



From your Priest

Mayfair, as the name implies, is particularly pleasant in the summer, when it seems to take on a mantle of celebration. The Chapel makes a healthy contribution to the festivities. For the third year running, our Choir and community will contribute to the cultural festival, "Summer in the Square", in Grosvenor Square (20th July). We are working with our neighbours - the School, Library, and Farm Street Church – on the Summer Fair (5th July). We have a Chapel Outing set for 26th July to Painshill Park and planning a Pilgrimage to Canterbury for the autumn. All this set to a backdrop of continuing weekly worship and a good crop of Weddings and Baptisms to celebrate.

Weekly Services

Monday to Friday
12.30 pm Daily Prayer or
Said Eucharist (on Holy Days)

Thursday
8.00 am Said Eucharist
12.30 pm Said Eucharist

Sunday
11.00 am Sung Eucharist

Monthly Services ~ last Thursday of month

10.15 am Healing Eucharist of
the Guild of St Raphael
followed by coffee morning

Office opening hours

Monday to Friday
9.30 am – 4.30 pm

The Chapel is usually open
for visitors 8.00 am – 4.30 pm



The Confirmation of Rose and Jessica by Bishop Stephen Platten and more to come on 21st June!

It shows us that we are a church firmly planted and embedded in our local community. Post the General Election, as business returns to normal, we have an important role to play in our local community to witness to the fact that wealth accumulated for the self alone is no true wealth at all. In addition, we have a part to play in standing alongside small shopkeepers and local businesses, or long-standing residents who are increasingly feeling the pressure of the rise of global brands and luxury property developments. A balance needs to be struck if a local sense of community is to be secured for the future.

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At the heart of our life is our Sunday worship. Here we have an intimacy of fellowship and worship, edified by beautiful music. Our dedicated Director of Music, Richard Hobson, writes powerfully in this edition about the mission of our music. To sustain that tradition, we count not just on your compliments, but also your financial support. Canon Bill Ritson said of the intimacy of the Chapel when he was last here to preach: "What you have here needs to be talked about and shared with others." That is a job for each one of us. This is not to neglect the development of our weekday mission too: 85,000 people work in Mayfair, in comparison to 5,000 residents – hardly grounds for complacency on that front.

Once again, all of us are required to come together in a unified way to constructively further the mission of the Chapel. Most people join our Chapel congregation through our Occasional Offices (Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals). The care and after-care of people is not only a responsibility of the priest, but of the whole community. That is why people have suggested to me the setting up of a "Pastoral Care Group". We also need to show commitment to our small Sunday Club and work with children.



Fr Alan Piggot

I am delighted to announce that Fr Alan Piggot, formerly Priest-in-Charge of St Mary of Eton, Hackney Wick, and now a full-time researcher for the Methodist Church, has agreed to serve as Assistant Priest, on a self-supporting basis. Fr Alan is known to many of you already through his preaching and will strengthen pastoral care and teaching within the life of the Chapel.

Working in partnership with other organisations is something that is vital. This summer the Chapel will welcome an exhibition which is the result of a partnership between the Kid's Company (a charity that works with vulnerable young people), the School, the Royal Academy of Art, and the Grosvenor Estate. It is entitled, "The Book of Life: Journey, Thoughts, Memories", and is inspired by the work of Anselm Kiefer. Books will be created recording memories of life, either personal or general, using collage, drawing, and paint. The Chapel will offer the alcoves and part of the narthex as an exhibition space, with books mounted on stands. There will also be workshops in "Summer in the Square", that will feed back into the exhibition.

Lis Hasted, our Community and Events Officer, has other news about a new project for the autumn, "The Food Effect Project", which we hope will be a recipe for building community.

May our life together fare well this Mayfair summer! Fare forward, voyagers!

Every blessing

Fr Richard

Fabric Report

The most significant change to the interior of the Chapel in the last 100 years was completed before Easter with the installation of the new balustrade on the gallery in front of the organ. Health and Safety really prompted this as the remnants of the brass railing installed when the organ was rebuilt in 1930 have been causing concern for some time, and I even know one or two organists who were not keen on playing the instrument with such a slim barrier between them and the font below!



Organ and railings in 1932

The design takes into account all the regulations about height and width between the balusters, and has been designed by Daniel Benson of our architects Caroë & Partners. The balusters on the staircases up to the gallery provided inspiration and the carved ends help to soften the sudden drop to the height of the original gallery front.

Until 1908 the organ was in a higher gallery up against the ceiling, so the whole arrangement of the west end is relatively recent.



Newly installed balustrade

On a more mundane, but not less important level work is about to begin on securing the car bays on the south side. We have had much trouble in recent years with vehicles turning in the narrow street bending the old posts and making it impossible to keep the bays secure for those who hire them from us. Jane Jukes has done research and is now an expert on car bay barriers, and we hope the new arrangements will last a little longer than the last refurbishment.

The restoration of the west façade is becoming increasingly urgent and the fabric group will be pursuing this major project over the coming months for which Heritage Lottery funding might be available, though we will also have to contribute a significant sum. Anyone who would like to get involved in all this is invited to have a word!

Richard Hobson
Fabric Group

Greetings from Grace Church, New York City

Dear Friends at Grosvenor Chapel

Greetings to you from Grace Church in New York City. We are pleased to embark on a companion relationship with you as brokered between the Dioceses of London and New York.

By way of introduction, we are located at 10th and Broadway, just south of Union Square. A staff of 17 oversees a vital urban ministry of worship and music, Christian education for all ages, community outreach, and pastoral care. The core of the parish consists of some 300 families, of which 260 are pledging households. The building we call home is a stunning, 1846 Gothic-revival, landmark church designed by James Renwick, Jr. Architects have called it one of the seven buildings in Manhattan worth preserving at all costs. Of course, they have not been willing to share in shouldering those costs, so the burden and the blessing is on us!



I could go on and on, but as the old saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words. Let me share a few with you. The first shows the church spire rising above the flowering magnolia tree. Every spring three beautiful trees bloom in succession in the rectory garden, and the tourists go crazy with the cameras.



The second photo shows some of the Sunday School children with their parents celebrating what we call "The Easter Eve Walk." On the day before Easter they gather for activities and lessons that help them learn about the events of Holy Week. Here, they listen to one of our assisting priests tell them about the washing of feet on Maundy Thursday.

The third photo overleaf shows the high altar of the church at Easter.

To see more photos and learn more about Grace Church, visit our website at www.gracechurchnyc.org. Also, you can watch our entire Easter Day service online at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/live-demand-worship>.

We look forward to living into this new companion relationship, and hope that even as early as this summer we might enjoy some cross visitations between our members.

God's blessings to you all.

The Rev'd J Donald Waring
Rector



Mayfair Neighbourhood Forum

The Localism Act 2011 gave certain powers to local communities to form Neighbourhood Plans to have a greater say in developments in their area.

The Mayfair Neighbourhood Forum has now been set up and has an opportunity to positively affect future development plans for Mayfair. Local people can now have a say in the planning policy making process for their area and consultations have already started with residents, businesses and landowners.

The Forum needs to know what you think about the draft objectives. Has it got it right? Is it addressing the important issues? This is your chance to have a say before the policies start to be written.

Consultation Events:

3 and 17 June Mayfair Market 11.30 am – 2.30 pm

15 and 16 June Shepherd Market (times tbc)

30 June and 2 July Berkeley Square 11.30 am – 2.30 pm

6, 7 and 8 July Summer in the Square 11.30 am to 2.30 pm

www.mayfairforum.org



Music News

It is always good to receive compliments for a job well done, and many of you do tell me, or members of the choir, how important the music we sing at services is for you, and how much you appreciate it. One thing I rarely experience is adverse criticism, yet I cannot believe that everything is wonderful all the time. The choice of music which we sing is largely left to me, and the quality of the performance is very much my responsibility, along with the members of the choir.

I have written before about the fascinating task of choosing appropriate music for the services and many things have to be taken into account. The most obvious is the time of year and the season we are in. We are coming now to that long series of Sundays after Trinity where nothing much seems to happen, and here I do turn to a few guides which link particular pieces of music to the readings for the day. Not all of the suggestions will suit our resources or 'style' (a topic for another Newsletter perhaps), but every so often something does fit, and June 21st this year is a good example. The Gospel tells of Jesus joining his disciples in a boat and a great storm arising putting them in great danger. Jesus is asleep, but they wake him and he calms the storm, chiding them for their lack of faith.



Sure enough, there is a motet which tells this story by a fairly obscure renaissance composer Giaches de Wert (?1535 – 1596). He was born in Flanders but spent much of his career in Italy and was *maestro di cappella* to the Gonzaga family in Mantua. *Ascendente Jesu in naviculum* is a vivid piece of word setting from the very start where rising phrases illustrate Jesus' climbing into the boat and a rhythmically complex passage depicts the raging of the waves and the tossing of the vessel. The call to Jesus to save them builds from a single voice to the whole choir, and the great calm which settles spreads through the music at the end as the notes become longer and more sustained. That de Wert was also an accomplished composer of madrigals is clear from the way he sets the text here – as vivid as a great renaissance painting.



We sing a good deal of music from the 16th and 17th centuries. Not only is this repertoire traditionally associated with the Anglo-Catholic revival of which the Grosvenor Chapel was a part a hundred years ago, but it also suits a small vocal ensemble singing one voice to a part. Recent research has shown that much of this music, both from the English tradition and from abroad was sung in this way when it was written. Our idea of a large church choir of boys and men singing anthems is in many ways a product of that Oxford Movement revival in the 19th c. and it would have surprised William Byrd, for example, to hear his masses sung by such a choir, so we are certainly authentic here. When it comes to more recent music our small forces can be a problem.



I am keen that we should include more contemporary music in our repertoire, but those of you who know the works of John Tavener, James MacMillan, Arvo Pärt, or Morten Lauridsen for example, will probably be attracted by their 'spiritual' qualities (recently dubbed 'slow and dreary' by one critic), but their music often includes very sustained harmonies, often at the extremes of the range, which cannot be performed by a small group of singers, however expert. Similar problems can arise with the traditional Anglican repertoire for the last 150 years, conceived in terms of those large choirs and requiring the stamina and power of 30 or more voices in a large, sumptuous

acoustic, though we do indulge from time to time!



So thank you for your encouragement and kind comments, but do let me know if you think we get it wrong occasionally, and do feel free to make suggestions about our repertoire. The important thing is for the music to adorn and enrich the liturgy, to inspire and bring us closer to God, to comfort and excite and to take us somewhere beyond the words and the everyday. Quite a mission statement!



Richard Hobson
Director of Music

Community and Events

The year continues with a busy schedule working to put the Chapel on the map as a community hub, building relationships with local residents, community groups, hotels and businesses.



The Opera Gala in January was a great success. This was an upbeat and engaging evening as can be seen in these photographs! £5000 was raised towards the Chapel's outreach programme. Many thanks to all who helped to bring the event about, those who performed and to sponsors, donors and guests who supported the evening.



Hymns and Pimms

This monthly gathering is now established with a regular group from the local area who enjoy the convivial opportunity to stimulate memories through singing hymns and sharing experiences. We have enjoyed people's recollections of Remembrance Day, England and May Day, (does anyone fancy a trip to see the Well Dressing in Derbyshire?). We laughed sharing the Spanish New Year tradition of trying to eat an olive on each chime of midnight and contemplatively ate the Simnal cake at Easter. The key task is now to raise awareness of this event within the care agencies and dementia resources in Westminster.



Summer Fair Sunday 5th July 12.00 noon to 5.00 pm

The Chapel is collaborating again this year with Farm Street Church, St George's (Hanover Square) School and Mayfair Library to host this popular event. You are invited to contribute by helping to run a stall and donating produce for the bottle tombola and cake stall. We have invited the Mayfair Neighbourhood Forum, the Mayfair Community Choir and the Peabody Estate to have a presence with Chapel this year. All would be singers and in particular tenors, are encouraged to have a Pimm's and sign up for the Autumn term!



The Food Effect Project

Starting in the Autumn, the Chapel in conjunction with West End Community Trust, will be hosting a series of four culturally themed evenings. With the help of sponsors, the project already established in Soho, aims to build a sense of community in the city where people can find themselves isolated. It will be an opportunity to come together to share a meal and cultures. We have Italian, Ukranian, Arabic and Indian influences in the pipeline. If guests bring a dish, it can be recorded in the recipe book which will be produced at the end of the four evenings. Further details will follow in due course.

Lis Hasted
Community and Events Officer

THE SOUL AND THE CITY: Why sustainable social cohesion requires attention to spiritual welfare

In only two hundred years, the world has moved from one where a mere 5 % of the population lived in cities to one where now over 50% live in cities. This reflects the fact that the rise of cities is one of the most important changes that has come with development and the dramatic increase in prosperity that has followed the industrial revolution.

Just over one hundred years ago there was probably only one city in the world with a population of more than a million, namely Beijing, whereas there are now more than 450. Together, these cities host almost a quarter of the world's population. This means that they bring together, in great concentration, both people and wealth.



Fr Alistair Macdonald-Radcliff

Within this broad trend there is, however, another one that is even more striking, namely the rise, over the last twenty five years, of megacities that cover large areas in an unbroken urban sprawl. These megacities make an interesting list of the well known and not so well known: starting with Tokyo, which hosts 37.6m, followed by Jakarta (30m), Delhi (24.1m), Seoul (23m) and Manila (22.7m) and the rather less well known Guangzhou-Foshan (18.3m) in China and Nagoya (10.2m) in Japan not to mention

Cairo in Egypt with an uncertain population of perhaps 16 m. There is every indication that these trends will continue with another 10 or so mega-cities forming over the coming decade.



London is the smallest of the 30 mega-cities, with an urban footprint overall that is home to more than 10.15 m (when not just Greater London is included but a swathe of the home counties' commuter belt) while Paris has 10.98m when its host region is included. However, London's population has grown at a much faster rate than any other mega-city in the developed world – more than 10% over the past decade, compared with 8% for Paris, 6% for Los Angeles and just 3% for New York. It is of course this continuing inward population move that has driven the ever-rising house prices which is transforming the social mix in many areas of the city. Long term residents of such areas as Mayfair find themselves increasingly surrounded by more recent arrivals and vast wealth while the growth of investment ownership means that many properties are empty for much of the year. All of this puts pressure on the sense of community previously enjoyed. Disparities of wealth and lifestyle, not to mention culture and religion, may threaten to undermine social cohesion. Urbanization can be seen to intensify divisions of all kinds and not just between labour and knowledge.

While enhanced returns to scale and specialisation can be an economic good, as

when it promotes trade that fuels progress and increases the “returns to being smart”* for those with education and engaged in enterprise, there can be down sides too, that follow from alienation which can possibly even cause social unrest from those who feel excluded.



Perhaps history has its lessons here for, in one sense, even if the scale is quite different, the phenomenon of a rise in importance of urban life and cities is not new. One has only to think of Ancient Greece where, after the fall of the Mycenaean civilization an urbanization process began in the 8th century BC which eventually led to the formation of over 1000 cities or *poleis*. While these Greek city states differed in many particulars they mostly had one common feature, this was that at the heart of the urban area was a sacred space with one or more temples. This reflected the central place, both literally and conceptually, of religion in the lives of their citizens and the integration of religion into the public sphere.

Religion cannot be authentic when merely used for social ends, yet it is surely vital that we recognise its capacity to bring people together and also to reach out to all levels of society including those at its margins.

All this points to urbanization, within a context of wider globalization, as something fraught with risks as well as opportunities. It is widely recognised that successful cities need to get their infrastructure right if they are not to have horrendous transport and

other problems such as rising crime, educational failure and social upheaval. In parallel it is vital also that we attend to our moral and spiritual infrastructure as well if cities are to be able to hold together the many and varied peoples and communities that live within them.

London thus far has been a good example of how a mega-city drives growth, progress, jobs and prosperity in a wider national economy. But that is not inevitably true of every mega-city as the relative if largely unnoticed economic decline of New York and Los Angeles attest and Baltimore most recently has illustrated most dramatically and negatively. While it may be true to say that the rising city is “where the action lies” that action does not always have to be positive. Cities no less than people need to attend to their souls to be truly well and if we fail as Camus observed the city may become “...the only desert within our means” (*Notebooks 1935-1942*, entry for March 1940.)



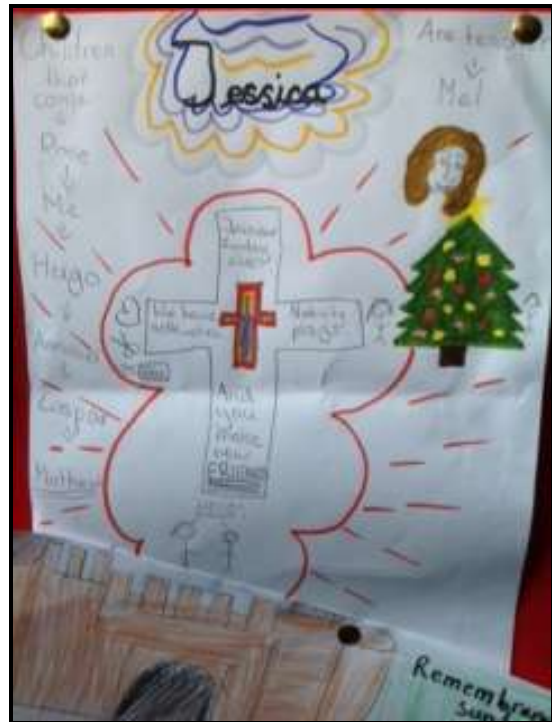
(*cf. Glaeser: *The Triumph of Cities*, and also, *The Problem with Mega-Cities*, by Joel Kotkin and colleagues, published by Chapman University's Centre for Demographics and Policy and also the report from McKinsey regarding New York and California).

Fr Alistair Macdonald-Radcliff

Sunday Club



The Sunday Club for children meets during the 11.00 am Sunday Eucharist in term time, with an emphasis on building bonds of friendship, fun and fellowship, as well as learning about Christian life and teaching. The Club caters for children aged 3 to 12 years.



Children's Serving Team

If you would like your child(ren) to serve as an acolyte during the Sunday Eucharist, please let Fr Richard know if they would like to learn to serve. It is the idea that the children's serving team will serve two or three times a term.



St George's Day Service for school and local community

Service Details

Sunday 24th May

Pentecost

Preacher: The Rev'd Dr Richard Fermer
Cecilia McDowall Missa Brevis (*Tongues of Fire*)

Thomas Tallis Loquebantur variis linguis
Nicholas de Grigny Dialogue (Veni creator)

Sunday 31st May

Trinity Sunday

Preacher: The Rev'd Dr Richard Fermer
C. V. Stanford Communion Service in C & F
Kenneth Leighton A Hymn to the Trinity
J. S. Bach Fugue in E flat BWV 552

Sunday 7th June

The First Sunday after Trinity

Preacher: The Rev'd Dr Richard Fermer
G. P. da Palestrina Missa Pater noster
Thomas Tallis O sacrum convivium
Dietrich Buxtehude Praeludium in A minor

Sunday 14th June

The Second Sunday after Trinity

Preacher: The Rev'd Dr Richard Fermer
Claudio Monteverdi Mass for Four Voices
Elizabeth Poston Jesus Christ, the apple tree
J. S. Bach Fantasia in G minor

Sunday 21st June

The Third Sunday after Trinity

Preacher: Bishop Peter Wheatley
T. L. da Victoria Missa trahe me post te
Giaches de Wert Ascendente Jesus in naviculum
J. S. Bach Prelude & Fugue in G major BWV 541

Sunday 28th June

The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Preacher: The Rev'd Dr Richard Fermer
Joseph Haydn Missa S Johannes de Deo
William Byrd Siderum rector
John Stanley Voluntary in G major Op.7 no.9

Sunday 5th July

The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Preacher: The Rev'd Dr Richard Fermer
Benjamin Britten Missa Brevis
Ernest Bullock Give us the wings of faith
Percy Whitlock Exultemus

Sunday 12th July

The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Preacher: The Rev'd Dr Richard Fermer
William Byrd Mass for Four Voices
G. P. da Palestrina Fuit homo missus a Deo
J.S.Bach Wir glauben all' an einen Gott BWV 680

Sunday 19th July

The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Preacher: The Rev'd Dr Richard Fermer
W. A. Mozart Spatzenmesse K220
Henry Purcell O God, thou art my God
Anon Voluntary for Double Organ

Sunday 26th July

The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Preacher: The Rev'd Dr Richard Fermer
Orlandus Lassus Missa super Amor ecco colei
Claudio Monteverdi Adoramus te
J. S. Bach Toccata & Fugue in D minor BWV 565

Choir holiday during August. The Eucharist is celebrated with hymns and organ music. Choral services resume on Sunday 6th September.

Programme of Events May to July 2015

May

Tuesday 26th May: **“Hymns and Pimms”**
3.00 pm - 4.30 pm. Hymn singing and refreshments in the Chapel. For those living with Dementia and their carers.

Thursday 28th May: **Coffee morning**
11.00 am.

June

Sunday 14th June: a **Chapel lunch** during which Kritos Papadopoulos will be speaking about the forthcoming exhibition ‘The Book of Life’.

17th June to 17th July: **‘The Book of Life’ exhibition** of books and art at Grosvenor Chapel by the children of The Kids Company Charity and St George’s School. Opening ceremony 6.30 pm on Wednesday 17th June in the Chapel.

Saturday 20th June: **Marriage Preparation Course**.

Sunday 21st June: 11.00 am **Sung Eucharist with Confirmation** by Bishop Peter Wheatley.

Thursday 25th June: **Coffee morning**
11.00 am.

Tuesday 30th June: **“Hymns and Pimms”**
3.00 pm - 4.30 pm. Hymn singing and refreshments in the Chapel. For those living with Dementia and their carers.

July

Sunday 5th July: **The Summer Fair**. The Chapel in conjunction with Farm Street, the Friends of St George’s School and Mayfair Library host this popular summer event 12.00 noon to 5.00 pm.

Sunday 12th July: a **Chapel lunch** with a talk and demonstration of the organ by Richard Hobson and Chris Strange entitled ‘A view from the console’.

Monday 20th July in the evening. The Chapel Choir and readers participate in **‘Summer in the Square’** in Grosvenor Square.

Sunday 26th July: A Chapel outing to **Painshill Park** in Surrey.

Tuesday 28th July: **“Hymns and Pimms”**
3.00 pm - 4.30 pm. Hymn singing and refreshments in the Chapel. For those living with Dementia and their carers.

Thursday 30th July: **Coffee morning**
11.00 am.



Mayfair Organ Concerts

*A weekly lunchtime concert at
Grosvenor Chapel
South Audley Street
or St George's Church
Hanover Square
London W1*

*Tuesdays 1.10 pm – 1.50 pm
Admission free. Retiring collection.*

26th May Grosvenor Chapel
Richard Hobson with
Moyra Montagu (oboe)
Henry Purcell, Joseph Rheinberger, J.S.Bach

2nd June St George's
Jonathan Bunney (St Giles in the Fields)
Bach, Purcell, Messiaen, Hagen, Eben



9th June Grosvenor Chapel
Robin Walker (Assistant Director of Music,
St George's, Hanover Square)
Sweelinck, Scheidt, Tunder, Bruhns

16th June St George's
No recital

23rd June Grosvenor Chapel
Charles Andrews
(Associate Director of Music, All Saints
Margaret Street)
Lloyd Webber, Bach, Mendelssohn

30th June St George's
Jemima Stephenson
(St Michael's, Cornhill)
Bach, Reger, Muhly, Mendelssohn

7th July Grosvenor Chapel
John Kitchen
(Edinburgh City & University)
*S.Wesley, Russell, Praetorius, J.S.Bach,
Pachelbel*

14th July St George's
Paul Rosoman
(Wellington, New Zealand)
*Braga, Buxtehude, Pachelbel, Bossi, Peeters,
Zwart*

21st July Grosvenor Chapel
Richard Hobson (Grosvenor Chapel)
de Grigny, Bach, Boëllmann

28th July St George's
Colin Andrews
(Indiana University USA)
Bach, Messiaen



Grosvenor Chapel

Unafraid to Reason, Unashamed to Adore

Chapel Directory

Priest in Charge

The Rev'd Dr Richard Fermer

Telephone: 07734 947362 Email: Richard.Fermer@grosvenorchapel.org.uk

Chapel Wardens

Jane Jukes and Gavin Arendt

Community and Events Officer (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)

Lis Hasted

Email: Lis.Hasted@grosvenorchapel.org.uk

Chapel Administrator (Monday and Friday)

Fiona Andrews

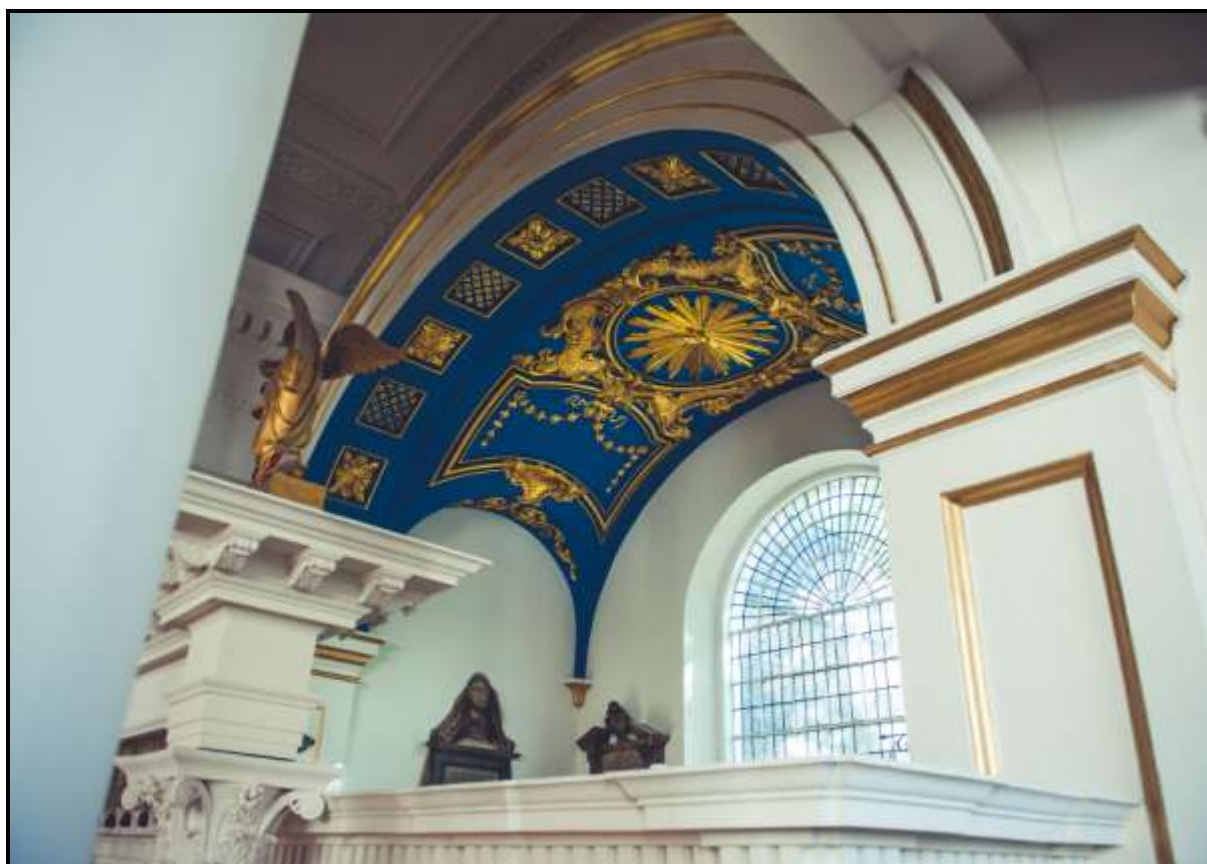
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