

The Parish of St George-in-the-East with St Paul
Newsletter for NOVEMBER 2012



Parish Office

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Rector

Canon Michael Ainsworth

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Revd Janina Ainsworth

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Allan Ramanoop & Alex Nelson

Your kingdom come

As the nights draw in and the leaves fall, the church keeps the last month of the Christian year as what some have called the 'kingdom season', with the focus on things unseen and on the communion of the living and the departed. As the *Common Worship* guidelines say,

No Christian is solitary. Through baptism we become members one of another in Christ, members of a company of saints whose mutual belonging transcends death.

*One family, we dwell in him, one Church, above, beneath;
though now divided by the stream, the narrow stream of death* (Charles Wesley)

Many lands have customs to mark this season. In Lutheran northern Europe, it is the time to go and light candles and lamps on family graves in quiet confidence. Elsewhere there are more macabre events, often with pagan origins, such as processions with skulls in Latin America. We have vestiges of this with Hallowe'en (the eve of All Hallows, or All Saints), and the church has to work hard to explain to children - egged on by commercialism and the media - that this is not a scary time, but a time when light shines in the darkness.

All Saints (remembering the famous servants of Christ - as we shall do at our Sunday all-age eucharist) and **All Souls** (remembering our own loved ones - whom we name, and for whom we light candles, at our evening eucharist) belong together, for all are called to be saints, the New Testament name for faithful Christians; there are no class distinctions in heaven. It is a time to remember with thanks - which in Christian terms means looking to the present and the future as well as the past: they come together in the eucharist, as we proclaim when we say *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again*.

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ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS 2012



ALL SOULS – Friday 2 November

Eucharist in Commemoration of the
Faithful Departed 7.30pm

*come and light a candle, as loved ones' names are read out
names can be added to the list in church,
or by phone on 020 7481 1345*

ALL SAINTS – Sunday 4 November

All-Age Parish Eucharist 10.15am

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REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 11 November 2012



10.15am Parish Eucharist
with Act of Remembrance
at the War Memorial 11.00am
President and Preacher
The Bishop of Stepney

Remembrance Sunday, far from going into decline as the number of veterans from two world wars reduces (as was assumed some years ago), remains as significant as ever. From the media, and many research projects, we know more than ever about what the heroes and heroines of the past had to face, and we share this with the rising generation. And our remembrance now includes the victims of more recent, and current, conflicts - all who have given their lives in the cause of peace.

This year **Bishop Adrian** of Stepney, our area bishop, already much-loved, will be leading our service - his first Sunday visit to the parish. Most of the councillors from our two local wards will join us in laying wreaths at the war memorial in the Gardens and reflecting on the specific contribution of local people, of all faiths and none (there was a significant Jewish presence in 1924 at the dedication of our memorial

<<http://www.stgite.org.uk/media/warmemorial.html>>. Please make this a priority: both to meet our Bishop, and to remember - to pray that our dis-membered world may yet find the things that make for its peace (Luke 19.42), and be drawn into greater unity.

The 'kingdom season' also includes Bonfire Night - *remember, remember the 5th of November* - though for good or ill few understand what is actually being remembered here, and anyway there are fireworks hereabouts most

nights between now and Christmas! The season climaxes on the last Sunday of the Christian year, now termed '**Christ the King**'. Although there are other points in the calendar when we celebrate our Lord's reign over all creation - notably Ascension Day - it is appropriate to claim the promises of his kingdom before we embark on next year's cycle - when Luke takes over from Mark as the lead gospel.

Coptic New Year - Nayrouz

Because we host a Coptic Orthodox congregation at St George's - the Orthodox London Mission of St George and St Paul the Hermit, who celebrate here the divine liturgy of St James (in English) each month on a Saturday, with a midweek prayer and study meeting - the Rector was privileged to be invited to join with large numbers of the Egyptian community at St Margaret Westminster for a service celebrating Nayrouz, the new year festival. This is an ancient observance, linked with a blessing of rivers (especially the Nile) but more specifically commemorating the martyrs and confessors. Because Coptic [which simply means Egyptian] Christians suffered severe persecutions in the time of emperor Diocletian, in the late 3rd century, they date their calendar 'A.M.' - 'in the year of the martyrs'. This year is therefore A.M. 1729 - which happens to tally with the date of the consecration of our church.

The service was a splendid affair. A large choir of deacons (with cymbals and triangle), some of them from their cathedral in Stevenage, led the singing, in Coptic and English. Bishop Angaelos ('general bishop' and national leader of their church in this country) preached, and Bishop Seraphim (who leads the worship at our church) assisted. A message from the Archbishop of Canterbury was read, and at the end there were excellent brief greetings from Alistair Burt MP (a foreign affairs minister) and John Bercow MP (Speaker of the House of Commons), both of whom spoke about the plight of Christians in the middle East.

On Sunday 4 November the 118th Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St Mark will be chosen, to succeed the late Pope Shenouda III who held this office for 41 years. Three candidates have been identified; their names will be laid on the altar in the cathedral in Cairo, and a child will choose one of them: a somewhat different process from the selection of the next Archbishop of Canterbury, which was also in our thoughts and prayers. Rowan has been a good and well-informed friend of our Oriental Orthodox brothers and sisters.

Harvest thanks

Whitechapel Mission thank the children and parents of St Paul's School, and the congregation of St George's, for our Harvest offering of tins and packages that will provide hot meals for local people in need. We also sent offerings to Christian Aid, earmarked for their work with the forest people of India (see last month's newsletter).

Condolences

We offer our prayers to the family of **Charlie Robert Christopher Birbeck**, stillborn at 20 weeks (burial 17 October); **Colin William King**, of Limehouse (funeral 19 October); and **Alan Reece** (Charles' father, whose funeral service was at Salisbury Cathedral).

Charitable giving

The December meeting of the Parochial Church Council will agree our end-of-year charitable donations from church funds, and we are gathering information for this. We know that many of our church members are personal supporters of local, national and international causes; if you would like us to consider including a particular project in our list, please let us know.

Some community meetings in November

Richard House Children's Hospice - which we have supported for many years - invite us to a conversation "Speaking from experience – voices inviting a language of sharing and caring together", on Tuesday 6 November, 12.30pm – 3pm at the hospice, Richard House Drive, Beckton, E16 3RG.

If you have an interest in the development of the News International site, please join the Rector and others at the next meeting of the **London Dock Community Liaison Group** at the Pennington Street Warehouse (on the corner with Virginia Street) on Tuesday 6 November at 6.30pm.

The next meeting of **network Wapping** - local people concerned for developments north and south of The Highway - is on Wednesday 7 November at 7.30pm, at Pollyanna.

Calendar for November

Fri 2 **All Souls Day - Commemoration of the Faithful Departed** Eucharist 7.30pm

Sat 3 Orthodox London Mission 9.30am

Sun 4 **All Saints Sunday** - All-Age Parish Eucharist 10.15am

Tue 6 Richard House 'Speaking from Experience', 12.30pm-3pm
London Dock Community Liaison Group 6.30pm

Thu 8 Standing Committee 8pm

Sun 11 **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** - Parish Eucharist 10.15am,
with Act of Remembrance 11am - the Bishop of Stepney

Tue 13 Building Committee 8pm

Thu 15 Orthodox London Mission 7.30pm

Sat 17 St Mary Bow 700th Anniversary service 7.30pm

Sun 18 **Second Sunday before Advent** - Parish Eucharist 10.15am

Thu 22 Deanery Synod, Christ Church Spitalfields 7.30pm

Sun 25 **Christ the King** - Parish Eucharist 10.15am

December

Sat 1 Orthodox London Mission 9.30am

Sun 2 **Advent Sunday** - All-Age Parish Eucharist and Holy Baptism

Mon 3 - Fri 7 **Players of St Peter** performances 6.30pm and 8.30pm
leaflets giving further details available in church

Sunday Readings

4 November	Revelation 21.1-6a; Matthew 5.1-12
11 November	Jonah 3.1-5,10; Hebrews 9.24-end; Mark 1.14-20
18 November	Daniel 12.1-3; Hebrews 10.11-14,19-25; Mark 13.1-8
25 November	Daniel 7.9-10,13-14; Revelation 14b-8; John 18.33-37
2 December	Jeremiah 33.14-16; Luke 21.25-36