



GROSVENOR CHAPEL

Unafraid to reason, Unashamed to adore

February - April 2012

Process for the Appointment of a new Priest-in-Charge

The Ven Dr William Jacob, Archdeacon of Charing Cross

I am very grateful to Canon Rex Davis for very helpfully being willing to be interim Priest-in-Charge of the Chapel to give time for the Committee to begin the process for the appointment of a new Priest-in-Charge.

The Chapel, being a 'chapel of ease' of St George's, the person responsible for making the appointment is the Rector of St George's, Roddy Leece. It is customary in such situations for the Rector to work closely with the Bishop in making such an appointment, for while the Rector appoints, the Bishop has to approve, and give the person his licence to work in his diocese. As Archdeacon my role, as with a vacancy in any parish, is to work on behalf of the Bishop with the Rector and the committee on the process for the appointment.

The first step in making this appointment is to identify what the needs are, and to draw up a 'statement of needs' as well as a profile describing the Chapel, the congregation and the work here, and a role description, to help us to see what sort of person is needed, and for people who may be interested in the opportunity of becoming Priest-in-Charge to see what is required, and whether they might fit the bill. I am very pleased to hear that the Committee have been working on this, and that the congregation have been widely consulted about their views of the Chapel and its current work, and its potential for developing mission and ministry. The second step is for the Committee to elect two representatives to work with the Rector, and the Bishop and/or me in recruiting and selecting a suitable candidate. That has also now been achieved.

We now move to the next stages, which are to advertise the vacancy in the *Church Times* and on the Diocesan website, and to circulate the Statement of Need, the Profile and the Role Description to people who express an interest.



We then make a short-list of suitable people to interview, and then interview them. As part of the interview process, it is helpful if short-listed candidates can meet a wider group of people than just the Committee's representatives, and we will be making provision for that. However, it is very important that the people who are involved at that stage should respect the confidentiality of the people they are meeting. It seriously undermines the pastoral relationship between priests and their congregations if a congregation accidentally discover that their priest is applying for other jobs, especially if the application is not successful.

We have not yet finalised the timetable for advertising, shortlisting and interviewing, but, all being well, it will be achieved by Easter, and so we could hope for a new Priest-in-Charge to be appointed during the course of the summer.

Do please pray for us and the applicants, that we may find the very best person to work with you in developing the next phase of the mission and ministry of the Chapel.

Save the dates!

The five week Lent Course starts on Wednesday, 29 February and runs for five weeks through Wednesday, 28 March. All sessions will be at the Chapel.

Chapel Committee News

Letter from the Vice Chairman, Rosalind Abrahams

Firstly, a very happy New Year!

As you read this you may well have seen the scaffolding rising in the Chapel and the redecoration works beginning. It has been a huge task to get to this stage. Richard Hobson, Jane Jukes and Philip Eyre (the Fabric Working Group) have done a magnificent job in achieving our joint aims of getting to the point of refurbishing the interior. They have been, and continue to be, engaged in this enormous commission on a daily basis – and they are all fully employed with their day jobs too! We should give them all our support during this crucial time – we owe them our gratitude for their dedication to the task.

Richard Hobson has set out below the further funding required to add to the programme of works; please read this and consider if you are able to help with a donation. The cost of works will leave the Chapel's financial reserves severely depleted and the committee is engaged with the task of raising further funds to ensure the financial viability of the Chapel. As you know we are entirely self-funding and we would be very grateful if you were able to make a one-off donation or to increase your weekly, monthly or annual financial support for the Chapel finances.

A number of people are working hard on fund raising initiatives and there is a meeting on Sunday 5 February to discuss the priorities and process for events. If you have any fundraising ideas or wish to help please speak to Lis in the Chapel office and it can be included on the agenda for the meeting.

One of my main tasks, together with James Hutton-Mills and Karen Little, is to take forward the search for our new priest-in-charge. The Archdeacon has set out the process in this Newsletter and we are busy working with him (on behalf of the Bishop) and the Rector to agree the necessary documentation to enable this to start shortly.

Finally, we have said a very fond farewell to Wendy Mills who has been a huge supporter of Grosvenor Chapel as a congregant, committee member and fundraiser. As you know Bill and Wendy are returning to New York after nearly nine years in London. We will miss them a great deal. Amongst so many other things, we have them to thank for the wonderful blue cushions at the Chapel which make our lives so comfortable on a Sunday morning. (Jane has them safely stored off site during the works).

Let us work together so that 2012 will bring everything we pray for at Grosvenor Chapel.

Fabric Committee Update

Richard Hobson, Fabric Committee Chairman

As I write (12 January 2012), the work has just begun. For the first time since the early 1960's the Chapel interior is to be repaired, cleaned and redecorated. We have been waiting for this for some time. There have been false starts, highs and lows, but there is no going back now!

What we still need are more funds. We can cover the basics for the work but it will run our reserves pretty low, and in an interregnum the numbers attending services and, therefore, our income, inevitably drops. We have

some fund-raising activities in the pipeline, but individual donations are still urgently needed. The current contract omits the

woodwork and pews in the galleries because we cannot currently afford it (£6,500). We would like to improve the lighting, something which everyone agrees is highly desirable (£25,000). The railing in front of the organ needs improving for safety reasons, and there are other small changes which would greatly improve the interior if we can raise the necessary money.

Donations of any size will be very gratefully received. Please consider helping!



Chapel Committee elections

At the 2011 Annual Meeting of Grosvenor Chapel, Gavin Arendt and Jane Jukes were elected as Chapel Wardens and Rosalind Abrahams, Gary Eaborn, Philip Eyre, Greg Falley, Lis Hasted, James Hutton-Mills, Karen Little, Wendy Mills and Kate Rose were all elected to the Chapel Committee as lay representatives. Ann Bird and Margie Christian were elected as Deanery Synod representatives. Since that date, Richard Hobson has been co-opted onto the Committee and Karen Little has resigned as a Committee Member but was subsequently co-opted onto the Committee to support the process of appointing a new Priest-in-Charge. Wendy Mills has resigned from the Committee as she and Bill are relocating to the United States. At the 2012 Annual Meeting, expected to take place towards the end of April, Gavin and Jane will put themselves forward for re-election as Chapel Wardens with the full support of the Chapel Committee. In addition, one-third (i.e. 3) of the existing lay representatives will either retire or put themselves up for re-election. The maximum

number of lay representatives on the Committee is now twelve. There will therefore be at least seven places on the Committee available of which up to three may relate to existing Committee Members who are prepared to put themselves up for re-election. Members of the Congregation are asked to consider whether they would wish to serve on the Chapel Committee. Anyone who wishes to put themselves forward for election should make themselves known to the Chapel Wardens. In due course, any candidates will need to be proposed and seconded. If anyone has any questions in relation to, or issues with, the above, you are invited to raise them with the Chapel Wardens in advance of the Annual Meeting.

To be eligible to vote at the AGM, members of the congregation should have been on the Electoral Roll for at least six months prior to the meeting date. You can be on the electoral role of more than one parish but you would have to choose which one you want to vote in as you can only do so in one parish.

New York, tenth anniversary of 9/11

Ann Bird, September 2011

September the 11th dawned a warm, sunny and pleasant summer's day. The trees in Central Park waved their lush green leaves against the blue sky, rustling and shimmering as they caught the sun's rays. People running and walking endeavoured to keep up the appearance of normality. But wait: there was a palpable hush, a collective holding of breath over New York. It was the tenth anniversary of the destruction of the twin towers of the World Trade Centre by terrorists, and the annihilation of the lives of so many good people and animals going about their everyday endeavours on the land and in the skies above. Would there be any reprisals on this anniversary? This was the unspoken question on everyone's mind.

The President and Mrs Obama attended the ceremony at the Cascade at Ground Zero with the names of the people killed in the destruction engraved for perpetuity, visible in the flickering candle light. Representatives of the Emergency services, and the world's ambassadors were present. Following this ceremony was the Commemorative Concert at the Lincoln Centre's Avery Fisher Hall. We had been warned: there would be no taxis, it would be better to walk. Security would be high. We were to be dressed

in black concert dress, carrying music scores and nothing else. Handbags, money, travel tickets, water bottles and other essentials had to be carried by our guests, arriving after us, and whom we would only meet after the concert was over. My guest, carrying two singers' handbags, was worried about being arrested as a bag thief at the security barrier! In the event, the smiling security officer nodded in understanding.

It was fitting to have nothing, stripped of so much we think is essential and which is not. Dressed simply in black, it was sobering and strengthened the bond we felt with those who had suffered so greatly and lost so much. Memories came flooding back of the horrors of the many and various terrorist bombs in the street and in the underground transport system, sustained over so many decades in Britain. So we were in New York to express our solidarity with the American people, to feel with them and to strive for a better future for all peoples throughout the world.

Local choirs sang for the first half, and then, as the grand finale, our choir, which had been set up by Sir David Willcocks, was to sing *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* by Karl Jenkins, a British composer



Twin Towers Memorial Fountain, designed by Ron Arad

who was to conduct the work. Ten years ago, this Mass was being performed in Tokyo, Japan. During the rehearsal, television screens backstage were showing horrific sights of the two aeroplanes striking the Twin Towers. Although Karl Jenkins had written the work during the recent Balkan Wars, this work has been inextricably linked thereafter with 9/11. The text of the *Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* is taken from internationally revered texts such as the *Epic of India*, the *Mahabharata*, *Le Morte D'Arthur* by Sir Thomas Malory, the book of *Revelations* from the Bible, *In Memoriam* by Alfred, Lord Tennyson, 'Now the Guns Have Stopped', by Guy Wilson and *Angry Flames* by Togisan Kichi on Hiroshima.

The work begins with the beat of drums, the orchestra gradually building to the chorus entrance, singing the 15th century theme 'The Armed Man'. The music portrays the horrors of war, one feels the armies marching closer and closer, the battle raging, the flames scorching, the heart pounding, and then an eerie silence following the destruction of everything. The desolation of wrecked lives, of all living things and nature. Then the single bugle call of the Last Post, and the chorales portraying the soothing balm of peace. The *Agnus Dei*, with its lyrical chorale motif, reminds us of Christ's ultimate sacrifice. The

Benedictus heals those wounds and leads to the ultimate final positive climax of the work, that peace is better than war - the conclusion of Lancelot and Guinevere, so long ago.

To our delight, we were joined by the great soprano, Jessye Norman, a well kept surprise, who expressed so well why we were all here, and the message from the Mayor of New York, Michael Bloomberg, was that the 9/11 Memorial Ground at Ground Zero and this concert would ensure that future generations would show resilience and shared hope for a more peaceful world. And to keep the commitment to those who had perished, to their families and the courageous men and women who helped them to recover.

Guy Wilson's words encapsulated the sense of loss felt by so many from the World Wars to the present time:

'Silent,
Now the guns have stopped,
I have survived all,
I who knew I would not.
But now you are not here.
I shall go home alone;
And must try to live life as before,
And hide my grief,
For you, my dearest friend,
Who should be with me now,
Not cold, too soon
And in your grave,
Alone.'

The work ends with the orchestra silent with only the chorus singing, quietly from *Revelations* 21.4.

God shall wipe away all tears
And there shall be no more death
Neither sorrow nor crying,
Neither shall there be any more pain.

At dusk, as the sun was setting over New York, it seemed the whole city breathed a deep sigh of relief.

Lent Course 2012

This year's Lent Course will explore Christianity's relationship with money; *Through the Eye of a Needle: Money and the Gospel*.

Each evening starts at 7pm with a soup and cheese supper followed by a talk. The course runs for five weeks on Wednesdays from 29th Feb through 28th March. Topics and dates:

- 29.2.12 Can you be Rich and Christian?
- 7.3.12 Mission, Development and Colonialism
- 14.3.12 The Business of Charity - Green
- 21.3.12 The Future of the Welfare State
- 28.3.12 The Christian consumer

Beautiful feet

Christmas Day sermon, 2011 Canon Rex Davis

“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news” Isaiah 52.7

Good news? What good news? Generally speaking we seem to have only bad news...economic instability; spring-times turning swiftly to arctic cold; elections mishandled, mismanaged or fraudulent, Leveson uncovering the cack-handedness of the media; weaponry being debated to give police better riot control; tensions in Iran, the Koreas, Syria, the Congo, Somalia and Kenya; climate problems endlessly disputed; protestors still in the market place...it is all pretty discouraging.

Yet how beautiful are those feet which bring good news!

Maybe we just have lost the plot, and the news we think is good, doesn't make much sense any more.

More than two hundred years ago a German theologian was writing about religion to those he called its 'cultured despisers' arguing that religion was to be found in a sense and taste of the infinite, a rather romantic notion, but one which influenced many. Maybe then that was good news. Yet other writers were seeing things differently, and a Russian journalist and editor was to present us with some of the great novels of the nineteenth century, recognising sin and corruption as realities which spoil our lives: *Crime and Punishment*, *The Idiot*, *The Possessed* and *The Brothers Karamazov*, in which he incorporated the short story *The Grand Inquisitor* and its denunciation of the institutional church, all shed light on a pessimistic view of mankind and the need for the overwhelming grace of God, not earned in any way by man. So we have the tension between Schleiermacher and Dostoevsky.

Later in the 1920's Karl Barth's powerful study *The Epistle to the Romans* rehearsed so deeply this Augustinian view of the overwhelming power of God's grace.

Was this then the good news?

These theological debates creep into our own time and I sense that there is a sort of neo-paganism which



is discovered sometimes in naïve utterances of our politicians and economic theorists who seem a little too like the 19th century romantics. Pagan is not too strong a word. It meant in Roman times people who were rustics, simple people sometimes living with old tribal gods, not willing to accept the sophistication and smarts of the town-folk. I rather feel some sympathy for the pagans. Especially when religion gets to be very uppity with certainties and certitudes.

For, we still have too many of the old players still on the field, and they still sound the old trumpets and sing from the same hymn book, as if the weight of the critical and discomforting insights of the last centuries had never taken place. But surely it becomes clear that the time of religious dogma and certitude has been slipping away for many years. The good news may well be that we have to recognise that, and that the development of the skills of biblical research and biblical scrutiny of the recent decades means we still have exciting news, indeed good news, to share. But I fear there is also the Grand Inquisitor, and there is still a struggle to find how a critical, common-sense kind of religious insight can free us, indeed, be the open gate for that grace of God to swamp over us so that we do celebrate in our carols and Christmas greetings something of that freedom and audacity to think. That we can indeed continue to worship with joy and integrity, that indeed something has broken out among us, and it is good news.

Then, happily, we can say again “how beautiful are the feet which bring us good news.”

Community News

Parking statement

Michael Beckett, Church Warden, St Georges Hanover Square

Michael Beckett, Church Warden of St George's Church Hanover Square welcomed the decision by Westminster City Council to abandon Sunday and evening parking charges. "It's a shame this sensible decision was not taken when we started the campaign against these charges last June. The open meeting in St George's on the 9th July 2011 attended by Cllr Lee Rowley provided all the evidence then to indicate that the proposals "did not command public support": the

position that Cllr Colin Barrow finally admitted in his statement last night."

"A lot of time, money and effort have been expended by churches, businesses and residents over the six months, and the Evening Standard's campaign has finally got Westminster Council to listen and see sense. It's disappointing that our locally elected representatives seem to have got so out of touch with their local communities."



Nativity light

Congratulations to the children for all their efforts in our light version of the Nativity; angels, shepherds, kings and Mary - the perfect celebration of the season.

If you are interested in helping with Sunday School, or would like to bring your child, we meet during term time. We are working hard to rebuild Sunday School - do please join us and become part of this vibrant element of the Grosvenor Chapel.

Intercession list for the sick

Over the last few weeks I have mentioned the need we have to bring the Chapel's Sunday intercession list for the sick up-to-date. Intercession which is not well informed is a little pointless. I have been encouraged that several have written or spoken to me and I have followed this up by writing to the people on the list. One has written back telling me they have recovered some time ago and now enjoy good health, another I keep in touch with and hope to visit.

From February the list will be shorter, and only those we have written details on, together with their address and the name and address of the person requesting our prayers, will be on the list. However, we will keep the longer list, and use it each month at the Guild of St Raphael service, unless, of course, we have had

good news, such as I reported above, or the person is now deceased. I trust this explanation is clear and simple, and we then know that those we are praying for are known to us pastorally and cared for as best we may.

And with the Chapel in disarray, and after consultation with those who attend, the Guild of St Raphael service will be held after January 25th at 10.00 am on the last Thursday of the month, which is followed by the coffee meeting. This will be announced in the Notices. On Wednesday 25th (Feast of the Conversion of St Paul) it will be at 10.00 am in one of the back rooms.

Canon Rex Davis

Belshazzar's Feast, Mura Blackburn's Talk

February - April 2012

Reviewer: Stewart Trotter

Painting is in Mura Blackburn's blood! When she speaks about an artist's work she positively inspires her listeners to go and look at the painting for themselves. She chooses her words with care and is happy - and confident - enough to sometimes pause till the right one comes...

She relates each painting she talks about to the life and circumstances of the artist. On Sunday, 6 November, it was Belshazzar's Feast - the moment when the King, in all his opulent splendour, is informed, by the hand of God, that he is about to die..

Rembrandt was at the height of his powers and his wealth when he painted this dramatic moment: the King swirls round to see 'the writing on the wall', knocking over his goblet of wine in his terror..

This was a wake-up call, Mura thinks, to the extravagantly rich Dutch society. It proved prophetic for them: their economy crashed. And prophetic for Rembrandt himself. He was shunned by Dutch society for not marrying the mother of his children and died in acute poverty.



It is Mura's eye for detail that is so telling - the cocky little crown perched at an oblique angle on his turban, the rich clasp on his robe, his surprising lack of rings on his fingers. Had he taken them off to eat his famous 'feast' - not much of which is shown in the painting. Are his guests drably dressed on his orders so that he can look even more resplendent?

Such questions echo in the mind long after Mura has finished speaking - placed there by Mura's passion and love for her subject.

More, please, Mura!!!

Dates for your diary



Film night Date to be confirmed

The next film night is being put together by Paul Thomas and Martin Thomas Jefferies. The film is 'Bright Young things' which was directed by Stephen Fry. More details to follow but plan on a great evening some time this Spring. Proceeds will go towards the restoration.



Coffee Mornings 11.00 - 12.30

Thursday, 23 February

Thursday, 29 March

Thursday, 26 April

Art talk : The Last Supper Sunday, 25th March 12.30-1.30pm

Da Vinci's Last Supper will be the subject of Mura's next talk - as you can see from Stewart's review above, it is not to be missed.

Fund raising brainstorming Sunday, 5th February 12.30

Please come along to help us explore ideas for raising funds towards the restoration and other projects.

Dates for your diary

Services & Music

Sunday 5th February 2012

The Third Sunday before Lent
Preacher: Revd Canon Rex Davis
11am Sung Eucharist
Caludio Monteverdi: Mass for Four Voices
Cipriano de Rore: Jubilate deo

Sunday 12th February 2012

Second Sunday before Lent
Preacher: Revd Canon Rex Davis
11am Sung Eucharist
Joseph Reinberger: Mass in E
Joseph Haydn: The heavens are telling

Sunday 19th February 2012

The Sunday next before Lent
Revd Canon Rex Davis
11am Sung Eucharist
Juan Esquivel: Missa Ave virgo sanctissima
Peter Philips: In splendente nube

Wednesday 22nd February 2012

Ash Wednesday
Revd Canon Rex Davis
7pm Said Eucharist

Sunday 26th February 2012

The First Sunday of Lent
Revd Canon Rex Davis
11am Sung Eucharist
Plainsong: The Lent Prose
Orlandus Lassus: Missa
Bel'amfitrit'altera
Gregorio Allegri: Miserere mei
William Byrd: Ne irascaris Domine

Sunday 4th March 2012

The Second Sunday of Lent
The Revd Canon Rex Davis
11.00am Sung Eucharist
G.P da Palestrina: Missa Sicut Liliun inter spinas
William Byrd: Civitas sancti tui

Sunday 11th March 2012

The Third Sunday of Lent
The Revd Canon Rex Davis
11.00am Sung Eucharist

Thursday 8am Mass (celebrated by The Reverend Roddy Leece) in the Garden Room.

The Guild of St Raphael Communion Services (celebrated by The Reverend Canon Rex Davis) at 10am on Thursday mornings (before the Coffee Mornings): 23 February, 29 March, 26 April.

Kenneth Leighton: Missa Brevis
William Walton: A Litany

Sunday 18th March 2012

The Fourth Sunday of Lent
The Revd Canon Rex Davis
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Filipe de Magalhaes: Missa o soberana luz
Henry Purcell: Lord, how long wilt thou be angry?

Sunday 25th March 2012

The Fifth Sunday of Lent
The Revd Canon Rex Davis
11am Sung Eucharist
Orlandus Lassus: Missa super je prens en gres
Thomas Tallis: Sancte Deus

Sunday 1st April 2012

Palm Sunday
The Revd Canon Rex Davis
10.55am Sung Eucharist with Exchange of Palms
Thomas Weelkes: Hosanna to the Son of David
Jakob Handl: Missa undique flammatis
Anton Bruckner: Christus factus est
T.L da Victoria: St Matthew Passion

Monday 2nd, Tuesday 3rd, Wednesday 4th April 2012

Holy Week
The Revd Canon Rex Davis
7pm Holy Communion

Thursday 5th April 2012

Maundy Thursday
The Revd Canon Rex Davis
7pm Sung Eucharist of the Lord's supper
T.L da Victoria: Missa Quarti Toni
C. V.Stanford: Gloria in C major
Ralph Vaughan Williams: Love bade me welcome
Maurice Durufle: Ubi caritas
William Byrd: Ave verum corpus
Thomas Tallis: The Lamentation of Jeremiah



Friday 6th April 2012

Good Friday
The Revd Canon Rex Davis
1pm. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Plainsong: The St John Passion
John of Portugal: Crux Fidelis
John Sanders: The Reproaches
Michael Tippett: Steal away
Antonio Lotti: Crucifixus etiam pro nobis

Sunday 8th April 2012

Easter Day
6am: Dawn Vigil, Lighting of the New Fire and Eucharist
The Revd Canon Rex Davis

Sunday 8th April 2012

Easter Day
The Revd Canon Rex Davis
11am Sung Eucharist with orchestra
W.A.Mozart: Missa Brevis in C (Spatzenmesse)
Giovanni Gabrieli: Exultet jam angelica
J.S.Bach: Prelude and Fugue in G major

**Grant us grace, almighty
Father, so to pray as to
deserve to be heard**

A prayer by Jane Austen

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