

stmichael&allangels  
magazine



Celebrating the life  
of St Michael's

April  
2017

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# Jody's Journal

Christ is Risen, Alleluia!

We are now in Eastertide, where we celebrate the truth of Christ's resurrection and the assertion that the world is now on a journey of redemption and rescue.

It can seem a bit incongruous with the world as we know it. As we turn on the news and have to deal with the reality of wars, violence and political power games.

In particular, the situation we see in Syria is enough to make us wonder how on earth Christians can proclaim there is a different reality, that evil has already been defeated and Jesus has already won a victory over death and violence. In fact it would be offensive to simply proclaim this in the face of the deep suffering that others are experiencing, when we live in relative safety and comfort.



The apostle John in his book Revelation, is the one who gives us the framework for understanding the true reality behind the reality. He has a vision of Jesus as he is exiled to Patmos, he has seen Christians being persecuted by the cruel Roman regime, he has seen the community killed and brought almost to extinction. And as his heart cries out and he begins to wonder what it has all been for, he is shown the reality – Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, Evil has been defeated, Jesus is Lord!

But it would be easy to despair when we turn on the news over these last few weeks and months. And we must not diminish the suffering of others with a trite reply that 'it's all going to be okay'. As Christians we believe that Jesus is Lord and that despite what it might seem like, Life, Love, Light prevail and Death, Hate and Darkness have already been beaten. But how do we, in our world as it is, proclaim this reality?

I think it is important to recognise our weakness. Most of us have not experienced the kind of suffering we see or hear on the news. Let us be those who pray, asking for God's imagination to infuse ours – where we struggle to pray for peace, because we cannot imagine how that can happen, may we know that God's imagination is bigger than ours! And let us be those who pay attention.



Even in our own part of the world we can see that God is at work in the injustices and darkneses of our own place. Paying attention to these things, and pointing them out to others, gives us the light of hope and strengthens our faith.

From the heart of South African apartheid, this poem was written:

*Victory is Ours  
Goodness is stronger than evil;  
Love is stronger than hate;  
Light is stronger than darkness;  
Life is stronger than death;  
Victory is ours through Him who loves us.  
Desmond Tutu*



# The Building Project Saga – we're getting there!

by John Slaughter

We are currently in the middle of a big push by our contractors to get the building works finished off, so as I write this on Good Friday I know it will quickly become out of date!

We were due to produce our bi-monthly newsletter this week to update you on the Project, but we thought we'd combine this with the magazine to save you having two things to read. Then hopefully next month we will produce a newsletter about moving into our new chapel and kitchen accommodation. In the meantime:-



**Please remember that the church continues to be a building site, so beware of trip-hazards and unexpected obstructions, which are changing from day to day!**

## Progress in church

It seems a long time ago since our new toilets, office and small meeting room were brought into use last autumn. Although these remain the responsibility of our contractor until remedial work is finished, they have provided us with a safe and warm haven, away from the works in the rest of the church. The latter have taken a lot longer than expected, as the floors

have needed to be excavated not only for new central heating pipes and power cables, but also for ducting for an improved audio-visual system we hope to install in the future. Unfortunately this has led to temporary covers over the excavations for long periods.

We have also had to wait much longer than expected for the new heating system to be installed. But we have managed to maintain all our normal activities through the week using our two vulcana heaters



and temporary electric heaters. We are sorry that the church has not been as warm as it should be on some occasions, but in the main we have coped surprisingly well.

A ramp has been constructed in the north aisle of the church behind the musicians' area to provide step-free access to the communion rail. The next big piece of work in the church is to move the stone font from the entrance lobby to the chancel – ie to the front of the church, up the steps and to the left of the communion rail. The contractor is planning to move it slowly in one piece using wooden rollers, which should be interesting! Once all the work in the church is completed, a new floor will be laid, which will hopefully include a new sound loop for the benefit of hearing-aid users.



### Further extensions to the church



We are eagerly waiting to move into our new chapel and kitchen, both of which should be ready by next month. **The new chapel** will have an unusual sloping ceiling with a choice of lighting, and decorative glass blocks inserted in the wall facing the access road.

**The new kitchen** will have two serving hatches; one for the church and one for the Wykeham Room, and a roof light over head for natural lighting. When this opens for business, we can say good-bye to our old so-called kitchen, which will be converted into a new vestry and sacristy along with the "north porch" entrance.





The **Wykeham Room** is having new openings cut in the walls to provide a door into the kitchen, another into a furniture store, and two new openings into the new **Garden Room** which is nearing completion on the frontage to Bishop Ken Road.

The Garden Room and Wykeham Rooms are likely to be our main rooms to let out to our community, either together or separately. A new opening has just been drilled through the double-thickness wall from the Garden Room into the lobby area (Narthex) of the church, so that the Garden Room can be accessed independently from the Wykeham Room



The last extension will be the glazed **front entrance**, where the roof girders have already been installed. The intention is for the interior of the church to be visible even when the doors are closed, so that it is clear that we are open for the community rather than hidden behind wooden doors, as at present. A new access ramp will be built to the front



doors, with 2 parking spaces close-by. Whilst all this is being built we may use a **new side entrance** to the church from the new service road, via the new corridor being built as a replacement fire exit from the church, kitchen, and chapel. A new bin store is being built outside this exit, so that our bins can be kept secure and away from the front entrance.



## Outside the Church

New paths, walls and landscaping are planned around the church's remaining property accessible by the public. The new access road is under construction and will include 4 car parking spaces and an electric car charging point for the use of the church and those we hire our rooms out to. This is one of several items required by the Council to encourage more sustainable travel, and reduce atmospheric pollution. We are also providing cycle parking, and information about alternatives to car use, as part of a "Travel Plan"



required by our planning permission. We will need to monitor the way we travel to church to see if we can reduce our carbon footprint.



The new houses are now almost complete, and the flats are close behind, so we are preparing to welcome our new neighbours with a leaflet about our church activities.

## Postscript

Thank you for putting up with the dust and disruption over the last 6 months. We are really grateful to Ines who has tried to keep our church as clean as possible, and to Jody and others who have also had to clean surfaces before we can use them.

Further information about the building project has been produced in the regular newsletters sent by email and available at the back of church. If you would like more details, or have any concerns, please speak to our building project team:- Jody Stowell, Rosemary Mackenzie, Robert May, or myself.



## Fundraising Update

by Helen and John Slaughter

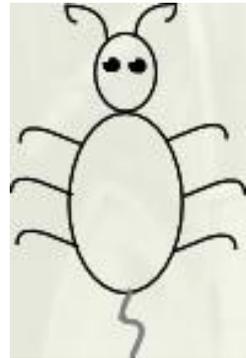


As explained in earlier articles, our building work is costing more than the income we will receive from the residential development next door, even though we have cut back our plans. Robert May, Christine Tyler and the fund-raising team are working hard to fill this funding gap, with grants, loans and donations.

In addition, the "Friends of St Michaels" team have been busy with fund raising in church:



So far this year we have had a good response to our fund raising activities. After our successful Christmas Cracker event in November 2016, our next event will be a **Beetle Drive and Vintage Tea Party on Saturday afternoon, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017**. Tickets will be on sale soon.



All of our fund raising events have together raised over £1,000 and our recent knitted chicks with a chocolate egg has raised over £200.

If you could help run an event, or raise some money, or simply make a donation or a loan, please speak to the Leadership Team, Christine Tyler, Helen Slaughter or Robert May.



# Pancake Party

by Alison Stoneman



As a (relatively new) parent, I really enjoy taking Emily to the church parties. This season was the pancake party, ably run by Andrea and her team. It is amazing to see the church buzzing with children of all ages and their



families. There was lots to do as usual and we went round the different tables icing sweets, decorating cut-out people with stickers, playing with play dough and chatting to old friends and new, to name but a few of the activities.



These parties are great events, not just for the church family, but also as a way to welcome people from the wider community. Children delight in playing together and trying out the different activities supported by their parents.

The highlight of course was the arrival of dozens of pancakes cooked by our very own lovely June and shuttled over from the vicarage by another band of helpers. Absolutely delicious and wolfed down by all! Thank you to everyone involved for all their hard work in bringing so many young people together.





# The Bumble Bee Prayer

by Jeff Edmunds

Dear Lord,

Make me like the humble Bumble Bee...  
Nobody understands how the Bumble Bee flies,  
But he flies anyway.

Let me fly and share your love just as the Bumble Bee  
hovers from place to place.

Let me depend entirely on you to get me there, in  
defiance of clever sceptics, who think they know  
better.

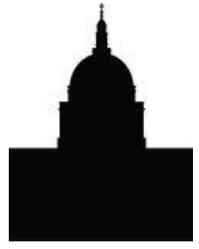
Let me bring the nectar of your love and the pollen,  
which brings the seed of hope, flowering into bright  
blooms of love and caring.

Let the sound of the Bumble Bee be the sound of  
freedom and bright springtime in peoples' lives.

Amen



# A Great Day Out in London



At St Michaels we are lucky to be able to visit Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral free of charge, in small groups, with the vouchers held in our office. I have been to both with my daughters and grandchildren, and we found both visits most interesting and informative. Chris and John have also been recently and their excellent account follows. Do take the opportunity to visit and don't forget to make a donation to help with the upkeep of these great places.

*Richard Leach*



## Westminster Abbey

On a day in February we visited Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral with our free tickets.

In the morning we visited Westminster Abbey. It is grand and ornate and steeped in a thousand years of history. We visited Poet's Corner, where we spent



some time discovering some surprising names of people commemorated there. It was explained to us that the Abbey is a "Royal Peculiar" under the jurisdiction of a Dean and Chapter, subject only to the Sovereign and not to any archbishop or bishop.



# St Paul's Cathedral

After lunch we moved on to St Paul's Cathedral. The difference between the two places of worship was startling. Whereas Westminster Abbey seemed dark and sombre, St Paul's was light and airy. Both were impressive in their different ways. Sir Christopher Wren's architecture was quite stunning. There is so much to see, they're well worth a visit and they're free to parishioners!



If you would like to take advantage of our parish vouchers to visit these two great buildings for free, contact Sara in the Church office. Each parish in the Diocese of London is entitled to a limited number of visits each year, so visits will be subject to availability.



## New St Mike's Street Pastor

Usha Cherian is one of three new Harrow Street Pastors currently in training. Her first patrol in uniform will be on 28<sup>th</sup> April. Harrow Street Pastors are volunteers who patrol the Harrow and Wealdstone area on Friday and Saturday nights helping those in need and shining God's light in the borough.

Congratulations Usha! We wish you all the best on your first patrol.

*"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."  
(1 Corinthians 12:27)*

God gives us all different gifts and calls us all to different roles within the church. We are all part of one body, and every part of the body is important. Whatever you do at St Michael's, you are an important part of who we are.

Our recent Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was an opportunity to celebrate some of the things we have been doing at St Michael's over the last year, as well as to elect people to perform certain roles in the coming year. Among those elected at the APCM were members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). But who are the PCC and what do they do?

### **Who are the PCC?**

The PCC includes the vicar, church wardens, and other church members who were elected at the APCM. Our current PCC members are:

*Jody Stowell (Chair)*

*Rosemary Mackenzie (Vice Chair)*

*John Slaughter*

*Denis Barker (Treasurer)*

*Malie Cordara*

*Sara Devane (Secretary)*

*Christine Tyler*

*Gloria Dockwray*

*Jeffery Edmunds*

*Barbara Hudson*

*Paul Joyce*

*Robert May*

*Helen Slaughter*

*John Smith*

*Simon Stanley*

*Keith Stroud*

## What do the PCC do?

The PCC are the legal trustees of the church and are responsible for making decisions about how the church is run, including managing the church's finances. The full PCC usually meets 6 times a year, although it can meet more often if necessary. As it may not be practical for the full PCC to meet to discuss all decisions relating to the running of the church, the PCC can form sub-committees to manage particular areas (e.g. Fabric and Finance) or to undertake a particular project (e.g. the Building Project). The one sub-committee every PCC must have, however, is a Standing Committee. This is made up of the Vicar, Church Wardens, and others elected by the PCC (usually including the Treasurer). At St Michael's, the Standing Committee is also the Leadership Team.

## Who are the Leadership Team?

Our current Leadership Team are:



Jody  
Stowell



Rosemary  
MacKenzie



John  
Slaughter



Denis  
Barker



Paul  
Joyce

## What do the Leadership Team do?

The Leadership Team meet regularly to discuss issues that are important to the church. The minutes of Leadership Team meetings are circulated to the PCC. The Leadership Team has the authority of the PCC to make some decisions on their behalf. On important matters, the Leadership Team may put together proposals and recommendations for the PCC to consider.

## Want to know more?

If you would like to know more about these roles, please speak to any member of the Leadership Team or the PCC – we'll be happy to tell you more about what we do. And we are always on the lookout for new people to join us.



## The Super Heroes are coming ...

This Summer's Holiday Club will be based on an exciting new theme that is exclusive to St Michael's. Through three mornings of fun activities we will see that, when the world needs heroes, God takes the most unlikely people and gives them the ability to do amazing things to save others from danger.

### HOLIDAY CLUB

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July

For children and young people aged 5 - 14

Craft – Bible Stories – Songs – Drama – Games

Details of how to sign up will be available nearer the time, but put the dates in your diary now and tell your friends. And be ready to strap on the armour of God and join us on our Super Heroic adventure!

To find out more, speak to Paul Joyce.



## Magazine contributions

St Michael & All Angels Magazine is intended as a celebration of the faith of St Michael's. We want everyone at St Michael's to be involved. If you would like to submit an article for the next magazine, please send it by **6<sup>th</sup> August** to:

**Paul Joyce – [paul.joyce3@virgin.net](mailto:paul.joyce3@virgin.net)**

**Jesus changes lives:**

**Know Him, Follow Him, Share Him**