



Grosvenor Chapel

MICHAELMAS 2018 NEWSLETTER

GROSVENOR CHAPEL



Weekly Services

Monday to Wednesday
12.30 pm Daily Prayer /
Said Eucharist

Thursday
8.00 am Said Eucharist

Friday
8:30 am Said Eucharist
9:15 am St George School
collective worship
(in term-time)

Sunday
11.00 am Sung Eucharist with
the Grosvenor Chapel Choir

Monthly Events/ Services

Tuesday (see the website):
11.00 am Coffee morning
12.30 pm Healing Mass, the
Guild of St Raphael

“Hymns & Pimms”
(for those living with dementia)
last Tuesday of the month,
3 – 4.30 pm

Office opening hours

Monday to Friday
9.00 am – 5.00 pm

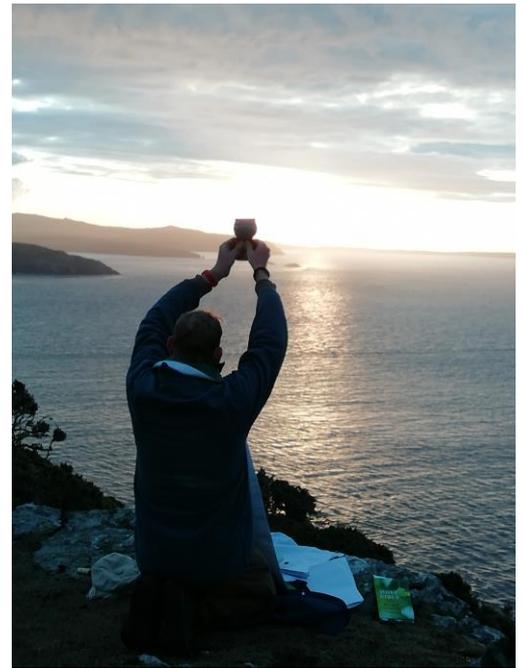
The Chapel is usually open for
visitors 8.00 am – 5.30 pm

From your Priest

Dear Friends,

Something quite remarkable happened over the summer in the life of the Chapel! A group of eleven went on Pilgrimage to a pretty deserted, if not desert island, Bardsey Island, off the north-west coast of Wales.

We met three times a day for worship, with spiritual orientation at the beginning of the day and time for a post-dinner group reflection at the end of the day. There were few creature comforts: no electricity, no bathrooms, only a compost toilet! We were consoled by exceptionally good weather. Nonetheless, we had to be organised: we were to cook in teams for the whole group. We agreed to respect the silence of the island and cultivated prayerful silence amongst us as much as we could, as well as having the freedom of exchange, and times of social joy and hilarity. All this we did for a whole week: a long time for a retreat, especially for those who had never been on one before, and yet, no-one, I think, counted time. The Chaplain-in-Residence on the island, said to me that she took her hat off to us for it was



was quite unusual to find a parish group on the island, more common were individuals or families. I take my hat off to my fellow pilgrims, who each one contributed spiritually, relationally and practically to what was to be a very blessed and precious time together.

It is easy for the wider church to sideline such an experience as a one-off event of a small group, a “holy club”. But this is not to take seriously both the power of prayer, and also the force of intentional Christian living. It seems to me that what the experience points to is that the Chapel can be more than just a

beautiful building, with good music and friendly post-service fellowship - not that any of these ingredients are insignificant as part of the whole. The Chapel can be a place for real spiritual adventure and growth in the spirit.

We do face some significant challenges. First, our Central London setting means that many struggle with time commitments and often with regular attendance. Our congregation appears ever increasingly eclectic – something to be celebrated! It is made up of some regulars, who have been here for many years, but also people who come and go and return, and plenty of young couples and families who need to be encouraged in the faith. It is sometimes quite difficult to hold this community together and encourage us all to be more adventurous in our faith and do so corporately and not just as individuals, with little commitment to our common life as a church together.

One good sign is the preparation that is under way for our Confirmation Service on 18th November 2018, to be led by our new bishop, Dame Sarah Mullally. Usually we have a mixture of teenagers and adults as confirmands. This year we have mainly adults of various ages, backgrounds and nationalities. In this, we are reflecting our surroundings here in the centre of London. Confirmation places “discipleship” at the heart of what the Church is about. As Rowan Williams says in his book “Being Disciples” (2016): “Discipleship is about how we live; not just the decisions we make, not just the things we believe, but a state of being”. Drawing on St John’s Gospel, he talks of discipleship as learning to “stay and abide with the Master”, Christ Jesus. Above all else this is what Fr Alan and I are trying to cultivate with our confirmands, to learn to “stay and abide with Jesus”, in a continuing relationship: “to travel to where the Master is, to follow where the



Master goes”, not in mindless fanaticism, but prayerful discernment and devotion. The other challenge that the Chapel faces is again related to faith, coherence, unity and the boldness of discipleship. If we as a Chapel are not to be blown away either by the winds of secularism that sweep our land – look at the fate of St Mark’s on North Audley Street to be reopened this year as a centre for luxury restaurants and boutiques – or monochromatic “brand” versions of Christianity, where everyone is expected to think and worship alike, to the exclusion of what seems “other”, then we need to be bolder. As we seek to raise funds for the urgent task of redecorating the exterior of the Chapel, we need to come up with a more holistic and compelling vision for the whole site, Chapel and back rooms, as being a Christian centre serving our local community. In order to give us money, the Heritage Lottery Fund or local donors want to know that we are doing the works for more than just ourselves. This is, of course, a truly Christian principle, as Archbishop William Temple said, “The Church is the only institution that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not its members.” To do this we need to come together, in a common life and effort, and to have the confidence to

release the energies of members of the congregation who can help us take things forward. Before all else, as disciples of Christ, we need to learn together to stay and abide with our Master, and as Rowan Williams writes, "in the Gospels, where the Master goes is very frequently not where we would have thought of going, or would have wanted to go." Let us take those adventurous steps together.

*In Christ,
Fr Richard*



Lazarus Rising
By Felicity Schultz
Member of the Mayfair Community Choir

Here is the story of a miracle
That inspired Michelangelo and
Sebastiano
To make their great painting
Jesus, Lazarus and his sisters
Are in the foreground
But who, is the distant figure in white
Approaching the tree by the tomb
The crowd, all painted in richly coloured
and flowing robes
That some hold to their noses
To keep the grave-stench out
While others talk among themselves
Doubting or believing
The miracle they are witness to
Under a blue sky and white clouds
Are sunlit palaces on the hillside
A bridge over a river, mirrored in the
water
A path leading down to the river bank
Where a group of people stand
Women bend to do their washing
All these elements now unite
In Christ's deep sigh
And mighty call from death
Lazarus rising
Shock-eyed and staring
Eternal symbol of our agony
Capable hands unwind the burial shroud
He grips the shroud, to pull it from his
shoulder
A woman kneels
The other turns away
And our eyes see the glory
Of their brother, now redeemed
To drink the flowing life-water
From the deep, clear well

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Confirm, O Lord....

We are looking forward to Bishop Sarah's first official visit to the Chapel on Sunday 18

November, when she will preside at our Eucharist and confirm nine of our number in the Christian faith. We welcome as many who are able to share in that special occasion – our bishop being the living symbol of the unity we have as Christians throughout the world and throughout the ages, expressed in word and in sacrament. As she breaks bread to share in the body of Christ, we will be reminded that though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread. We will say those words as the body of Christ, and individually members of it (1 Corinthians 12.27).

It will be a poignant moment when the nine lead us up to the altar to receive the body of Christ, having made, some moments earlier, their own individual affirmation that they are glad to be part of this body, and that this is how they intend to celebrate it. All of us became part of Christ's body when we were baptised as Christians and received the gift of Christ's Holy Spirit. Many of us were too young to remember this, but we oughtn't to forget the moment when a bishop, calling us by

name, lays hands on us with the words Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit. Let us pray that this will be an unforgettable moment for our nine confirmation candidates, when this happens to them before they proceed to Holy Communion.

For their part, the candidates will have been preparing for such an occasion – in fact, this has begun already. From July, they have been meeting together in classes to explore the Christian faith to which they have already been called, and in which they now wish to be confirmed. The classes take us through the story of how God's people have been called to faith – through the patriarchs, the prophets, and through Jesus Christ our Lord – and what this means for our lives as Christians today. We use the bible, a course-book, visual aids, and a lot of lively reflection on our own experience as we grapple with prayer, witness, worship, giving, repentance, reconciliation and service.

This year's classes have been particularly special because of the differing backgrounds the candidates have come from. It has been great to share perspectives from teenagers, parents, men, women, those born in Britain, those born abroad, those with a Christian upbringing, those with another faith background, workers and students in various fields – and all this among a relatively small group! If you are going to be attending the Chapel between now and November, get to know our candidates – whose names you can find out easily enough – and share some of your own time with them, as you meet in the service or at events or refreshments. Come November, we'll all be singing off the same hymn-sheet, and declaring the same faith in the words of the creed.

Fr Alan Piggot

TREASURER'S REPORT



I would like to begin by thanking you all for your continued support and contribution to the ongoing costs of Chapel life. Many of you give generously during our services, and others have taken the much-appreciated step of making your contributions through regular Standing Order payments. This not only allows for more certainty in the planning of Chapel finances, but also reduces the burden of counting and manually processing the information from the yellow Gift Aid envelopes each week. Standing Order / Banker's Order forms can be found at the back of the Chapel, and I urge all of you to give prayerful consideration to committing to a regular contribution.

As well as providing for the operation of the Chapel's regular services (including our professional choir and organist, heating, cleaning and lighting bills) donations from you, our congregation, also support the common life of the Diocese of London through our Common Fund contribution. Each year, Grosvenor Chapel is asked to pay what it can to allow

our Church to maintain ministry and enable mission in all parts of the Diocese. The Common Fund provides, amongst other things, for the cost of a priest in nearly every parish – their wages, housing and training, as well as the training of future clergy.

For some time, the Diocese has been encouraging Grosvenor Chapel to increase its annual payment to the Common Fund to a level that fully covers our own such costs – in effect to become “self-sufficient”. The Grosvenor Chapel Committee has approved a plan to increase our payments over the coming 4 years with the aim of making a full costs contribution by 2022 and as such we have voted to increasing our contribution by 5% compared to last year. We are ambitious in achieving this, but only with increased giving from our congregation will we be able support the Diocese in continuing to fund work and worship in all areas of London, including those parishes who do not have the financial resources to meet the costs themselves.

The Diocese of London thanks you for sustaining the mission of the Church in word and action; for your prayers; for helping to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to each new generation.

Oliver Chubb

Reflections on One Year at the Grosvenor Chapel

Has it really already been a year? In fact I first set foot in Grosvenor Chapel some 15 or so years ago when, as churchwarden of St Anne's Soho, I visited on a Sunday morning as part of an parish twinning-initiative that was then flavour of the month. I recall that there



was rather more incense at the Chapel and more of the women were wearing pearls than at St Anne's (though not as many of the men!). What was similar, though, was the warmth of the welcome. 15 years on I've experienced that warmth once again although not, of course, the warmth of the Chapel's boiler.

I've been struck by the ambition of the Chapel. Committing to a regular Thursday lunch-club was a big step to take as was launching the Hymns and Pimms programme. Over the past year there has also been the Entertaining Angels evening and the pilgrimage to Bardsey. That's quite a lot for a relatively small Church community. The opportunities for spiritual growth that the Chapel offers are also notable, in particular, the occasional post-service discussions over lunch. "Pancakes and penitence" was particularly memorable, especially the pancakes.

Coming to work at the Chapel was a big change for me. After many years of writing university strategies, developing and reviewing policies, negotiating budgets etc. etc. I was looking for an opportunity to become involved in and to

contribute to a community-oriented organisation. I have enjoyed being given the chance to lead intercessions on Sunday and, as part of my work, to build relationships with people who have been hiring the Chapel's rooms for many years and also establishing new relationships. It has struck me that there is a lot of love in those relationships.

Finally, and not least, working with the rest of Chapel team has been a real pleasure. As we all work "bits and pieces" of hours (with the exception, of course, of Fr Richard) we don't see each other that often. Notwithstanding this, we all know what we are each doing and we all collaborate to make sure that things at the Chapel run smoothly (generally!) We also support each other in dealing with the idiosyncrasies that are evident in one form or another in every Church community, not least the time it can sometimes take to get things done.

But those are minor quibbles. Working at the Chapel has lived up to every hope that I had before I arrived. Thank you for making me feel at home so quickly.

Nigel Percival
Hiring and site manager

Hymns and Pimms

The Chapel's group for people living with dementia and their carers has enjoyed a busy and enjoyable first half of the year. The group now averages between 15 and 22 guests at sessions held on the last Tuesday in the month.

The theme of the topic for discussion changes each month and links in to either current events, the church year or a theme relating to the life of a guest.



The topics are supported by props engaging with taste, smell, touch and visual to re-ignite memories.

Afternoon tea is then served along with Pimms to offer a sociable occasion for all guests and also a time for the carers to share their concerns.

Some memorable themes have been Big Birthdays celebrations including those of the RAF Centenary and the NHS at 70. Penelope Craig has written a travel diary spanning 30 years. Reading extracts from her book 'Seize the Day' took us to Africa, Alaska and India.

Sadly, we have lost two members this year. May Nachiko Brown and Margot Walters rest in peace. It was always a pleasure to have their company and that of their families at the meetings. They will be missed.

We celebrate the support of the volunteers whose invaluable help month by month helps the event to run smoothly and a bbq in recognition of this was enjoyed in summer.

The publicity for the group is supported by Kathryn Gilfoy at Resonate Art, Westminster's initiative for people living with dementia, Terezie Holmanova of the

Westminster Memory Cafés and Mandy Andrews, now at Age UK Kensington and Chelsea. I am grateful for the opportunity to go along to the Memory Cafés to talk about the event and invite people along to it.

The care agencies Home Instead Westminster and City of London and Bluebird Care Westminster and City of London support Hymns and Pimms and some of their clients are regular visitors.

Bluebird Care and Hymns and Pimms are joining together to host a Tea Time Concert as part of Silver Sunday on 7th October. Silver Sunday is an annual day of fun and free activities for older people across the UK. Led by 'The Sir Simon Milton Foundation' it celebrates the value and knowledge they contribute to our communities whilst combating loneliness and isolation. www.silversunday.org.uk. Do please see the details on the poster below and invite along those whom you think might enjoy a sociable afternoon of music, tea and cakes.



Lis Hasted
Hymns and Pimms Co-Ordinator

Our New Organ Scholar



Oscar Lyle Pérez will succeed Jacob Collins as our new Champniss Organ Scholar during September.

He will be assisting Richard Hobson at chapel services and acting as accompanist to the Mayfair Community Choir. The scholarship is made possible by a generous grant from the Champniss Foundation, a trust set up by the family of Alfred Champniss, our former honorary assistant organist.

Oscar started to learn the organ at the age of ten with his first piano teacher, Ben Saul, Director of Music at St Thomas' Church in Canterbury, and continued his classes on the Father Willis organ in the Chapel at the Faversham Almshouses. He later studied with Keith Moxon, organist at St Catherine's Church in Faversham, and passed the ABRSM Grade 8 in both organ and piano with Distinction. After meeting Tom Bell, now Director of the Northern Region of the Royal College of Organists, at an RCO "The Organ Scholar Experience" course, he began to have occasional classes with him under the RCO Young Organists programme in 2016.

Since January 2014, has combined his studies at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in Faversham with church music every weekend, as he has played for Sunday services, weddings, baptisms, and Christmas services in various different churches in Faversham, Davington, Ospringe, Herne Bay, and Canterbury. In September 2016 he was appointed Organ Scholar at St Mary-the-Virgin in Dover, as well as continuing to act as assistant organist at St Catherine's and the Faversham Almshouses Chapel. Oscar has attended the Oundle for Organists course, and also several organ and conducting courses organised by the Royal College of Organists in London, Oxford, and Cambridge. In August 2017, he attended the Eton Choral Course in Cambridge as organist.

He has been extending his repertoire by giving recitals since 2014, at the Almshouses Chapel and St Catherine's in Faversham, at St Mary's in Dover and this year, for the first time, at Holy Trinity Church in Folkestone. He has taken an active part in the musical scene in Faversham, whether playing the piano for recitals in the Assembly Rooms, singing as a member of the Faversham Voices, or accompanying the Faversham Choral Society on the organ at their Christmas Concert in 2016 at St Mary's.

From September 2018 he will be reading Economics at UCL, including a year abroad studying in Nancy, France. He is keen on languages, and apart from speaking both English and Spanish, he is building up his French and German. He enjoys reading and windsurfing and, yes, watching TV series on the internet.

Oscar is looking forward to developing as an organist while he is part of the Grosvenor Chapel community, and is preparing for the Associate of the Royal College of Organists diploma.

Music at the Chapel



It is not often that we have the opportunity to work with one of the most distinguished British contemporary composers. That we were able to collaborate twice with Sir James MacMillan this year was, therefore, a special privilege. Sir James visited the Chapel to take part in the Lent Course in March and his talk was preceded by a service of Vespers in which we sang his 'St Patrick's Magnificat and a short motet *'Think of how God loves you'*. Both of these pieces were conducted by the composer. Sir James visited us again on Sunday May 13th for the Eucharist at which the tympanum sculpture which completes the new doors at the west end was dedicated, and for which Gina Goldhammer, in memory of whose husband the doors have been created, commissioned a new motet by Sir James. *"I have sought Thee and Thy face"* sets words by Bishop Lancelot Andrews (1555 – 1626) for unaccompanied voices in five parts and was sung at the end of the service as part of the dedication ceremony. The mass was sung to a setting by Lassus, and the offertory was

another piece by Sir James *"O sing unto the Lord a new song"* - one of his most popular and frequently sung motets.

It is always exciting to give the first performance of a new piece, but can also be a little nerve wracking when the composer is present and is such a well-known and highly regarded musician. Sir James was reassuring and encouraging, and it was a pleasure to have his helpful comments as we rehearsed the piece before the service. He seemed content with our efforts at the end! He is, of course, a 'mainstream' composer with symphonic, operatic and chamber music in his list of works, and he has enjoyed success at the Proms and music festivals around the world with major commissions from internationally famous orchestras and musicians. His music has been described as being 'infused with the spiritual and the political' and his Roman Catholic faith has inspired many of his works, including a significant list of liturgical pieces and mass settings. We will be singing the new piece again on November 18th when the Bishop of London will be with us for Confirmation. Our thanks go to Jacob Collins who has been our Organ Scholar for the last year, and has made a significant contribution as organist and conductor both with the Chapel Choir and the Mayfair Community Choir. Jacob continues his musical studies at the City University, and will be working as Assistant Organist at Bromley Parish Church from September.

Richard Hobson



Sunday Club



Since starting to teach the Sunday Club at Grosvenor Chapel in March of this year, the class has covered a lot of ground, from learning about the different types of prayers to life and attitudes of the Romans during Jesus' day and how radical Jesus' message was in contrast. We use a lectionary-based curriculum called Roots so that the children learn/use the same Bible readings as the adults (usually just one reading, rather than the 3 readings covered in the adult service) in order to allow adults and children to have a conversation about the theme of the day. I am blessed to have a whole hour with them which allows time for lots of discussions, activities, crafts and games within each session and the children are given a family activity and discussion sheet to work on at home during the week.

It is wonderful to see different congregation members from week to week coming to the Sunday Club tables during coffee time to look at the activity sheets and crafts that the children have done in class that week. I would

encourage more to come and have a look and/or ask the children (or myself) what they've been learning in class.

I have had various people expressing an interest in observing and/or helping (either regularly or occasionally) with the classes in order to get to know the children better, who typically range in age from 3-8 years, with the occasional visit from toddlers and teens. They are a pleasure to teach because they are so enthusiastic about engaging with the lesson. If there is anyone else who would like to experience the joy of being with these wonderful children during Sunday Club, please speak to me after a service.

Revd Santou Beurklian-Carter

We need you! A Chapel of Volunteers



It might sound to many of you that we are constantly asking you for money whether to ensure the Chapel has a new heating system in place for the autumn, that we are paying our share of the Common Fund to the Diocese or to fund a multitude of other maintenance and other costs.

However, there is another way that you might consider helping the Chapel, that of volunteering at no cost to you except for



your time. It can be an enormously rewarding experience, and one which you may already have the skills to undertake or it can be an enlightening way of developing new skills which may open a whole new chapter for you. You may be wanting to offer your services but are reticent about doing so unless you are approached; you may feel you need to know more about the volunteering opportunities before committing, or perhaps you may feel you are called to serve God by taking on a particular role at the Chapel.

I have volunteered at my own church, St Saviour's in Pimlico for many years now and it has been a truly rewarding experience. Very soon after I started attending in 2005, I was approached by a Warden who suggested I might like to be a **Welcomer/Sidesperson** 'as it was a great way of meeting others in the congregation'. She was absolutely right and it was an ideal role to gently get more involved on a Sunday morning. Soon afterwards, I found myself agreeing to stand as a PCC member initially 'just for one term office'. Before I knew it, I found myself over the years serving as PCC Secretary, Deanery Synod representative and for two terms of office as a Churchwarden. I also enjoy working with other volunteers organising social events. One of my most enjoyable voluntary role

has been as **Sacristan** responsible for setting up for services and I greatly value serving at the altar which has enabled me to develop a keen interest in the liturgy. I am excited by the thought of what I am called to undertake next!

At the Chapel, we are currently very short of **Welcomers/Sidespeople** and **altar servers** – might you be willing to consider serving in one of these roles? Training will be provided and in both cases you will be as part of a team to enable you to grow in confidence.

You might like to offer to **lead the intercessions** and/or to be a **reader** and to help serve refreshments after the service? Or perhaps you might be willing to arrange a social event with other parishioner(s) with support from the office? Or perhaps you might consider joining the **Chapel Committee** at the next AGM in April 2019? Or be part of a rota to help **launder the small linen** used in the Eucharist or to **money count** on a Monday?

Do please speak with Fr Richard or Fr Alan or let me know if you would like to know more about any of these roles and/or tasks. Perhaps you might like to try a role as a one-off to see if you enjoy it? From my experience, it is a wonderful way of becoming more involved with the community, getting to know others, trying new skills and experiences as well as serving God.

Fiona Andrews,
Chapel Administrator



Bardsey Island is a Celtic land one mile wide and two miles long. It sits a twenty-minute boat ride across swirling, treacherous seas from the Llyn Peninsula of mainland Wales and is suspended there with views of the Welsh Snowdonian mountains across the waters to the East and, on a clear evening, the Irish hills of Wicklow to the West. In Celtic theology Bardsey is considered a 'thin' place. A place where the membrane between heaven and earth is so fine it may even melt away. There we found crystal blue-turquoise waters to sit by, buttercup-dotted meadows to saunter through and a steep heathered hillside to climb. A silence still and so loud it pierced the heart, allowing the crush of waves, shriek of seabirds and wooing moan of seals to filter through. By day the sky was brilliant blue: in the evening burning red. At night velvet jet and studded with dazzling stars. Venus, the Seven Sisters, the Milky Way - and Mars shining so bright it cast its own sheen on the sea. At the exact moment of true darkness each night the air filled with the oo-oo-ooo-huh wheezing calls of 40,000 sea birds returning from the open water to feed their offspring, hidden in burrows everywhere in the ground beneath us. The Manx Shearwaters, as they are called, swooped like rushing phantoms through the star-lit gloom to land with a thump and turn into comic-wobbly creatures shuffling awkwardly to find their hungry

Island of twenty

young.

On Bardsey one of us, thinking on the story of Jesus and the fishermen, was blessed with a sighting of dolphins: another received a pair of Choughs (said as chuffs), extremely rare crows distinguished by their startling red legs and red beak.

We all were blessed with the sight and sound of the sea and its seals: funny creatures, all cumbersome on land, fluid in the water and curious. On our last day a group approached some of us at a rocky shore, so we decided to sing to them. They gazed at us steadily, holding their whiskered snouts above the waves, listening to our rendition of "The King of Love ..." without once looking away. Then, as our song ended, they all disappeared underwater, returning a moment later in a precise – geometric – swimming formation. A smooth bobbing head at each corner of a rectangle with a fifth perfectly centred between them. When we gasped and clapped they flipped over again in unison and dove down below the surface, leaving five synchronised and glistening white fountain splashes in the blue air. Bardsey Island, where heaven an almost be touched. [Lorraine Fraser.](#)



thousand saints

Fr. Richard writes:

Our worship on Bardsey island began with a Celtic Eucharist (using the Stowe Missal) in the ruined tower of the former Augustinian monastery. It was a shaded space and tomb-like with high walls and a simple slate altar open to the sky. Yet the breach where the door had once been, seemed like the open sepulchre at the resurrection. In the Middle Ages, people came to Bardsey to find peace and to die, hence it is known as “the island of twenty thousand saints”. Meilyr the Poet, a twelfth century Welshman, wrote in his “Deathbed Song”: “As I await the call, may my home be//The monastery where the tide rises,// A wilderness of enduring glory,//Around its cemetery, the breast of the sea,//Island of fair Mary, sacred isle of the saints,//Awaiting resurrection there is lovely.” In the present, Christ calls us to die to ourselves in order to live. What would that mean for us on this pilgrimage? Would our time on the island prove a chrysalis into new life? We settled into a routine of waking with the dawn, early morning prayer, daytime reading and meditation, and evening worship. We were guided by Celtic Liturgies, which emphasised the oneness

of God, Nature and Humankind. We studied the Psalms and Bible readings as well as writings from Celtic tradition, poetry and stories over 1000 years old.

On our third day, on the Feast of the Transfiguration, we walked in silence up Mynydd Enlli, the mountain of Bardsey. We paused three times to pray and sing, as we made our way to its summit to celebrate the Eucharist. At first, rather poignantly, we were shrouded in cloud, its cool mist wafting around us, but we shared the bread and wine in glorious sunlight. For me this was a special experience. I found helping my fellow pilgrim Eric to climb up the mountain extremely moving. Eric has MS, yet we were Christ for each other, both seeking the transfiguring light.

All was not silence, prayer and birdsong. One of the blessings of the pilgrimage was how well people worked together cooking, washing up, emptying the latrines. We ate all our meals around a common table outside, and these became extensions of the Eucharist in the delights of the cooking, the giving and receiving, and the joy. Often collective silences suddenly swept over us and transported us to the depths again. It reminded me of the monks of the “Island of Delights” in the 6th century epic, “The Voyage of St Brendan”, whose unity revolved around the sharing of faith, a common table and worship. I think all the pilgrims would

agree there was something extraordinarily “delightful” about Bardsey Island and the grace we received during our time there. Wednesday, our fifth day, was a pivotal day on the pilgrimage for several people in the group. On this day we addressed the theme of healing, the Celtic Christian

IN THE THIN

**Let go my voice
A prisoner’s song;
The gate throw wide,
A foothold tread.**

**Oh, for a harp to sing.
Lift oh heart,
Hearken to the song.**

**Water diamonds
Open my heart
Of stone
Cast.**

- Mary-Ann Warrick

path of self-examination with a soul-friend (*anamchara*) as “the medicine of the soul” and the gift of tears (*penthos*). The Persian poet Rumi makes the point, “The wound is the place where the Light enters you.” We began to understand

what this might mean.

The following lunchtime we enjoyed another walk, this time “The Stations of the Life of Christ”. Twelve scenes from the life of Christ were selected. Each Pilgrim was asked to read one scene from the gospels and offer a short meditation on it. At each stop around the rugged island coast a new and staggeringly beautiful vista opened up. We saw each other in a new light, reflecting on the Gospels and the life of Christ, until we reached the most westerly point of the island, past the Lighthouse, and celebrated the Eucharist looking towards what seemed like an infinite horizon and the pathway of the sea glistening with sunlight in benediction. On Friday, our last day together, we rose early before dawn and walked silently again up the mountain to celebrate a Dawn Eucharist. There is something



astonishingly special about celebrating the Eucharist amidst an iconic wide expanse of nature. The Eucharist is not only a banquet for the gathered Christian community, but for the whole of creation. In the Eucharist creation is drawn together and offered to God. When the host was elevated, it was as if Christ and creation became one, as they are in the Celtic Cross, before an ocean now bathed in the light of dawn: “Receive, O Lord in its totality the Host which creation, drawn by your magnetism, presents to you at the dawn of a new day” (Teilhard de Chardin). As we finished the Eucharistic Prayer and Invitation, each pilgrim knelt before a rugged rock, commandeered as an altar, on the heights, on the precipice, before a sea lit by the candlelight of dawn, to make their own offering and to receive grace in communion with God, his Creation and each other. The chrysalis was opening. **Fr Richard**



This was my first time on a retreat and I found it a very rewarding experience, set in a delightful, wild environment on the island. The blend of services throughout the day (using inspiring liturgies) and the freedom to spend time alone, walking or sitting in contemplation and prayer, gave the opportunity for reflection and spiritual growth. And what a blessing to be without modern technologies (phones, laptops, TV) for a week and enjoy good conversation instead! *Jenny West*

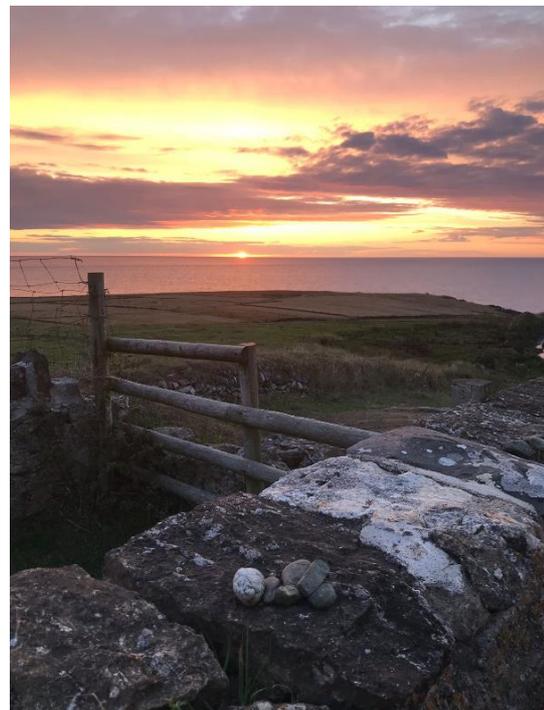
My pilgrimage at Bardsey was a moving and intense journey through my inner landscape that was illuminated by the sunny light of God, sustained by the beauty of his creation and nurtured by my fellow pilgrims. It helped me to raise myself up to the pure majesty of the real itself. *Natacha Tinteroff*

Thanks for a wonderful week of fellowship and prayer and new insight. Sitting on a gentle slope in the glorious sunshine overlooking the tranquil sea, I wrote and spent hours in deep meditation over the following: "Dear God allow me to experience and be guided by your will". *Eric Banton*



The Bardsey retreat was a delight. Fr Richard had planned each day with simplicity and grace. He and fellow members provided a host of unique memories to treasure and move forward with. *Francis Alexander*

Fr Richard in his introduction quoted the French Social Philosopher Simone Weil: "waiting patiently in expectation is the foundation of spiritual life". Immersed in the life of Bardsey Island, the Celtic liturgy and the camaraderie of the group, this was a rich and rewarding time in which to draw closer to God. *Lis Hasted*



The Thursday Lunch Club



‘Let brotherly love continue, be not forgetful to entertain strangers for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.’ Hebrews 13.1-2 (AV)
The Thursday Lunch Club at the Grosvenor Chapel came into being via a proposal to Fr Richard from Andrew Penny of the local law firm Forsters. A partnership was formed to host a lunch club at the Chapel for refugees and foreign nationals without recourse to public funds, following in the model and using the connections of St. Martin’s-in-the-Fields. St Martin’s were keen that with us, themselves (meeting on Sunday afternoons) and St James’ Piccadilly (meeting on Saturday mornings), we could provide provision across the week.

Our Thursday Lunch Club is held once a week in the Chapel’s parish rooms, manned by volunteers from Forsters and Grosvenor Chapel. For the Chapel, the outreach is twofold: first, to reach out to those so often forgotten on our streets, but also to build relationships with working people in Mayfair, who are our fellow hosts.

The core and initial provision is a warm welcome and hospitality, food with fraternity, that cultivates friendship, a sense of community and to provide, where needed, orientation about life and culture in the UK.

After nearly a year since inception, the Club has been a huge success and has attracted a core following of people in need who come back week after week. Relationships have been formed and trust has been nurtured between the members. This has resulted in an increased confidence within the group and a more positive outlook for the future. The Chapel has become a much needed haven for those in need and a safe place where help is at hand. As we head towards our first year anniversary we are always in need of volunteers and if you have a friendly ear and can spare an hour or so once a week (12.30 – 2pm), please come along as the gourmet food is really outstanding and the company is even better.

Jennifer Eyre



CELEBRATING THE NEW NAVE DOOR THE SERMON OF ASCENSION SUNDAY

*by Fr Richard Fermer on the occasion of
the Blessing of the New Sculpture for the
Tympanum of the Nave Door in memory
of Robert Goldhammer.
13th May 2018*



Churches tell stories. Principally they tell the story of Jesus Christ through their worship, appropriating art, architecture and music to that end. In the life of a Christian community that founding story then becomes intertwined with our own. You can see that from the number of people who have left memorial plaques in this Chapel. Their stories have been taken up, quite literally, into Christ's

story through their participation in His community.

Today we celebrate the Ascension of Christ, which marks for now the end of Jesus' earthly story. The logic of the plotline of the story makes the Ascension not only fitting, but necessary. The plot is simple, we recite it every Sunday: the Eternal Son of the Father is sent to be the light to the world; He becomes a human being in the person of Jesus of Nazareth to reveal that God is love; He is put to death, rises from the dead, and then returns to the Father. If Jesus doesn't return to His Father, the plot loses its coherence: our humanity does not enter the heart of God, Jesus does not intercede for us, a place will not be prepared for us, and we cannot receive the further Divine Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Today also celebrates the completion of another story: the story of a new nave door. It involves, in part, the story of this community. Remember, we wanted a new nave door to replace the shabby, slightly jerry-built two sets of Edwardian doors, which meant that entering the Chapel was like passing through a dark tunnel. That was not the kind of image we wanted to project to the world outside. Instead, our vision was to create a door, which not only restored the Georgian symmetry and space of the entrance area, but allowed people from the street to see through it into the Chapel and so to offer a taste of the aesthetic and spiritual beauty within: "Taste and see that the Lord is good!"

Yet, there are two other stories involved in this door. First, there is the story of a mother and a son, Jesus and Mary. That story begins in the lunettes of the Chapel in the east screen with the Annunciation, the moment when Mary's acceptance of God's promise opens the way for her



conception of a child. There is nothing closer than the relationship of a loving mother to the child of her womb. Mary's and Jesus' journey together is depicted like a story-board right round the screen and in the Cross above us, ending in Mary's visiting, with the other women, Jesus' tomb and finding it empty. That's where the story ended, until now: the empty tomb.

Now we have taken it to the next chapter, if you like, in the nave door: the meeting of Mary with her Resurrected Son. This is a scene which is extra-biblical, but has been part of the Christian tradition from early times. By no means the first instance was St Ambrose in the fourth century, who saw in the meeting of Mary and her Risen Son, a connection between Mary's womb and her discovery of the empty tomb: emptiness becomes fruitful, Christ is born and reborn in the Resurrection. The reading from the sixteenth century Spanish mystic and monastic reformer St Teresa of Avila that we have heard, enters the grief of the mourning mother. Mary, you'll remember, is the one who received both the joyful promise and the prophecies: "a sword will pierce your heart". She may in some way have been prepared for the loss of her son, but this was never going to inoculate her from the trauma and grief. Yet, the one who so intimately carries the Saviour in her womb and faithfully follows him to the foot of

the Cross, will be given the consolation of meeting her Risen Son.

The sculptor of the tympanum bas-relief, Alexander Stoddart, depicts Mary woken from her prayer, reaching out to her Risen Son. Christ reaches out to her, standing over her, with the banner of the Resurrection in His hand. There is a very interesting interplay of the hands. As one who has conducted many Weddings in this Chapel, with the interplay of the hands of the bride and bridegroom in the ceremony, I see how charged that exchange is. The hands in the sculpture are not touching, but there is a great sense of exchange. It as if there is, at one and the same time, both a letting go, and a giving and receiving. Like Mary Magdalene in John's Gospel, Jesus' mother cannot hold on to her Son's physical presence: "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God" (John 20.17b). He has not come to lull her with the illusion that life will continue as before. He has come as St Teresa writes, to restore her joy, the joy she received at the Annunciation. Or as the twelfth century English Cistercian monk Eadmer proclaimed: imagine the "joy of the Virgin when she saw her Son after the Resurrection: for if her joy was so great when He was alive, who can comprehend what it must have been when He arose from the dead?"

So, our new chapter, boldly proclaims the Resurrection at the very door of the Chapel. It says, "Enter my joy, so that your joy may be complete." This is what the Gospel offers the world: transformation – life over death, love over hatred, joy over sorrow, forgiveness over vengeance and resentment. It proclaims that the Chapel is a meeting place between God and humankind, a place of intimacy and exchange.



Then, finally, there is the story of Gina and Bob. Bob died on a beautiful, sunny late March morning. When I arrived, the room where he lay was flooded with light. Somehow it felt like a scene of the Resurrection. There was not only the light from the sun, there was also the light of the faithfulness of his wife Gina and those who had cared for Bob as they sat in prayerful silence around him. It was a moment like that of the two hands in the sculpture, reaching out, but not touching, a moment of a spiritual exchange: "I have to let go, but I am also given something in the letting go. I can no longer touch, but I move "Into another intensity/For a further union, a deeper communion" (T.S. Eliot)."

Christ's Resurrection appearance restores joy to the sorrowful. Christ's Ascension makes space for the next chapter to be written, our empowerment by the Spirit to share Christ's love and light with the world, and then the second return of Jesus in all His glory so that our joy may be complete and so we may return with Him to the Father. So, people of the Chapel: why do you stand looking up towards Heaven? We cannot remain static. God's love moves life to its fulfilment. +

The Chapel expresses thanks to the patron of the works Gina Goldhammer, members of the Chapel who contributed, the architect Mr. Craig Hamilton and his staff, the sculptor Professor Alexander Stoddart, the craftsmen who built it and Sir James MacMillan whose Motet for the Chapel Choir was first sung on this Sunday.



Many Congratulations! Ministry to Wedding Couples

The Chapel continues to minister to couples preparing for Marriage. Fr Lis and Fr Richard have conducted two Marriage Preparation Courses for couples and have organised two events open to everyone, but with couples in mind: Shrove Tuesday & Eve of Valentine's Day; A Midsummer Night's Celebration of Love with renewal of Marriage Vows and prayers for those preparing for their weddings.

We offer our congratulations to the recently married:

- *Alexandre & Genevieve*
- *Paul & Jacinta*
- *Oluranti & Yewande*
- *Johnny & Andreea*
- *Simon & Louise*
- *Ragnar & Irene*
- *Timothy & Rosana*

We offer our prayers for those to be married in the coming months:

- *Evan & Nicole*
- *Dean & Sophia*
- *Marion & Robert*
- *Vaibhav & Sarah*
- *Gregory & Caroline*
- *Nathaniel & Kayla*
- *Paul & Elvira*

Programme of Events October to December



Regular Events

Hymns and Pimms. Support group for people living with dementia and those who care for them Tuesdays 3.00 pm-4.30 pm on: 25th September/30th October/27th November/18th December.

Coffee Morning in the Garden Room. Drop in and open to all on Tuesdays 11.00 am to 12.30 pm on: 23rd October / 20th November/18th December

Thursday Lunch Club (for refugees & foreign internationals facing homelessness) weekly from 12.00 pm to 2.00 pm in the Garden Room.

Mayfair Organ Recitals. weekly alternating between The Grosvenor Chapel and St George's Hanover Square on Tuesdays from 1.10 pm-2.00 pm.

Extraordinary Events

MacMillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning - Friday 28th September in the Garden Room between 9.30 -11.30 am to support the MacMillan nurses. Minimum donation of £5.00 to include coffee and a slice of cake.

Sunday 30th September: After Mass on the Feast of St Michael & All Angels our Verger Jose Nobrega will be offering a **Chapel Lunch**, cost £10, to raise money for a new altar frontal.

Harvest Festival

-Sunday 7th October at 11.00 am
A collection of non-perishable food and toiletries will be taken for the charity "In-Deep: Befriending the Community", a charity supporting vulnerable elderly people in Westminster. Please either bring items with you to the service or drop them into the Chapel office.

Pilgrimage to Westminster Abbey – 10am meet at Chapel to walk to the Abbey. 11.30am Festival Eucharist, followed by lunch.

Silver Sunday Concert – Sunday 7th October at 2:30-4:30 pm
Celebration of Silver Sunday. Tea time concert, in the backrooms of the chapel, with professional musical performances.

Chapel's Feast of Dedication with Talk and lunch – Sunday 14th October
Following our special Dedication Mass on 14th October, poet, essayist and translator J. Chester Johnson will be giving a talk over lunch on his book 'Auden, the Psalms, and Me' which details the story of the psalms in the past and present, W H Auden's engagement with the language of the psalter and the revision of the Book of Common Prayer. Please indicate on the sign up sheet at the back of church or let the office know if you would like to attend (contribution £15 for lunch).

Confirmation Service, Sunday 18th November, 11am, with the new Bishop of London, Dame Sarah Mullally.

Mura's Michaelmas Art Talk – Sunday 25th November from 12.30 pm, after 11 am Sung Eucharist of Christ the King.

The Chapel's Community Carol Service – Tuesday, 11th December 7pm.

St George's School Carol Service – at the Chapel, Friday 21st December 2pm

**MUSIC AT THE SUNDAY SUNG
EUCHARIST**
September – December 2018



Sunday 23rd September

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
Joseph Haydn Missa Sancti Johannis de
Deo
William Byrd Beati mundo corde
John Stanley Voluntary in F

Sunday 30th September

St Michael and All Angels
G.P. da Palestrina Missa Sicut lilium inter
spinas
Richard Dering Factum est silentium
Francois Couperin Offertoire sur les
grands jeux
(Messe pour les Couvents)

Sunday 7th October

The Harvest Festival
Domenico Scarlatti Mass for Five Voices
Benjamin Britten O be joyful in the Lord
J.S.Bach Prelude & Fugue in A minor

Sunday 14th October

The Feast of the Dedication
W.A.Mozart Coronation Mass K317
Anton Bruckner Locus iste
Thomas Weelkes O Lord, arise
Siegfried Karg-Elert Nun danket alle Gott



Sunday 21st October

The Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity
Harold Darke Communion Service in F
major
Johannes Brahms Geistliches Lied
Felix Mendelssohn Allegro moderato in C

Sunday 28th October

The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
Franciso Guerrero Missa Congratulamini
Mihi
Francisco Guerrero Hoc est praeceptum
meum
Juan Cabanilles Tiento de 4 Tono Illo

Sunday 4th November

All Saints Sunday
T.L.da Victoria Missa O quam gloriosum
T.L.da Victoria O quam gloriosum
Francois Couperin Dialogue sur les grands
jeux
(Messe pour les Couvents)

Sunday 11th November

Remembrance Sunday
Gabriel Fauré Requiem Mass (with
orchestra)

Sunday 18th November

The Second Sunday before Advent
Confirmation
W.A.Mozart Missa Brevis in C K 258
James MacMillan I have sought Thee and
Thy face
Théodore Salomé Grand Chœur

Sunday 25th November

The Feast of Christ the King
Alonso Lobo Missa O Rex gloriae
William Byrd Atollite portas
Percy Whitlock Exultemus

Sunday 2nd December

Advent Sunday
Plainsong The Advent Prose
William Byrd Mass for Five Voices
William Byrd Laetentur coeli
Andrew Carter Toccata on Veni
Emmanuel

Sunday 9th December

The Second Sunday of Advent
Filipe de Magalhães Missa O soberana luz
Francisco Guerrero Canite tuba
J.S.Bach Nun komm, der heiden heiland
BWV 661

Sunday 16th December

The Third Sunday of Advent
Andrea Gabrieli Missa Brevis
Jan Peterszoon Sweelinck Gaude et
laetare
J.S.Bach Fugue on the Magnificat

Sunday 23rd December

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Kenneth Leighton Missa Brevis
T.L da Victoria Ne timeas Maria
J.S.Bach Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme



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.*

September 18 St George's

Adam Cobb (Florida State University)

September 25 Grosvenor Chapel

Richard Hobson (Grosvenor Chapel)

October 9 Grosvenor Chapel

TBA

October 16 St George's

Herman Jordaan
(Holy Trinity, South Wimbledon)

October 23 Grosvenor Chapel

TBA

October 30 St George's

Simon Williams (St George's)
November 6 Grosvenor Chapel
Lukas Hasler (Graz, Austria)

November 13 St George's

Richard Hobson (Grosvenor Chapel)
Francois Couperin Messe pour les
Couvents

November 20 Grosvenor Chapel

Polina Sosnina (St Thomas, Brentwood)

November 27 St George's

Nicholas Morris (St George's)

December 4 Grosvenor Chapel

James Johnstone
(Professor, Trinity Laban Conservatoire)

December 11 St George's

George Parsons (Sheffield)

December 18 Grosvenor Chapel

Richard Hobson (Grosvenor Chapel)

Chapel Sunday Club



11am - 12.15pm Sunday Mornings
with Rev'd Santou, club leader & teacher



Contact: sbcarter@btinternet.com
Grosvenor Chapel, 24 South Audley Street

Grosvenor Chapel

Unafraid to Reason, Unashamed to Adore



Chapel Directory

Priest in Charge: The Rev'd Dr Richard Fermer

Email: Richard.Fermer@grosvenorchapel.org.uk

Assistant Priest: The Rev'd Dr. Alan Piggot

Email: alan.piggot@btinternet.com

Priest with Permission to Officiate: Canon Alistair MacDonald-Radcliff

Email: macrada@me.com

Chapel Wardens: Denise Scots-Knight & Philip Eyre

Chapel Administrator: Fiona Andrews (Monday and Friday)

Email: info@grosvenorchapel.org.uk

Hiring and Site Manager: Nigel Percival (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings)

Email: hiring@grosvenorchapel.org.uk

Hymns & Pimms Co- Ordinator: Lis Hasted

lis.hasted@grosvenorchapel.org.uk

Community Worker: Sunmin Park

Email: community@grosvenorchapel.org.uk

Director of Music: Richard Hobson

Organ Scholar: Oscar Lyle Pérez

Verger: José Nobrega