

St Etheldreda with St Clements: The Parish Newsletter

Week beginning Sunday 28 July 2019 – Sixth Sunday after Trinity

The Parish newsletter is produced weekly to keep everyone informed about what is going on, past and future. We also welcome notes and articles from parishioners and others. If you know someone who would like to receive our newsletter please contact chuttonbar@aol.com

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Hammersmith Bridge Meeting,

Thursday at St Eth’s at 6.30pm



One of our local Members of Parliament, Greg Hands MP, has called a Public Meeting to be attended by representatives of Transport for London and London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham to raise questions and obtain information on behalf of the local community about the closure and restoration of Hammersmith Bridge. The meeting will be held in St Etheldreda’s Church on Thursday 1 August i.e. this coming Thursday at 6.30pm. Please

come and bring your neighbours. It is important that we participate in finding a solution to the current very difficult situation which is causing so much additional traffic on Fulham Palace Road

The Prudential “Ride for London” event, 3/4Augst



Take care: Cyclists will be about in large numbers this coming Sunday

Please check Transport for London website: <https://tfl.gov.uk/status-updates/major-works-and-events/ride-london-2019>

We don't know whether Egan Bernal, who triumphed in this year's Tour de France on Saturday, will be competing but hundreds of others will and there is also the general ride.

There will be road closures and very limited access over Putney Bridge. So it is probably a good idea to walk to church this Sunday

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Father Ross having departed on holiday last Thursday, we were delighted to welcome the Rev. Philip Welsh to officiate on Sunday. He is no longer a stranger having come several times during the last 12 months. He is also supporting Father Ross under the Diocesan scheme which provides every first time Vicar with an older more experienced priest to act as consultant. So he is developing strong connections with this Parish (his Canadian wife is Vicar of St Mary, The Boltons – the church with the Craigie Aitchison “church dog” stained glass window – see a previous Newsletter)

Sermon

No notes were available but your Editor scribbled as fast as she could during Father Philip's sermon from the pulpit and here is a summary.

Let us start with politics and then turn to prayer. It has been quite a week in national politics – a new government, a new prime minister, serious national issues requiring serious consideration and

action. Politics is an important part of how we organise our common life as a nation and as a community and there are many examples throughout the Bible, Old and New Testaments, of the operation of what we would call “politics” (Editor: politics with a small “p” is how anything ever happens from a tennis club to a climate change convention, from a school to a Parish lunch; – it is the process of communicating a plan of action and then bringing the people who are required to execute it and on whom it will take affect together in agreement so that the outcome is good for as many people as possible. Very difficult because there are big “P” problems: power, personality and partisanship, which can really get in the way !!)



Abraham pleads for Sodom and Gomorrah

The reading from Genesis shows God sending men to investigate the very serious trouble in Sodom and Gomorrah where people were behaving extraordinarily badly before God decides whether or not to take action against them. Abraham seeks to persuade God that the action he contemplates, destruction, may have consequences which would be unjust. Abraham is clever and successful – God will save the cities even if there are only 10 righteous people there because God is, in essence, just and merciful. Abraham is persistent in his “argument”, his prayer. In the reading from Paul’s letter to the Colossians we are told that God will “disarm” the rulers and authorities whose answer to every problem is the enforcement of their own laws which take people “*captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition*”. Instead Paul urges us to hold fast to Christ living our lives in him

In the Gospel the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray – but he doesn’t, instead he gives them a prayer. This is Luke’s record of the Lord’s Prayer “*Father, hallowed be thy name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.*” What Jesus does is show that prayer is learned by doing – by actually making the attempt to focus on God, to speak to God – as Abraham did – to further God’s kingdom here on earth

Written prayers are sometimes seen as cramping the spirit, narrowing the options of those who pray but they can in many cases liberate us by providing a path to follow in solidarity with all those who have prayed in the same words before us. The Lord’s Prayer shows us that we must begin with God and our praise and adoration of him and our calling down of his kingdom to this earth. Only later do we bring before him our many needs

What does “thy Kingdom come” mean? Not a place but an activity – God’s will brought to fruition on earth as in heaven. God’s politics. All Christians through the passport of baptism have dual citizenship – that which human politics grants us which is particular and that of God’s kingdom

which is universal. We recognise the world as we find it without cynicism and work for the world as God wants it to be without becoming disheartened

We must understand that the divisions and difficulties of this world will not be healed by economics or philosophy but by a recognition of our common humanity and co-operation with all people in giving ourselves away for the common good. We need to seek a deeper level of encounter with God and other people so that we can be filled with hope for the Kingdom to come on earth. The importance of continued ritual prayer is real although hard to define or describe. What we pray for matters but not as much as the fact that we pray

Flower of the Week



How and where did this waterlily come from? It took days to finally open and no one – no matter how brilliant a scientist – could predict when it would or make it open by asking it to do so. Sometimes God's creation astonishes in its perfection and its sudden arrival.

Do you remember the Newsletter item some months ago about St Thomas and the ancient Indian carving dedicated to him which included a lotus blossom? The Buddha is often depicted seated on a lotus blossom – floating between earth and heaven, earthly desire and Nirvana. The lotus is a form of waterlily. The plant is rooted in the mud and the stem with the bud grows upward through the murky water until it bursts through the surface where the insects skate on the surface tension – the meniscus – and then the bud gradually expands and, suddenly, there is the flower. A wonderful symbol of growth and change from one world to another. May our active prayers enable God's Kingdom to arrive with sudden beauty like the waterlily opening on the surface of the pond.

Tweet of the Week

This week it's **Facebook image of the week** from **Sarah Williamson Atkins**.

There she was ambling down the rue in [Basse-Normandie, France](#), whistling a merry tune, probably thinking about all those delicious delights the local patisserie, when she turns the corner, looks up and; *sacre blue!* I'm back in Fulham. Isn't that St Eth's?



My Favourite Hymn Verse

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 for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be;
but the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly.

Not for ever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would smite the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,
in our wanderings be our guide;
through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side

News and Action

Keys Missing! It has been discovered that the keys to the big cupboards numbered 10 and 12 in the Lower Hall at St Eths which are kept in the key safe in the Choir Vestry are missing. Please can whoever borrowed them return them to Martin (or put them back in the key safe) as soon as possible. We are trying to be more disciplined about keys so don't make it difficult by being careless

August is when the Parish gets the Paint Brushes and Rollers Out



No – we are not closed (even if we are not able to have Sunday Club and Playgroup in August and there will be no “bring and share” First Sunday lunch this month.

And, no – we are not hiring out the Lady Chapel as a Japanese style AirBnB – cool !!!



Whilst the nursery school is on its Summer holiday and so many people are away from Fulham taking a break in the country or at the seaside we are taking the opportunity of sprucing ourselves up. Local firm, Jess Sherry www.jesssherrypaintinganddecorating.co.uk are undertaking the redecoration of the Upper Hall and the whole of the ground floor at St Eths including both vestries, the Lower Hall, the kitchen, the toilets and the corridor and staircase. Have you ever seen the Vicar’s Vestry so tidy? Ready for the painters (the blue is called “Constellation” which sounds just right for St Etheldreda



We are extremely fortunate to have the Lady Chapel to use as an alternative vestry. And, yes, we still have a fire exit.

Reminder about St Eths associated Events in August

Fulham Opera - in Central London at the Greenwood Theatre (55 Weston Street, SE1 3RA, about 2 minutes walk from London Bridge station) on 9, 11, 14 and 17 August 2019

www.fulhamopera.com . They are performing **Wagner’s Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg** in a new production directed by Paul Higgins and conducted by Ben Woodward, their artistic director.



There is a new arrangement of the music for an orchestra of 18 instruments by Jonathan Finney
Please go and support them.

The “Bridge of Magpies” rehearsal was fascinating, the singer was wonderful and the dancers (from the Royal Ballet) very exciting – please go and watch the performance at The Place, 17 Duke’s Road, WC1H 9PY at 8.00pm on 7 August 2019. They will be using really fabulous original Chinese costumes and it is suitable for 8 years old and up – again, please go and support them. The producer, Sister Sarah, has also directed Fulham Opera in the past



Special Dates Ahead

- Harvest Festival and Lunch Sunday 6 October
- Parish Mission Day - Saturday 2 November. Those of you who will remember the Mission Day we had in January 2017 will know how interesting and lively it was and how much we have achieved since then. **watch this space for more detail**

First Communion – Second Course

After the success of the last course Father Ross has been contacted and asked whether he is able to prepare new candidates for First Communion. More information in September

Confirmation Classes

Father Ross is also willing to start a class if there is anyone who would wish to be prepared for Confirmation. The Bishop is in the Deanery at the end of the year which would be a good opportunity if you would like to be confirmed. Again, more information in September but please contact Father Ross on vicar@stethsfulham.org if you are interested

It’s Holiday Time – Special Arrangements

We look forward to welcoming the Rev. Will Levanway this coming Sunday 4 August for our 10.30am Eucharist – fortunately he lives on our side of Putney Bridge !! **There will be no First Sunday Lunch because the Lower Hall and Kitchen are being redecorated**

There will be no weekday services this week or next week but will resume on the return of Father Ross from holiday on Sunday 11 August and for the rest of August services will continue as normal

The Choir and the Playgroup are taking a break for the whole month of August – the last session of the Playgroup for the summer will take place on Friday 26 July at the normal time. Julia Agnello will be back for September when she starts as our very first Apprentice Youth Worker.

Dates ahead – for your diaries

Regular Events

Every Monday Evening – Bible Study Group at 7.00pm at Jean Ellwood’s home. Please telephone Jean on 020 8748 8234 for details.

Every Wednesday 9.30am at St Eths Lady Chapel – Prayer Group (NB no Prayer Group for next two weeks until return of Father Ross on Sunday 11 August – see above)

Every Friday 10.30am to 12 noon PlayGroup is led by Julia Agnello and takes place at St Etheldreda's Church. Excellent coffee and tea is provided and all parents/carers and their children aged three and under are very welcome. **Julia welcomes help so please go along and talk to her at St Eth's on Friday morning (NB no PlayGroup during August – starting again in September)**

Service Schedule

The programme of services and events for the three months to the end of August will be:

Regular Services

St Etheldreda's Church: Sunday (Eucharist) 10.30am, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (Morning Prayer) 9.30am and Thursday (Eucharist) 11.30am. **(NB no weekday services until Tuesday 13 August)**

St Clement's Church: Sunday (Evening Prayer) 6.00pm. A wonderful half hour to prepare for the week ahead

Sunday Club for children – Every Sunday during the Eucharist from 10.30am in the Lady Chapel at St Etheldreda's Church – all children 11 and under welcome. Lots of fun **(NB no Sunday Club during August)**

First Sundays – bring and share lunch for all comers on the first Sunday of every month **(NB not 4 August)** at 12 noon after the morning service throughout the year

A Warm Welcome and Grateful Gifts

The Welcoming Team Every Sunday morning someone has to fold the Pew Notes and put out the hymn books and service sheets and the children's pew bags ready for those who come. But that's not what it's all about. We hope that we are a hospitable Parish. We need to give a warm welcome and help to all those who come – and as the PCC reports, the service schedules show that more are coming. Contact: judysuebarrett@aol.com **Please join us.**

The Offertory Team The bread and wine needs to be carried up to the Sanctuary and the collection needs to be made every Sunday. Please lend your hands and feet and join in (you need to be a little bit older than 5....). Contact: lisajohnson95@live.co.uk **Please join us**

The Sanctuary Team We are still seeking people to be prepared to carry the chalice at services as well as people to carry the processional cross and the candles and to serve the altar. Full training provided. Contact irenedaley@uwclub.net **Please join us**

The Reading and Praying Team We need to add to the numbers of people who are willing to stand up and read in church or to lead our intercessions so that we have cover and variety. Contact ellwoodjean@yahoo.com **Please join us**

The Social Team Every First Sunday in the month we have a bring and share lunch and we have many other social events during the course of each year which require organisation and help. We are renowned for our hospitality and friendliness. Contact lisajohnson95@live.co.uk or sarah.williamsonatkins@gmail.com **Please join us with your ideas, your catering skills or just to help fetch and carry**

The Buildings and Garden Team Martin Chapple facilities@stethsfulham.org works every day to ensure that our buildings and gardens are at their best – light bulbs, leaks, major building project

management, tree grubbing up – he does it. He also needs help. We are very grateful to a few people who are much improving the tidiness and beauty of our churchyards at both St Eths and at St Clems but it would be good to have more **Please join us**

Parish Communications

The Parish Office and Father Ross Contact details are:

Landline 020 7736 3809 (with answering machine – please leave a message)

Website www.stethsfulham.org

Email vicar@stethsfulham.org

Mobile 07962274381 with voicemail - please leave a message

Post at The Vicarage, Doneraile Street, London SW6 6EL (NB there is no letterbox at St Eths)

Meetings – by appointment or at St Etheldreda's Church Fridays 2.00-4.00pm

Newsletter Contributions We are communicating more widely via our Newsletter and social media. (a web site, Facebook and Twitter). *Its success will depend on participation of as many of our congregation as possible.* The Newsletter, for instance, uses standard headings. We want to expand this. We hope to include your ideas, impressions about anything that you may deem relevant or interesting; even better if accompanied by a photograph. You might wish to offer a poem, a prayer, a saying, a piece of interesting information or to let us know your favourite hymn (or verse) and, perhaps, your reason for liking it. Why not start today? Simply email chuttonbar@aol.com with a copy to ken12bromfield@aol.com.

There's Community work going on and work to be done.

We are very keen to explore the possibilities for greater community engagement. Some ideas are already being discussed but if you are inspired to join in with ideas and action please contact Father Ross on vicar@stethsfulham.org

Other help wanted

(If you are involved with or want to support a project please get in touch)

Fulham Foodbank at St Matthew's, Wandsworth Bridge Road - they are still in need of supplies and volunteers. Look at their website for details www.hammersmithfulham.foodbank.org.uk

Homelessness Project St Andrew's, Fulham Fields provides food and clothing and a shower to about 100 homeless people every Saturday. They also help with advice and correspondence addresses to help people to get back into accommodation and work. Do get in touch and see if you can help www.standrewsfulham.com. **They are really needing toiletries (especially feminine sanitary products) and underclothing including T shirts**

Crosslight – train to be a debt counsellor at St Paul's, Hammersmith like Ken Bromfield and Nigel Stevenson already are. This is something we may start running in the Parish

Fulham Good Neighbours – This is an excellent local charity which has been in existence since 1966 based in Rosaline Road. The general idea is and has always been to promote local action to ensure the wellbeing of our neighbours here in Fulham. The website is www.fulhamgoodneighbours.com and the address is 70 Rosaline Road, SW6 7QT and the telephone number is 020 7385 8850. Office hours are 9 to 5 on weekdays.

Barons Court Project - 69 Talgarth Road W14 9DD a registered charity which supports people on low incomes who are vulnerable to mental ill health and/or homelessness. They are provided with space to rest, company and sometimes to stay and food and drink, companionship and advice and assistance www.baronscourtproject.org . Volunteers and donations in cash and kind always welcome

Fulham College - work experience and mentoring (see above in PCC Report) if you are interested in providing post GCSE work experience for Year 11 boys or in teaching them employment skills or mentoring individuals please get in touch with Father Ross vicar@stethsfulham.org

Giving and Volunteering

We are all (and always) so grateful to everyone who offers their time whether as servers, flower arrangers, welcomers and sidespeople, readers, cashiers, singers, maintenance group members, cooks, children's helpers, PCC members, Deanery Synod representatives

There is nothing like taking part for building our common life as Christians in this part of Fulham
Please give some thought to what you could do – stretch out and lend a hand. (for the kinds of things we do see News and Action section of the Newsletter above)

We are also dependent on the generosity of all those who give financially, whether regularly or occasionally. Our contribution to the Common Fund of the Diocese of London out of which the cost of our priests and Bishops and all the services which the Diocese provides are paid has just been agreed by the PCC for 2020 at £69,221 against a standard cost of £85,000. We have certainly had value from the Diocese over the last year and we would like to get to 100% of standard cost in the next few years. It is the Diocese which paid for the Vicarage works and which found Father Ross for us. Whether your contributions are large or small it goes to the work of this Parish. We do encourage all those who can to join the Planned Giving scheme either by putting cash or cheques in the envelopes or by direct debit through their bank (ask Martin Chapple facilities@stethsfulham.org or go on the website). We also urge those who are tax payers to sign Gift Aid forms. We try to run a tight ship and we make our Halls work for us **Please be generous**

Please make any offers of help to the Churchwardens (Martin Chapple and Caroline Grieve) or any member of our Parochial Church Council: Irene Daley, Ursula Chapple, Doreen Agyei, Simon Hatherell, Rebecca Hatherell, Benedictra Clarke, Margaret Lauder, Ken Bromfield, Stella Boateng, Lisa Johnson.

If you ever have any questions or want to talk about what is happening or make suggestions for what could be done please do not hesitate. Emails to chuttonbar@aol.com

IF YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO GET THE NEWSLETTER PLEASE ASK THEM TO CONTACT US on chuttonbar@aol.com