

Newsletter for June 2014

Parish appointments

made at the first meeting of the new Parochial Church Council (PCC) on 13 May:

- ◆ Margaret Coulter as **deputy warden** (useful when our wardens are not available)
- ◆ Alex Nelson as **lay vice-chair** of the PCC
- ◆ Terry Bennett (Executive Head) and Darren Rubin (Head of School) from St Paul's School, to be **co-opted members**, maintaining our strong links with the school
- ◆ Rowena Loverance to be **minuting secretary** for our meetings: most secretarial business is done through our parish office, which will be the point of contact
- ◆ Alex Nelson to be our designated **Treasurer** for the year: we have a worthy successor to Richard Powell (see below) but for formal reasons cannot take up the post until 2015. Again, day-to-day financial work is done through the office; so the task for Alex and the Standing Committee generally will be to set and monitor our budget, and scrutinise all transactions
- ◆ **Electoral Roll Officer:** Wendy Ramanoop; **Gift Aid Recorder:** Fiona Lawrence;
- Churches Together in Stepney & Wapping:** Alex Nelson; **Safeguarding Officer:** Alex Nelson; **Children's Champion:** Susan Crocker [photos of both will be displayed in church];
- Health & Safety Officer:** Alex Nelson; **Fire Officer:** Allan Ramanoop
- ◆ **Standing Committee:** Rector (convenor), Wardens, Mark Griffiths and Margaret Coulter
- ◆ **Worship & Nurture Committee:** Alex Nelson (convenor), Annadale Ramanoop, Susan Crocker, Paul Kellaway and Rowena Loverance
- ◆ **Building Committee:** Alex Nelson (convenor), Allan Ramanoop, Mark Griffiths (with Fiona Lawrence in attendance)
- ◆ **Publicity Committee:** Allan Ramanoop (convenor), Phil Hogan, Cathy Mathew, Rowena Loverance, Paul Kellaway

When the federation of our school with St John on Bethnal Green takes effect in the autumn, Diana Woodbridge will be be our PCC nominee on the governing body (together with the Rector *ex officio*), and Kelly Anderson will continue on one or more St Paul's committees. Alex and Allan, our wardens, will be formally appointed to office on **9 June** at St Olave, Woodberry Down (the northernmost parish of the Stepney Area) - please pray for them.

Gone but not lost...

Richard Powell, with Elisa and Marta, moved to Blackheath last year; they've made links with their local church but we've been glad to welcome them back from time to time. Richard served us superbly as Treasurer for over ten years. With his legal as well as financial acumen he steered the parish (during its last vacancy) through the sale of Church House Wellclose Square and the conversion of what we now call 'Crypt West' into Green Gables Montessori school - providing us with reliable income, and insisting on a proper 'sinking fund' for future repairs. His annual budgets were always remarkably accurate, and he monitored our spending and kept a close eye on all that needed to be done at various stages through the financial year. (Richard was also Treasurer of the deanery synod, and more recently of the Samuel Butler Educational Foundation which works across the borough.) For all of that we miss him, and for his unassuming and consistently cheerful presence on Sundays and at parish events (not least as co-barbecuer and co-sommelier with Michael Page). We recently gave him a framed map (which pleased him, since he likes maps) showing the church and their home in Wapping.

A few weeks later we were able to do the same for **Michael Page** (in his case, showing the church and his flat on the City fringe); he too, since his marriage to Linda, has moved away and made links with his local church (where he has already been pressed into office as a deputy warden - his third stint in such a post, and one that we managed to avoid laying on him here), but they continue to return from time to time. A good friend in so many ways.

Looking further back, we have also given thanks for the life of Church Army officer Captain **Tom Heriot**, who served here for a few years in Fr Solomon's time. None of us were able to be at his funeral at Christ Church North Finchley, but Pauline Roberts, who spoke about his life on that occasion, has kindly provided us with a copy of what she said, which the Rector can provide to anyone interested - and we will add a note to our website about his life and ministry.

(We have also added a mention of a Czech-born priest, **Oldřich Trnka**, who lived for a while around that period in the Rectory with his daughter and grandson, and assisted at services. Please let us know if you have any memories of him.)

We've also remembered **Ian Thurston**, one-time curate at All Hallows by the Tower (one of the UK bases supporting the Anglican diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, where he served for a time), who inherited a flat in Turnour House and sometimes worshipped here; he took early retirement from ministry in Cheadle (Staffordshire) and died a few weeks ago.

May events

Church was full on 11 May for the Sangerstevne concert, which after some juggling of performers and venues brought here three remarkable and contrasting choirs for a Sunday afternoon concert:



the **Coro Polifonico Città di Sennori**, with repertoire including items reflecting the intriguing musical influences of their native Sardinia; **Turbelles Performing Arts**, from Redbridge, a small female black *a cappella* group, very



accomplished and a joy to listen to; and the **Veda Slovena Bulgarian Choir**, who sang a selection of items, high-spirited and melancholy by turns, in that country's distinctive musical idiom, complete with throat-singing and 'melismata' - even though most members of this London-based group are not actually from Bulgaria! All credit to Philip Norman for organising this event.



The following Saturday afternoon we held a modest but successful **May Fair**, from 3-5pm, for which Alex gathered together a great team to staff stalls, offering refreshments (much tea and cake was consumed), games (including by popular request Paul's rat in the drainpipe), bric-à-brac, raffles and tombola. Michael Page showed his culinary skills by guessing the weight of the cake to within a few grams. We were delighted that members of **Soyten Sen** joined us after their own sessions in church, and the adult choir sang two Tagore songs with great feeling. Here are some pictures:



Although this was not primarily a money-making event, we did raise about £30 for children's charities - which reminds us that we have not so far reported that on Marathon Sunday, 13 April, we made £270 for Richard House. Thanks to all who helped on both occasions.

Bells

We continue to welcome groups to ring our bells - ours is a popular tower because the bells are light and have good 'go' (as they say); and we were especially delighted that a band from the Middlesex County Association & London Diocesan Guild rang here on Monday 12 May to mark the 50th anniversary of the rededication of the church (and also the 40th anniversary, the previous day, of the birth of Yeun Shan Li, the conductor's wife). The technical details are as follows:

Monday, 12 May 2014 in 2h49 (06-0-09)

5040 Single Oxford Bob Triples, composed by [Richard B. Pullin](#)

1 Stephanie J Pattenden; 2 Mary E Gow; 3 Stephen J F Mitchell; 4 James W Belshaw; 5 Peter J Blight; 6 Edward J W Manley; 7 James White (C) 8 Janet E Archibald

First in the method: 2, 3, 5, 6. 100th together: 2, 3.

School news

You may have seen, on BBC breakfast television, that Jamie Oliver's **Food Revolution Day** was launched from our school, one of three with which he is working closely: a kitchen pod has been craned onto site, and it's all very exciting (though it was an exhausting day, with a 5.30am start, for staff and students). More news in due course about the federation with St John on Bethnal Green.

In brief

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Sylvie Taylor-James**, currently in Sierra Leone with some of her family for the funeral of her husband Henry, after a long illness - following other family bereavements.

Fr Ken Leech [right] celebrates the golden jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood at Holy Innocents' Fallowfield (in south Manchester) on the evening of Friday 13 June.

The **falcons** in the tower have hatched four chicks (two or three is more normal) and they will soon be fledged. Good news, despite the poo, feathers and bones on the forecourt! Pictures are available on request from the Rector.

