



The Vicar writes... I commend this extraordinary Gazette to you especially as, sadly, this will be Sarah's last. May I take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work. We shall miss her very much but feel she is very much part of our Christian community and I'm sure we will be seeing her at St Stephen's from time to time. Our prayers and good wishes go with you Sarah as you start your new job and life in Brighton.

One of Sarah's instigations was to coordinate and put together this amazing week of events leading up to Remembrance Sunday – **Sitting with the Silhouettes**. The hundredth anniversary of the end of the First World War is something we should all pause and reflect on, not just as an historic occasion to remember but as a timely reminder of conflicts in the here and now! Please do join in with this excellent programme. Come along to St Stephen's to sit, to pause and to pray that we may as a community remember all those today and yesterday who are 'there but not there'.

Sitting with the Silhouettes: Sunday 4th – Sunday 11 November 2018

Sunday 4 November 6pm Evensong and Slow Art with Marc Woodhead

Monday 5 November 1pm *Memory and Myth Making: A discussion of poetry from the First World War* led by Abigail Farr and Gavin Griffiths (other sessions on Monday 29 Oct and Monday 12 Nov at 1pm)

Tuesday 6 November 12.30pm WWI Song Lunchtime concert with songs linked to the First World War with Ashley Holt (Bass Baritone) and Jodie Schloss (piano)

Tuesday 6 November 5 – 6pm Silent Hour - we hold a silent hour of meditation in church.

Wednesday 7 November 7pm Prayer Vigil with music from the Taizé Community

Thursday 8 November 1pm *They Shall grow not old* - Recital Westminster Under School Boys' Choir

Friday 9 November 8am Eucharist followed by breakfast in church

Sunday 11 November 10am Parish Eucharist and Act of Remembrance
6pm Evensong with sermon: Before and After – Faith, Music & WWI

Music at St Stephen's

Our church choir is recruiting in all voice-parts. The total commitment is from 9.20 am to 12 noon on Sundays, and you do need to be able to read music to some extent, largely because of this very light commitment to rehearsal time - similar choirs have a long weeknight practice as well! Please email rosemaryfield@rmfield.co.uk if you are interested or know someone who might be.



Elastic Band!

Once in a while, our worship will be accompanied by an instrumental ensemble. We launched at Harvest with 2 fiddles, 2 cellos, clarinet, flute, recorder and the piano as 'glue'. The parts (custom-written for individuals) are distributed 4 weeks ahead so that we know our stuff on the day. Special thanks to Douglas for helping me launch this when I was at my busiest. Doug did the typesetting and half the part-writing, as well as playing brilliantly on the day. Beautifying worship in many ways is one of the gifts of music to the church as a whole, but putting it together is mostly dependent on good planning. Epiphany is the next time, so if you would like to play then please let Rosemary know by Advent Sunday to avoid, er, Christmas.....

Rosemary Field

Animal Blessing Service, 3 October 2018

Animals ranging from hamsters to police horses, and every size in-between, took over St Stephens on Wednesday the 3rd of October for the very enjoyable annual Animal Service of Blessing. Along with their human families and companions, the pets and working animals assembled for the service during which prayers of thanksgiving were said for the crucial companionship and help that animals provide to people everywhere. Our hymns reflected the place animals have in both creation and our lives, whilst our liturgy illustrated God's relationship and our relationship with the creatures in His creation. Everyone present also remembered when animals have been neglected or treated cruelly, such as in war, or though having their habitat taken away through greed and thoughtlessness.



The highlight of the service was the blessing of individual pets as they lined up with their human families and companions to come up to the front to be blessed by Graham. This long queue reflected the variety of pets that families have as companions, and illustrated that God has enabled us, as humans, to have relationships that help and sustain us with a wide range of creatures in His creation. Remarkably there were no problems or scraps between the animals present e.g. cats facing off against dogs in the aisles, escaping rabbits being pursued by their owners, or hamsters getting lost under pews. This may have been due to the calming presence of the two large police horses standing patiently with their police riders for the entire service at the West Door, or perhaps it was the Holy Spirit. At the end of the service, adults and children made a beeline for the police horses, patting and stroking them, another highlight, and also

serving to demonstrate to everyone present the reality of animals being partnered with people in our community to provide assistance and safety. It could have turned out to be chaotic with so many different animals under the same roof but the atmosphere was calm. The pace of proceedings was governed by how the animals reacted to what was going on. Having such a service at St Stephen's, outside of what normally goes on, may have seemed from the outside as strange or just for children, but this service was a very real way of recognising the importance of God's creatures to both God and to us by bringing them right into our midst and thanking God for them then and there.



Anastassia, and her mum holding her rabbit

Jeremy Cavanagh



One of the prize-winning pumpkins donated by RHS

Parish Lunch – Harvest, 7th October

It's been a while since our last Parish lunch, but this one on Harvest Sunday made the wait worthwhile, and whetted our appetites for further opportunities. After a shaky start (white wine located in a hot locked cupboard!) food began to flow in – an international cornucopia reminding me of the film *Babette's Feast*.

So much food that an extra buffet table was added, plus extra seating later. A large vase of rosehips made a seasonal centrepiece.

It really was an international gathering, Graham highlighting our African friends and welcoming a visiting Ugandan. Thanks to Liz and Jackie – as ever – for coordinating the event, and to the many savoury and pastry-cooks for delicious offerings. Somebody prepared my favourite, mangetout. Thanks!

John Turpin

SAVE THE DATE: The next Parish Lunches in the Napier Hall will be

Sunday 25th November 2018 and Sunday 3rd February 2019

What is there to do with children aged 0 - 5 during term time on a Thursday 3 – 4.30?!



Come over to Napier Hall and join us for coffee and tea for carers... Songs, stories and play for babies and toddlers. All welcome.

Whether you are a first time or experienced parent or carer, we meet on a Thursday for the children to play, and for adults to have tea and coffee and conversation. Don't worry if it's nap time, bring them asleep in their buggy and come and join us for a chat!

For more information, please contact jen.adam@mail.com or the Parish Office 020 7834 0950

Jen Adam and the St Stephen's Toddlers team

12 Months, 12 Apostles, 12 Curry Houses...



Over the course of the next year: 12 months, 12 (local) curry houses and 12 Apostles. A social, culinary, enriching way of discussing and discovering The Twelve – conversations held over some naan, mango chutney and your favourite jalfrezi. We will visit one restaurant each month, on a Sunday evening after Evensong. Future dates will be **25 November, 16 December** and **30 January**. If you are unable to attend evensong please note that we will leave the church at 7pm.

To book your place at the table next month contact tony.sewell@yahoo.co.uk or kevin.walsh@westminster.org.uk

Our Myanmar Connection

Please DO read our board in church. There's interesting new material to see, and evidence of their amazing energy and dedication.

Joanna Smith

Community Gardening!

On 23 August we held a community gardening event to tidy up the church grounds. Though it poured with rain in the morning, by lunchtime the skies were clear! More than 25 people turned up during the session, and many of these were volunteers from some of the groups who use the church regularly (Yoga, singing groups, Zumba). We cleared a huge amount of leaves and litter from the shrubs around the church, and filled more than thirty bags with rubbish! Thank you to everyone who came along, and particular thanks to Nadine who baked some beautiful cakes for us all to share. We plan to organise another session in the spring!

Left: some of the volunteers at our Community Gardening event



How to Read Water – a talk by Tristan Gooley

Imagine you are in a boat. A small boat drifting into the open sea. And it is dark - very dark, but cloudy so no stars to help you. Oh, and no electronic devices to rely on either. Just the water, the movement of the water. Lying on your back, you listen and feel. Feel the swell and rise of the sea beneath your fragile craft - and after a while you are able, with great confidence, to state how far you are from a headland, or a bay, or group of small islands.

Tristan Gooley's talk on How to Read Water took his transfixed and sizeable St Stephen's audience on a journey and with tangible examples - backed up with convincing physics - showed us some of the tricks of the trade for navigating via the natural behaviour of water. Tides, eddies, diffraction patterns - even rainbows got a mention in this fascinating presentation based on his book of the same title, peppered with illustrations drawn from the personal experiences of well-travelled and self-styled natural navigator.

With fine supporting numbers of Serpentine Swimmers, this was no exposition of water-divining or tenuous folklore but a tale of how by combining careful observations of the natural world with a smattering of school science and common sense, it is possible to read and interpret patterns of water behaviour that provide powerful clues about the immediate and more distant watery environment enabling safe and sure navigation to be possible. I shall never look at the way a river current is disturbed by embedded rocks or how the moonlight streams across a harbour in quite the same way ever again. A delightful and informative evening which, naturally, went swimmingly. And he certainly made quite a splash.

Kevin Walsh

Re-confirmation

In September one member of St Stephen's community, Jeremy Cavanagh, had the unusual experience of being confirmed a second time or 're-confirmed'. Jeremy had originally been confirmed growing up in Sydney but his confirmation records had gone missing.

Our Bishop, Sarah Mullally, very kindly and very warmly, took-on this 're-confirmation' in a small service at St Michael's Paternoster Row on a sunny Tuesday morning at 8.30 am with about ten of Jeremy's friends present. Completely unexpectedly, without telling Jeremy, his brother Timothy flew in from Australia via Hong Kong turning what was a low-key service into an unexpected

happy family reunion, part of a wider reunion for the friends who came. Timothy had colluded with Bishop Sarah's diary secretary to get the time and place, arriving the evening before. He was sitting outside St Michael's when Jeremy, completely unaware, came around the corner wheeling his bicycle. Though the service was fairly short, and warm, it was also profound for everyone present with Bishop Sarah speaking from Isaiah 43: 1 - 3, "I have called you by name and you are mine" and John 1: 43 - 51 when Jesus calls Nathaniel. This was especially relevant to Jeremy as he is presently exploring ordination by undergoing discernment which was why he needed to be re-confirmed.



Timothy and Jeremy with Bishop Sarah at St Michael's

Wandering to Whitstable, Saturday 11 August

A happy band of seaside-goers assembled on a fine Saturday morning, the 11th of August, at Victoria Station to take advantage of a railway offer of £20 day-return tickets to Whitstable. We boarded a heavily laden train destined for the farthest reaches of Kent. Looking around at the other passengers the length of the train it was evident many of us were going to the beaches of Whitstable, Margate and wherever else a beach could be found on the route, judging by the sun hats, picnics and grandmas covering grandchildren in sun lotion in the train! It was also the day of Margate Pride which meant there were people aboard the train attired in an intriguing array of outfits.

We alighted into warm, summer morning sunshine, before forming a caravan to perambulate steadily through the streets of Whitstable to seek out and stake a claim to our spot on the beach; people of all ages from St Stephen's ranging from children in prams and buggies to those of us that The Book of Common Prayer might describe as being of 'Riper Years.' Moments after arriving on the beach some of our more intrepid friends donned their bathing suits and took to the water in an instant, Destiny and her school friends remaining in the sea for much of the day.



Yacht off the Whitstable coast

Some of us preferred to take our shoes off and roll up trouser legs, and as we say in the north, just 'gan for a plodge.' Fish and chips in large and delicious quantities were obtained and brought back to the beach, before a group of us went for a walk around some stalls and shops, eating ice cream and generally looking around. No oysters were had. There was a delightful little antiques and junk shop where I acquired a China mug to commemorate the Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary in 1911 to add to my small but growing collection of Regal antiquities.

People began to drift off for trains a little after three in the afternoon to return to town, departing in small groups. The last contingent sought tea and cake after five o'clock, before we as the last stragglers got the train after six back to Blackfriars.

In a witty moment earlier in the day, Irene remarked to me: "go on, surprise us Andrew and have a swim. We'll sit here and sing. What was that old hymn we used to sing? Rescue the perishing!" Cheek.

Andrew Crawford

We are holding a Taizé service as part of the ***Sitting with the Silhouettes*** week, on **Wednesday 7 November at 7pm**. Singing is one of the most essential elements of worship and these beautiful songs from the Taizé Community, repeated again and again, will give our worship a meditative character. The songs will be led by a talented music group who are experienced in leading Taizé worship. Everyone is welcome to come along and to join us for tea and coffee after the service.



From Beauty to Battenberg

After a memorable Harvest Eucharist and Baptism, followed by a convivial Bring and Share Harvest Lunch in the Napier Hall, around twenty-five of us returned to a gorgeously decked-out St Stephen's for a real musical treat. Choir members, James Maggs, and Helen Prentice not only hold down demanding work roles, but also play in an excellent string quartet, for pleasure! They were joined by fellow 'Tufton Quartet' members, Josh and Mark, as well as extra cellist, Kathryn, to perform for us Schubert's magnificent masterpiece, the Quintet in C.

James whet our appetites with a few choice words of introduction about what was to follow in the next hour of music making. This quintet was written not long before Schubert's death, and not performed until many years after his untimely demise. It is now regarded as one of the greats in the chamber music repertoire – and deservedly so.

All of life can be found in the four movements – the substantial opening Allegro ma non troppo, the Adagio, the Scherzo – with Presto – Trio and Andante sostenuto, and final Allegretto. The Tufton Quartet transported us through a whole gamut of emotions, from anguish and regret, through beauty and reverential contemplation, to bucolic abandon – with verve, passion and talent.



Who needs the likes of Kings Place, or even the Wigmore Hall, when you can indulge in such home-grown musical fare on your very own spiritual doorstep?

After the amazing music-making, the appreciative audience rounded it all off with chatter, sherry and Battenberg – a veritable feast. Very many thanks indeed to the Tufton Quartet, for allowing us to share in the fruit of their labours!

Jackie Walsh

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Christmas Services at St Stephen's
Carol Service Sunday 16 December, 6pm
Christmas Eve Carols around the Crib, 5pm
Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, 11pm
Christmas Day 10am Eucharist
Boxing Day: St Stephen's Day 10am Eucharist

Directory

Regular Services	Sundays	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.00am	Parish Eucharist (with Sunday School)
		6.00pm	Evensong
	Monday - Friday	9.15am	Morning Prayer
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer
	Monday	5.35pm	Celebration of the Eucharist
	Wednesday	12.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP)
Friday	8.00am	Celebration of the Eucharist	

Staff	The Vicar	The Revd Graham Buckle	020 7834 1300 vicar@sswsj.org
	Assistant Curate	The Revd Catherine Duce	curate@sswsj.org
	Parish Administrator	Sarah Crompton	020 7834 0950 parishoffice@sswsj.org
	Bursar	Alison Neilson	020 7834 0950 bursar@sswsj.org
	Director of Music	Rosemary Field	07712 354 384 rosemaryfield@rmfield.co.uk
	Verger (weekdays)	Andrew Crawford	andrew@sswsj.org
	Verger (weekends)	Anthony Sewell	020 7821 9254

Parish Officers	Churchwardens	Edward Barker	020 7233 9522
		Elizabeth Szewczyk	020 8800 3017
	Treasurer	Vacant	
	Stewardship Secretary	Steve Waldron	020 7828 5075

Other Contacts	Junior Church	Terry Harper	
	Safeguarding	Deneal Smith	safeguarding@sswsj.org
	Evidence Checker	Linda Brandon	evidencechecker@sswsj.org
	Children's Champion	Terry Harper	020 7828 8077
	St Stephen's Toddlers	Jen Adam	020 7834 0950
	MyanmarLink	Christina Barker	020 7233 9522
	Catering Committee	Elizabeth Szewczyk	020 8800 3017
	Tower Secretary (bells)	David Holdridge	david.holdridge@ntlworld.com
	Burdett-Coutts School	Rosette Dyer (Head Teacher)	020 7828 6790
	House Groups	Veronica Morris	020 7932 0445

PCC Members Graham Buckle (Vicar), Elizabeth Szewczyk (Church Warden), Edward Barker (Church Warden), Catherine Duce (Assistant Curate), Benjamin Anderson, Pam Ashley, Andrew Brown, Andrew Campbell, Jeremy Cavanagh, Ann Mills-Duggan, Comfort Fearon, Joanna Grimshaw, Tamara Katzenbach, Naomi Mbie, Anastassia Puttam, Suzanne Standing, Steve Waldron,

Church opening times

Monday - Friday
9am - 2pm
and during services

The Parish Office

Monday – Friday, 10am - 3pm
The Parish Office, St Stephen's House
Hide Place, SW1P 4NJ 020 7834 0950