Venerable Christopher Lowson,
Director of Ministry, Archbishops' Council

6.00 p.m. Epiphany Carol Service

A service of Readings and Music for the Epiphany with the Choir of All Saints.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE: AUGUST 22 - 29 2007

It is very difficult to summarise adequately in a readable article the many experiences of our Holy Land Pilgrimage. Day by day, the scenery, fellow pilgrims and the shrines conjured up many experiences that will be remembered for the rest of our lives. So we shall give a short daily account and apologise to our fellow pilgrims for omitting their favourite moments.

Day one: The journey

Armed with a blessing from the Vicar we set off for what was for many of us our first journey out of Europe. This was to be more than our annual pilgrimage to Walsingham — important as that is. We had even less idea of what awaited us, although we guessed it would be very hot, and we were not disappointed! On the coach from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem we recited Psalm 122, one of the Songs of Degrees: “And now our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem”.

Day two: Jerusalem

After a coach ride up to the Mount of Olives, we read the Lord's Prayer in almost every language — including Cornish! Mass at the Dominus Fleuit Chapel was in full view of the Old City, just as Our Lord looked over that same scene and wept. Our excellent guide, Peter, pointed out the reputed sites of

the houses of Caiaphas, Herod, and Pilate. The afternoon included the real Stations of the Cross, the Via Dolorosa, the final station being at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Here there is so much to absorb: six different churches compete with each other in offering worship. The consequent hubbub is in marked contrast to an English cathedral, but is no less holy for that.

Day three: Bethlehem

We started the day with a cross from Israel into the West Bank, a stark reminder of the political situation. Mass was celebrated in the Shepherds' Grotto, and was followed by an afternoon visit to the Church of the Nativity, still Bethlehem's parish church. We met the Christians who still make up the majority of the town: it is deeply humbling to experience their friendliness in the face of so many difficulties. Back in Jerusalem in the evening, some of us visited the Wailing Wall.

Day four: Bethany and Jerusalem

Our trip to Bethany took a much longer route than Our Lord's because of the recent wall that wends its way around Jerusalem to separate off the West Bank. Mass was celebrated at the Tomb of Lazarus. We were then guests of Alice at the Jeel al-Amal Boys' Home and then of her daughter at

the Lazarus Girls' School. Again, we were humbled by the cheerful children in face of hardship, but at the same time were amused, particularly by one boy's T-shirt showing the London Underground Map! The afternoon was free time in Jerusalem. We experienced in different ways the Vigil Evening Prayer of the following Sunday. With crowned and vested thurifer, according to the Armenian rite in the Holy Sepulchre or Pontifical Vespers at St Mark's, the Syrian Orthodox Church.

Ross Buchanan

Jerusalem to Galilee

Day Five:

Sunday, and an early start, with packed cases, for our journey to the Sea of Galilee. But first Mass in the Garden of Gethsemane, with the vivid reminder of Our Lord's agony and submission to his Father's will and betrayal and desertion by his disciples. On our way back to the coach we saw eight ancient olive trees, said by botanists to be 3,000 years old. If true they would have witnessed Jesus' last hours.

As we journeyed towards Jericho it was easy to imagine the lone traveller being attacked by robbers, as we followed the ancient, historical road, winding and dusty, between high, bare and rocky desert, where nothing moved except perhaps a group of Bedouins with camels and sheep, looking for new pastures. We passed the Inn of the Good Samaritan, now an Arab police Station, and entered Jericho (meaning 'place of fragrance'), said to be the oldest city in the world, with its sub-tropical temperatures and abundance of fruits and vegetables. Inevitably we were shown a giant sycamore tree where short of stature Zachaeus may have climbed to get a good view of Jesus, and where blind Bartimaeus received his sight. The temperature was 110°F by mid-

day, but undaunted we travelled up the mountain of Temptation, first by cable car and then climbing 120 steps to view 'all the kingdoms of the world' — the possible site of Jesus' third temptation. For several hundred years the site had been deserted, until in 1874 the Greek Orthodox monks built an incredible monastery, literally on the side of the mountain. How they conveyed all the materials and continue to maintain it, filled us with admiration.

We renewed our baptismal vows by the River Jordan and then travelled on to Tiberias, and within 15 minutes of arriving at our hotel several of us were swimming in the Sea of Galilee, with the backdrop of the Golan Heights, and quite enjoying being nipped by the many fishes!

Day Six:

Mass today was to be on Mount Tabor at the Church of the Transfiguration. Our coach could not negotiate the steep hairpin curves of the winding road, so we were transported by taxi and once again we had a splendid view of almost the whole region. And so on to Nazareth and the Church of the Annunciation. The Franciscans built a small church over the Grotto of the Annunciation in 1730, but always visualized a much larger church, worthy of this great mystery. Their dream was realized between 1960 and 1968 when they built a magnificent building of two inter-connected churches, one above the other, with a majestic dome covered with copper — an architectural achievement and one of the largest Christian sanctuaries in the Middle East. In the Grotto where Mary said 'Yes' to God, we sang the Angelus and received many compliments, so watch it, All Saints choir!

Day 7:

Our last day was spent visiting the sites associated with Jesus' life around the Sea

of Galilee. Capernaum, which became the centre of his activities after being rejected by Nazareth, is a fascinating place. The Franciscans have successfully excavated the 3rd and 4th century synagogue and partly restored it, to reveal a screen of Corinthian columns rising above a series of paved limestone courtyards, with two rows of stone benches running around three sides. The heads of the columns have fine, intricate carvings of fruits, flowers and trees, and one of the Ark of the Covenant on wheels! So many Biblical stories and sayings came to mind, especially Peter's affirmation of faith 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of God'. Nearby we prayed in the Chapel of St Peter's house and also in Tabgha, traditionally the place where Jesus fed the 5,000. On the stone which serves as an altar, there is the best preserved mosaic in all Israel of four loaves and two fishes — yes four loaves — the fifth

one is consecrated at the Mass.

All sites for the daily Mass were special, but this day, on the shore of Lake Galilee, was extra special. 'O Sabbath rest by Galilee; O calm of hills above' was sung with real feeling as we re-dedicated our lives. After lunch of St Peter's fish at the Convent of the Beatitudes and a visit to the Chapel, we had a relaxing sail across the lake to our hotel — and a swim before the inevitable cocktail!

The 5.00 a.m. departure from our hotel and the chaos of Tel Aviv airport did not dampen our thoughts and experiences of the pilgrimage, made so successful by the companionship of fellow pilgrims and the thoughtful preparation of daily booklets, and the leadership of Fr Ivan. Thank you from all of us.

Jean Castledine

THE SERMON PREACHED BY CANON JOHN ANDREW AT HOLY TRINITY, SLOAN STREET, TO MARK THE RETIREMENT OF BISHOP MICHAEL MARSHALL

All praise and thanks to God.

Tonight, we gather in gratitude. To God first. God has been very good to us in Holy Trinity, Sloane Street. This wondrously beautiful church is alive. It's alive with praise, with music to bring us close to heaven, as hearts and voices rise. It shines with the care and imagination given to it by artistic hands. It's alive with the memories of great worship, great preaching, great teaching, great shepherding, great praying — oh, yes, there's been a lot of that — and great leadership. The ancient prophet Habbakuk was ordered to "write the vision down, and make it plain upon tablets, so they may **run** that readeth it". (Habbakuk 2: 2) There had been a vision here; there

is a vision here, explained so clearly and so strongly, so plainly and so lovingly that people have read and caught it hurrying along the busy London street outside. And way beyond. Beyond Sloane Street. Beyond London. Beyond New York. Into the Anglican world, and beyond it, into places of faith across the earth, people have caught the vision. And the man who wrote the vision down and made it plain upon the tablets is the man for whose ministry we give thanks to God tonight, a man I have known and loved for forty years, our Bishop Michael.

Every time I look at this Bishop Michael, I think of another Bishop Michael, Archbishop Michael Ramsey,

the man who ordained me over 50 years ago, my Father in God, my Dad, really, my much-loved employer who educated me after Oxford when he plucked me from an obscure curacy to serve him for the decade of the sixties. He had several favourite scriptural texts which he would repeat in circumstances in which he found himself, and they have become for me as permanent and as vivid a part of my soul as a tattoo on most men's (and women's) bodies we see today.

Of this store in his capacious memory was a striking and unusual text from the unusual book of Esther (4: 14): "...and who knoweth whether thou art not come to the Kingdom for such a time as this?" The right person at the right time. It was a question put to a brave woman. That same question could have been put to Bishop Michael when he was confronted with a situation requiring courage and imagination; and, above all, faith. This man is a bishop in the Church of God. He is an evangelist and teacher and preacher and writer with a high degree of energy. The challenge was, as Alice in Wonderland was told by the King of Hearts, to begin at the beginning, and continue until you come to the end; then stop. Some beginning, and an unglamorous beginning at that: to be entrusted with a church once illustrious whose momentum had waned, almost to the death throes. In faith Bishop Michael took the challenge of the trust placed in him by the patron and the Bishop: "Here am I: send me" (Isaiah 6: 8); and began at the right time. "And who knoweth whether thou art come to the Kingdom for such a time as this?" We know the answer for Holy Trinity. It was a marriage made in heaven, you might say. Bishop Michael came to

the Kingdom for just such a time as that. And the whole Church is the beneficiary of that extra-ordinary coming together. I have noticed one thing about this man; he has a spirit-filled gift of eliciting from souls of every kind their creative talents and their abilities. With his love of music and his piano skills the music of this place has blossomed as a weapon of evangelism. He had encouraged the visual arts, and artists and sculptors have responded with exhibitions and beauty in this place itself. He chooses his colleagues carefully, and calls forth their own intellectual and teaching and preaching strength. Courses of teaching have been created here — and have spread far beyond to other churches with a small c and Churches with a big C to examine them and use them. You could say with the Psalmist: "Their sound has gone out into all lands and their words unto the ends of the world."

To have this gift of encouragement is a sure sign of the Holy Spirit working mightily in the heart and the soul. Bishop Michael has wielded a vibrant apostolate of encouragement in this place and parish. The result has been that people in this area have caught the oxygen of creativity and it has made them strong and happy to **try**. Their lives are not the same as a result. They are not infrequently surprised at themselves doing what they find themselves to be doing: for God.

It has been a fulfilling time in Bishop Michael's ministry. But not necessarily an easy time. There have been periods of physical discomfort and pain, enough to discourage the faint-hearted. There have been disappointments and griefs. To comfort him he has been supported

by astonishing loyalty and generosity. He elicits human response to his situations and needs in a way uncommon and, I suspect, puzzling to himself. People of every sort react to him: the challenge of his friendliness and clarity of purpose in his ministry to them. He has things to say — many things to say — at times more honest than diplomatic — he has always been provocative since he was a young London University chaplain — and they make an impression on the thoughtful. He has, however, never made the fatal error in the pulpit of answering questions which nobody is asking. Never irrelevant, never unreasonable, never condescending to his hearers. His desire is to make friends for Christ. And he does.

Now we look to the future, God wants us to keep moving. Onwards and upwards, if you like. He has no intention of smiling at our preference for settling down to smell the daisies. The story of God's people is that they are challenged to press forward, to try harder, to realize that what he has given us is not ours to possess but to use on our way, his way. And from the earliest days of realization that we are God's people and that he has a plan for us to follow and responsibilities to be shouldered, he has put people along the path of pilgrimage to point out and declare what lies ahead: "Behold, I make all things new" (Revelation 21: 5). He gave us the prophets and priests to warn and enlighten us and to correct and inspire. He gave us musicians and teachers and wise people to help us with our worship on our way, always finding new things to do in our worship. He gave us saints through whom his glory and reality shine along the path. We are people on the move. **Static** is

no description of a Christian. God expects us always to be slightly out of breath, for him to breathe his living Spirit into us, to re-invigorate us; and sweaty with our struggle to keep us, so that he can wash us and make us clean again. No rest for the wicked. No rest for the Christian, until we rest in Christ at our last awakening. I am reminded, as I say this to you, of a fine hymn written over a century ago by Maria Willis (1824 - 1908), a sturdy Victorian woman and I suspect a suffragette, to whom this concept was powerful:

*"Father, hear the prayer we offer:
Not for ease that prayer shall be,
But for strength, that we may ever,
Live our lives courageously.*

*Not forever, by still waters
Would we idly rest and stay;
But would smite the living fountains
From the rocks along the way."*

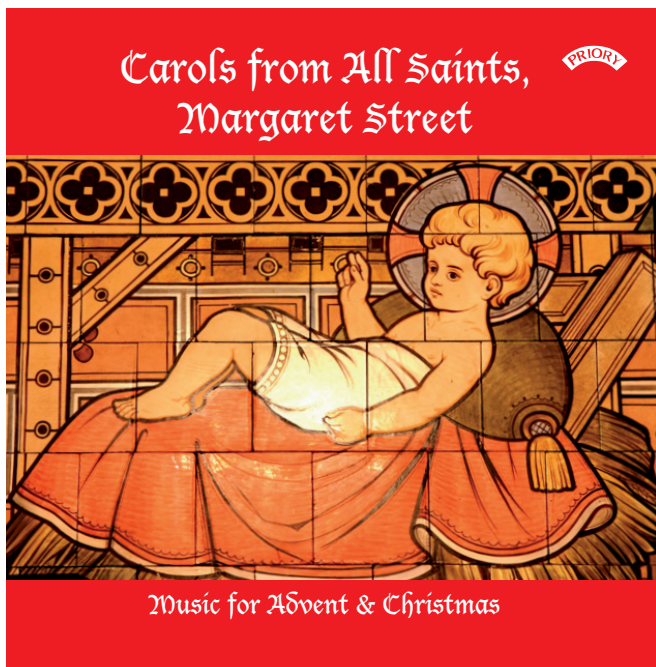
If this makes you feel tired already, I have news for you.

You are heirs to Bishop Michael's vision. As heirs you have a sacred trust. Run with the torch of that vision so that visitors may be surprised and reassured with you welcome in their midst. Make that vision plain upon the tablets — so clearly and attentively — that they can catch and match the momentum and make it their own.

The vision? Christ Jesus, lifted up, drawing with his love the whole world to himself; crucified for us, risen for us, ascended for us, and living in us for time — and for eternity!

Carols from All Saints, Margaret Street

Available from December @ £15.00 from the All Saints Sunday Shop, Parish Office, or at selected times in the church. Or by mail order @ £16.10 (UK), £17.00 (Europe), £17.50 (rest of world). Prices include postage and packing. Available from The Parish Office, 7, Margaret Street, London W1W 8JG. Cheques please to All Saints Shop.



Carols from All Saints, Margaret Street

The Choir of All Saints, Margaret Street
Conductor: Paul Brough Organist: Andrew Arthur

1. Kindle a light
2. Gabriel's Message
3. Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 599
4. It is high time to awake
5. Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BuxWV 211
6. Adam and his helpmate
7. The noble stem of Jesse
8. In dulci jubilo BuxWV 197
9. Ding dong! Merrily on high
10. Away in a manger
11. Chester Lullaby
12. In the bleak mid-winter
13. Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr BuxWV 711
14. Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr BuxWV 715
15. A cradle song of the Blessed Virgin
16. This lovely lady sat and song
17. The Rose of Bethlehem
18. Puer natus in Bethlehem BuxWV 217
19. Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child
20. O leave your sheep
21. Shepherd of Bethlehem
22. In dulci jubilo BWV 729
23. The Yorkshire Wassail Song
24. O come, all ye faithful
25. Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her BWV 700

Nativity panel detail, photograph by Mark Fleming.

Music for Advent & Christmas

100 YEARS AGO

The Vicar wrote after the Festival:

It seems to be the universal opinion, so far as I have enquired, that this year our Festival has been quite exceptionally bright and blessed. It does not do to estimate such matters by numbers, and I have lived long enough as a priest to know that there are other and deeper and truer tests. Nevertheless, when God in his mercy allows us to be blessed with large congregations it is a subject for great thankfulness, and this year the congregations have been larger than any Festival, at any rate, in my limited memory of All Saints.

The excellence of the music also has been the united verdict. I know how anxiously Mr. Vale has regarded this his first festival among us. I am afraid that most congregations take good music as a matter of fact, and only express their feelings when the music is not up to standard. We would fain hope that All Saints' congregation is somewhat different, and that its members do appreciate the enormous amount of time, energy, and skill which goes into the preparation for such services as we had on the Eve of All Saints, All Saints' Day, and the following Sunday within the Octave. I know something of the almost infinite pains which Mr Vale has taken in preparing the music for the Festival, and if the result has been only as satisfactory to him as it has been to the clergy and the congregation he must feel abundantly rewarded for all his trouble.

It gives me great satisfaction and pleasure to announce that the whole of the £400 asked for at the Festival has now

been sent in, and provided the offertories remain at their present level until the end of the year we ought to be able face 1908 free from debt. For these many mercies I do most heartily give thanks to God, and that not merely for the gifts themselves, but far more for the spirit of devotion to God and His Church which they so clearly prove.

The Festival has also been remarkable for its series of sermons. I have been asked to insert Mr MacKay's very noteworthy sermon on the present position of Church matters, and I have great pleasure in printing it in this number of the Parish Paper. The preacher would be the very last man in the world to agree with all that he says, but his sermon, in my judgement, is a very remarkable pronouncement, and should set all thoughtful Churchmen thinking as to the relation of the Anglican Communion to the rest of Catholic Christendom.

SUNDAYS AND SOLEMNITIES MUSIC AND READINGS

● SUNDAY 2 DECEMBER ADVENT SUNDAY

PROCESSION AND HIGH MASS AT 11.00 a.m.

Litany in Procession: Tallis

Introit: Ad te levavi

Mass: Missa 'Euge Bone' — Tye

Lessons: Isaiah 2: 1 - 5

Psalm 122

Romans 13: 11 - end

Hymn: 14

Gospel: Matthew 24: 36 - 44

Preacher: The Vicar
Creed: Credo II
Anthem: Hosanna to the Son of
David — Gibbons
Hymns: 501, 344, 9

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE at 6.00 p.m.

A service of Readings and Music for
Advent with the Choir of All Saints

● SUNDAY 9 DECEMBER ADVENT II

HIGH MASS AT 11.00 a.m.

Entrance Hymn: 55
Introit: Populus Syon
Mass: Missa 'Alma redemptoris
mater' — Victoria
Lessons: Isaiah 11: 1 - 10
Psalm 72
Romans 15: 4 - 13
Hymn: 12
Gospel: Matthew 3: 1 - 12
Preacher: Fr Gerald Beauchamp
Anthem: Rejoice in the Lord alway
— English, 16th Century
Hymns: 501, 407, 495

SOLEMN EVENSONG at 6.00 p.m.

Psalms: 11, 28
Lessons: 1 Kings 18: 17 - 39
John 1: 19 - 28
Office Hymn: 1
Canticles: The Short Service — Byrd
Anthem: Rorate cœli desuper
— Byrd
Preacher: The Vicar
Hymn: 169

BENEDICTION

O Salutaris: 238
Hymn: 18
Tantum Ergo: 295

● SUNDAY 16 DECEMBER ADVENT III

HIGH MASS AT 11.00 a.m.

Entrance Hymn: 16
Introit: Gaudete
Mass: Mass in B flat — Schubert
Lessons: Isaiah Ch 35
Psalm 146
James 5: 7 - 10
Hymn: 170 (i)
Gospel: Matthew 11: 2 - 11
Preacher: The Vicar
Creed: Credo III
Anthem: This is the record of John
— Gibbons
Hymns: 501, 6, 443
Voluntary: Præludium in E, BuxWV 141
— Buxtehude

SOLEMN EVENSONG at 6.00 p.m.

Psalms: 12, 14
Lessons: Isaiah 5: 8 - end
Office Hymn: 1
Canticles: Service in E flat — Wise
Anthem: Prepare ye the way of the
Lord — Wise
Preacher: Fr Gerald Beauchamp
Hymn: 7

BENEDICTION

O Salutaris: Fischer
Hymn: 3
Tantum Ergo: Palestrina
Voluntary: Præludium in E minor,
BuxWV 152 — Buxtehude

MONDAY 17 DECEMBER

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS
AND CAROLS AT 6.00 p.m.
With the Choir of All Saints

● SUNDAY 23 DECEMBER ADVENT IV

HIGH MASS AT 11.00 a.m.

Entrance Hymn: 470

Introit: Rorate

Mass: Mass for double choir
— Martin

Lessons: Isaiah 7: 10 - 16
Psalm 80
Romans 1: 1 - 7

Hymn: 19

Gospel: Matthew 1: 18 - end

Preacher: Fr Neil Bunker

Creed: Credo II

Anthem: Vox dicentis Clama
— Naylor

Hymns: 501, 8 (T 128 (ii)), 11

SOLEMN EVENSONG

at 6.00 p.m.

Psalms: 113, 126

Lessons: 1 Samuel 1: 1 - 20
Revelation 22: 6 - end

Office Hymn: 1

Canticles: Fauxbourdon — Byrd

Anthem: Komm, Jesu, komm — Bach

Preacher: The Vicar

Hymn: 17

BENEDICTION

O Salutaris: 493

Hymn: 6

Tantum Ergo: 393

MONDAY 24 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE

MIDNIGHT MASS AND BLESSING OF THE CRIB AT 11.00 p.m.

Entrance Hymn: 29 (v4 Descant
— Willcocks)

Introit: Dominus dixit

Mass: Missa Sancti Nicolai — Haydn

Lessons: Isaiah 9: 2 - 7
Psalm 96
Titus 2: 11 - 14

Hymn: 37

Gospel: Luke 2: 1 - 14

Preacher: The Vicar

Anthem: O magnum mysterium
— Poulenc

Hymns: 28, 35

Motet: Hodie Christus natus est
— Poulenc

At the procession to the Crib:
30 (omit v 4, vv 6 and 7
arr Willcocks)

At the Crib: Infant holy, Infant lowly
— Polish trad

Voluntaries: In Dulci jubilo — Bach
Toccata 'Dieu parmi nous'
— Messiaen

TUESDAY 25 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

MASS OF THE DAY AT 11.00 a.m.

Entrance Hymn: 30 (omit v 4; v 7 Descant
— Fleming)

Introit: Puer natus est

Mass: Jugendmesse — Haydn

Lessons: Isaiah 52: 7 - 10
 Psalm 98
 Hebrews 1: 1 - 4
Hymn: 19 (ii; omit *)
Gospel: John 1: 1 - 14
Preacher: Fr Gerald Beauchamp
Creed: Credo III
Anthems: Away in a manger
 — Kirkpatrick, arr Sidwell
 Ding dong! merrily on High
 — French trad; arr Wood
Hymns: 22, 41, 26 (omit *; v 3
 Descant — Willcocks)
Voluntary: Radetzky March
 — J. Strauss I

● SUNDAY 30 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS I

HIGH MASS AT 11.00 a.m.

Entrance Hymn: 24
Introit: Dum medium silentium
Mass: St Ignatius Mass — Laloux
Lessons: Isaiah 63: 7 - 9
 Psalm 148
 Hebrews 2: 10 - end
Hymn: 21 (v 5 Descant
 — Marlowe)
Gospel: Matthew 2: 13 - end
Preacher: The Vicar
Creed: Credo II
Anthem: There is no rose — Britten
Hymns: 39 (v 5 arr Willcocks), 40
 See amid the winter's snow
Voluntary: In dir ist Freude — Bach

Evening Prayer is *said* at 4.30 p.m.

STAFF

Vicar:

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Assistant Priest:

The Revd Gerald Beauchamp 020 7636 1788

Honorary Assistant Priests:

The Revd Neil Bunker 01322 337085

Prebendary John Gaskell 020 8858 9589

Parish Administrator:

Mr Dennis Davis 020 7636 1788 / 9961

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e-mail: AStsMgtSt@aol.com

Sundays Low Mass at 6.30 p.m. (Sat), 8.00 a.m.

and 5.15 p.m. Morning Prayer 10.20 a.m.

HIGH MASS and SERMON at 11.00 a.m.

SOLEMN EVENSONG, SERMON and

BENEDICTION at 6.00 p.m.

Monday to Friday Morning Prayer at 7.30 a.m.

Low Mass at 8.00 a.m., 1.10 p.m. & 6.30 p.m.

Confessions from 12.30 - 1.00 p.m. & 5.30 p.m.

Evening Prayer at 6.00 p.m.

Saturday Morning Prayer at 7.30 a.m.

Low Mass at 8.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.*

(* First Mass of Sunday)

Confessions 5.30 p.m.,

Evening Prayer 6.00 p.m.

Confessions are also heard by appointment

020 7636 1788

Instruction in the catholic faith as taught by the Church of England can be obtained on application to any of the priests, who will also give help in preparing for the sacraments.

PARISH OFFICIALS

Churchwardens:

Mr John Forde 020 7592 9855

Mr Christopher Self 020 8858 6370

PCC Secretary:

Dr Dilys Thomas 020 7794 3626

Hon Treasurer:

Mr Patrick Hartley 020 7607 0060

Director of Music and Organist:

Mr Paul Brough 020 8655 3361

Associate Director of Music & Assistant

Organist:

Mr Andrew Arthur 020 8279 0909

Honorary Assistant Organist:

Mr Norman Caplin 020 8989 3295

Electoral Roll Officer:

Miss Catherine Burling c/o 020 7636 1788

CALENDAR AND INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2007

1	<i>Charles de Foucauld, Hermit in the Sahara</i>	Society of All Saints Sisters of the Poor
2	✘ THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	OUR PARISH AND PEOPLE
3	<i>Francis Xavier, Missionary, Apostle of the Indies</i>	USPG
4	<i>John of Damascus; Nicholas Ferrar</i>	Religious
5		The unemployed
6	St Nicholas, Bishop of Myra	Unity
7	St Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher	Those in need
8	The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Walsingham
9	✘ THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	OUR PARISH AND PEOPLE
10		Church Schools
11		The homeless
12	Ember Day	Friends of All Saints
13	St Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse	Unity
14	St John of the Cross Ember Day	Those in need
15	Ember Day	Theological Colleges
16	✘ THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	OUR PARISH AND PEOPLE
17	<i>O Sapientia Eglantyne Jebb, Social Reformer</i>	ALMA*
18		The sick and disabled
19		Wells Street Family Proceedings Court
20		Unity
21		Those in need
22		The Samaritans
23	✘ THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	OUR PARISH AND PEOPLE
24	CHRISTMAS EVE	Preparation for Christmas
25	CHRISTMAS DAY	Thanksgiving for the Incarnation
26	ST STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR	Witnesses to the Faith
27	ST JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST	Proclamation of the Gospel
28	THE HOLY INNOCENTS	Those in need
29	St Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury	Archbishop of Canterbury
30	✘ THE 1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	OUR PARISH AND PEOPLE
31	<i>John Wyclif, Reformer</i>	Social reform

Please note:

All Friday Masses are 'for those in need' — intercessions from the board inside church are used on these days.

*ALMA — The Angola, London, Mozambique Diocesan Association



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