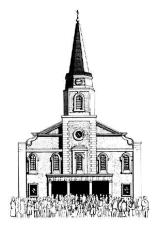


# **NEWSLETTER**

# Parish of St George Hanover Square



St George's Church

**Grosvenor Chapel** 

# November 2016-February 2017 Issue 35



A computer-generated visualisation of the new St George's Undercroft derived from the architect's plans.

ther contributions notwithstanding, two contrasting matters dominate this issue of the Parish Newsletter: on the one hand plans to bring St George's Undercroft back into parish use and, on the other, the further development of a prisons mission, now adopted by Churches Together in Westminster, but driven by an indefatigable member of the St George's parish community. John Plummer and Sarah Jane Vernon's pieces on the 2016 Prisons Week speak for themselves but they illustrate a willingness by parishioners to engage with matters outside the obvious comfort zone of the Mayfair parish.

This willingness was also exemplified earlier in the year when we raised £5,000 as part of a Christian Aid partnership project which, because of a triple funding arrangement with the EU, resulted in £20,000 going to support maternity and child health care in Kenya. More modestly the needs of a parish in Botswana run by a former Parish Administrator of St George's were met within days of the publication of the previous edition of this Newsletter which highlighted the need in question.

And so we come to the question of UK prisons, not of prison reform but of a wish to engage collaboratively with those who minister to the welfare and spiritual needs of people at odds with society in our overpopulated prison system.

#### Inside this issue

The Rector writes	2
Organ Concerts	3
Services at St George's	4
Assistant Director of Music	6
The Undercroft	7
Services at Grosvenor Chapel	10
Prisons Mission	11
Hyde Park Place Charity	15
Contacts	16

Not that one has to visit Wormwood Scrubs or Pentonville to encounter those at odds with society. St George's engagement with rough sleepers continues on a daily basis through its food voucher scheme now in its fourth year.

Continued on page 15



# he Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> January) began tentatively and modestly in 1908 as the Octave of Christian Unity, and focused on prayer for church unity. The dates of the week were proposed to begin with what Protestants kept as the Feast of the Confession of Peter (the Chair of St Peter for Roman Catholics) ending with the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

Protestant leaders in the mid-1920s also proposed an annual octave of prayer for unity amongst Christians, leading up to Whitsun (the traditional commemoration of the establishment of the Church).

Abbé Paul Couturier of Lyons, France, who has been called the father of spiritual ecumenism, had a slightly different approach and advocated prayer for the unity of the Church as Christ wills it, and in accordance with the means he wills, thereby enabling other Christians with differing views of the Petrine ministry to join in the prayer. In 1935, he proposed naming the observance Universal Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, a proposal accepted by the Roman Catholic Church in 1966.

In 1958, the French Catholic group *Unité Chrétienne* and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches (a body which includes, among others, most of the world's Orthodox churches as well as many Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, Reformed, United and Inde-

# The Rector writes . . .

pendent churches) began cooperative preparation of materials for the Week of Prayer. This has increased steadily since, resulting recently in joint publications.

Next year is the 500th anniversary of when Martin Luther in 1517 raised concerns about what he saw as abuses in the Church of his time by making public his 95 theses. A key event in the reformation movements that marked the life of the Western Church several centuries. event has been a controversial theme in the history of interchurch relations in Gérmany, not least over the last few years. After extensive, and sometimes difficult, discussions, the churches in Germany agreed that the way to commemorate ecumenically this Reformation event should be with a *Christusfest* - a Celebration of Christ. If the emphasis were to be placed on Jesus Christ and his work of reconciliation as the centre of Christian faith, then all the ecumenical partners could participate in the anniversary festivities.

Separating that which is polemical from the theological insights of the Reformation, Roman Catholics are now able to hear Luther's challenge for the Church of today, recognising him as a witness to the gospel. And so after centuries of mutual condemnations and vilification, in 2017 Lutheran and Roman Catholic Christians will for the first time commemorate together the beginning of the Reformation.

The Theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2017 and Biblical text from 2 Corinthians Chapter 5 vv 14-20 announces that God has, in Christ, reconciled the world to himself. The love of Christ compels us to be ambassadors of this reconciliation, which is enacted by dismantling the walls. With the fall of the Berlin Wall, Germany experienced how a seemingly insurmountable wall could be brought down. The fall of this wall is a symbol of hope that, with the love of God, nothing is impossible.

As the text was being written in 2015, many people and churches

in Germany were practising reconciliation by offering hospitality to the numerous refugees arriving from Syria, Afghanistan, Eritrea, as well as countries of the Western Balkans, in search of protection and a new life. The practical help and powerful actions against hatred for the foreigner were a clear witness to reconciliation for the German population. As ministers of reconciliation, the churches actively assisted the refugees in finding new homes, while at the same time trying to improve the living conditions in the countries they had left behind. Concrete acts of help are just as necessary as praying together for reconcilia-tion and peace, if those who are fleeing their terrible situations are to know some hope and consolation.

Christmas Services

Given the popularity of Children's Crib Services we now have a service on Christmas Eve at 4.30pm. This year there will again be a Solemn Sung Eucharist of the Vigil of Christmas, with half choir, which will include the singing of children's carols around the crib. The sermon will be short and geared towards children, and the style of worship relaxed, although still with a normal sung setting of the Mass.

I would encourage as many as are able to come to the main celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord, which is the glorious 11.00am Sung Eucharist on Christmas Day. Please do invite your family and visitors to join you for this, or to the Christmas Eve service if you find Christmas Day impracticable.

The Parish Carol Service (the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols) is to take place this year on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm followed by refreshments. Again this is a wonderful service to prepare for Christmas and a good occasion to invite friends along. We always invite people from local hotels and embassies and shops and businesses, as this is a wonderful celebration for the whole community. In addition I also invite members of various organisations to which I am Chaplain (The Royal Society

of St George, the Gastronomes, the Royal Society of Musicians, and others) who are most welcome.

#### Dates for diaries:

We shall be continuing to celebrate the Friday Eucharist (and all Red Letter Saints Days) at 1.10pm before making a final decision about the best time for it (12.10pm or 1.10pm) - hopefully this will be announced in the next Newsletter.

There are daily prayers in church, Monday - Thursday at 12.10pm The Mid Day Office is said on most days except when the Eucharist is celebrated on Fridays and Saints Days. Please join us if you are in the area.

Requiem for departed loved ones will be celebrated on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 13.10pm. Please inform the Verger if you wish to include names for prayer. His contact details are on the back page.

Holy Cocktail Hour Open House - all are welcome for drinks on Wednesdays 11<sup>th</sup> January and 22<sup>nd</sup> February at the Rectory, 21a Down Street W1J 7AW - entrance in Brick Street opposite the tapas bar 18.30-20.00 - top bell.

#### Mayfair Organ Concerts

Every Tuesday at 1.10pm

Admission free-retiring collection

www.organrecitals.com/1/mayfair.php

November 1 Grosvenor Chapel Andrew Benson Wilson (Basingstoke) Music by Matthias Weckmann (b1616)

November 8 St George's Robin Walker (Cambridge) Schlick, J.S.Bach, Frahm, Reger Including Canzone op. 65 no. 9 and Introduction and Passacaglia in D minor, Max Reger

November 15 Grosvenor Chapel Thomas Allery (Marylebone Parish Church)

November 22 St George's David Saint (St Chad's Cathedral, Birminham) Alain, J. S. Bach, Mendelssohn and Vierne

November 29 Grosvenor Chapel Peter Stevens (Westminster Cathedral)

December 6 St George's David Ponsford (Cardiff University) J.S.Bach, Pierre Du Mage

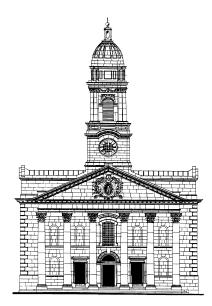


December 13 Grosvenor Chapel Richard Hobson (Grosvenor Chapel) Stanley, Walond, J.S.Bach, Franck, Reger

December 20 St George's Wyatt Smith (Seattle, USA) Buxtehude, J.S.Bach, Böhm, Bruhns

Concerts resume on Tuesday 3 January. Until Easter, all concerts are at St George's whilst the organ at the Grosvenor Chapel is cleaned.





**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November** 8.40am Morning Calm 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 8.40am Morning Calm 12.10pm Midday Prayer 5.45pm Holy Communion

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** 8.40am Morning Calm 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 8.40am Morning Calm 1.10pm Holy Communion

#### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity

8.30am Holy Communion 11.00am Sung Eucharist Celebrant:The Rector Preacher: The Revd Nicolas Stebbing CR Missa Collegium Regale (Howells) Ave verum corpus (Elgar)

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 8.40am Morning Calm 12.10pm Midday Prayer

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November** 8.40am Morning Calm 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 8.40am Morning Calm 12.10pm Midday Prayer 5.45pm Holy Communion

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November** 8.40am Morning Calm 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November St Martin of Tours 8.40am Morning Calm 11.00am Act of Remembrance 1.10pm Holy Communion

# Services at St George's November 2016 -February 2017

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Sunday 8.30am Holy Communion 10.55am Sung Eucharist Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector Requiem (Fauré)

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 8.40am Morning Calm 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November St Machutus, Bishop, Apostle of Brittany c564 8.40am Morning Calm 12.10pm Midday Prayer

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November** 8.40am Morning Calm 12.10pm Midday Prayer 5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November St Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, 1200 8.40am Morning Calm 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 8.40am Morning Calm 1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November Sunday next before Advent

8.30am Holy Communion 11.00am Sung Eucharist Celebrant & Preacher: Canon Alistair Macdonald-Radcliff Missa Brevis (Antony le Fleming) Lord I trust thee (Handel)

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 8.40am Morning Calm 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November St Cecilia, Martyr at Rome, c230 8.40am Morning Calm 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November St Clement, Bishop of Rome, Martyr, c100 8.40am Morning Calm 12.10pm Midday Prayer 5.45pm Holy Communion **Thursday 24**<sup>th</sup> **November** 8.40am Morning Calm 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November St Catherine of Alexandra, Martyr, 4<sup>th</sup>c 8.40am Morning Calm 1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November First Sunday in Advent 8.30am Holy Communion 11.00am Sung Eucharist Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November St Andrew, the Apostle 12.10pm Midday Prayer 5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December Second Sunday in Advent 8.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Sung Eucharist
(attended by the Réunion des
Gastronomes)
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector
Mass in F sharp minor (Widor)
Ave Maria (Josquin Desprez)

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December St Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c326 12.10pm Midday Prayer

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December** 12.10pm Midday Prayer 5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 1.10pm Holy Communion Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December Third Sunday in Advent 8.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Sung Eucharist Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector Missa Sancta et Immaculata (Guerrero) Laetantur coeli (Byrd)

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December St Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 14th December Ember Day
12.10pm Midday Prayer
There will be no 5.45pm Holy Communion service

Thursday 15th December Ember Day 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December Ember Day 1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December Fourth Sunday in Advent 8.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Sung Eucharist Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector Darke in A minor O thou the central orb (Wood) 6.00pm Parish Carol Service

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 21st December St Thomas the Apostle 12.10pm Midday Prayer 5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1.10pm Holy Communion

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve 4.30pm Solemn First Vigil Mass of Christmas Sumsion in F The angel Gabriel from heaven came (arr Pettman)

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day 11.00am Sung Eucharist Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector St Nicolas Mass (Haydn) Ding dong! Merrily on high (arr Wood) Comes the Light (App Burgass) Comes thé Light (Ann Burgess)

Monday 26<sup>th</sup>-Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December No services

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January The Circumcision of Christ

11.00am Sung Eucharist Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector Missa O magnum mysterium (Victoria) O magnum mysterium (Victoria)

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January Public holiday - no services

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 12.10pm Midday Prayer 5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January
The Epiphany
8.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector Missa Brevis in B flat (Mozart) Lo! Star-led chiefs (Crotch)

**Monday 9**<sup>th</sup> **January** 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 12.10pm Midday Prayer

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January** 12.10pm Midday Prayer 5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January St Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher 367 1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January Second Sunday after the Epipha-

8.30am Holy Communion 11.00am Sung Eucharist Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector Missa Brevis (Berkeley) Light of the world (Elgar)

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 12.10pm Midday Prayer

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January** 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January St Prisca, Martyr at Rome, c265 12.10pm Midday Prayer 5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January St Fabian, Bishop of Rome, Martyr, 250 1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January Third Sunday after the Epiphany 8.30am Holy Communion 11.00am Sung Eucharist Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector Missa Bel' Amfitrit' Altera (Lassus)

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Panis angelicus (Dering)

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January Conversion of St Paul 12.10pm Midday Prayer 5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

8.30am Holy Communion 11.00am Sung Eucharist Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector Stanford in C O salutaris hostia (Howells)

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January Charles, King & Martyr, 1649 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 12.10pm Midday Prayer

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February** 12.10pm Midday Prayer 5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February Presentation of Christ in the Temple 1.10pm Holy Communion

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February St Blasius, Bishop of Sebastopol, Martyr c316

1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany 8.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Sung Eucharist Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector Missa Brevis St Joannis de Deo (Haydn) Laudate Dominum (Mozart)

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February Accession of Queen Elizabeth, 1952 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 12.10pm Midday Prayer

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February** 12.10pm Midday Prayer 5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February
Septuagesima
8.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector
Mass in G (Vaughan Williams)
Teach me, O Lord (Byrd)

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February St Valentine, Martyr at Rome c269 12.10pm Midday Prayer

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February** 12.10pm Midday Prayer 5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 19th February

Sexagésima 8.30am Holy Communion 11.00am Sung Eucharist Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector Williams in D Tantum ergo (Pearsall)

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 21st February 12.10pm Midday Prayer

**Wednesday 22**<sup>nd</sup> **February** 12.10pm Midday Prayer 5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February St Matthias, the Apostle 1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February Quinquagesima 8.30am Holy Communion 11.00am Sung Eucharist Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector Missa Brevis (Bryan Kelly) Ecce panis angelorum (S. Wesley)

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 12.10pm Midday Prayer

# New Assistant Director of Music

Nicholas Morris

t is with particular pleasure that we announce the appointment of **Nicholas Morris** as Assistant Director of Music at St George's in succession to Robin Walker who left us in September after three years to take up the post of Director of Music at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

Nicholas is the grandson of Chistopher Morris who was Organist at St George's between 1947 and 1971.

Nicholas spent his early musical years as a chorister at Westminster Abbey under the direction of James O'Donnell. He was subsequently a Music and Academic Scholar at Uppingham School. Between 2011 and 2014, Nicholas held the Organ Scholarship at Queens' College, Cambridge, where he also read for a degree in music. After graduation, he moved to the West Midlands and took up the post of Assistant Organist at Birmingham Cathedral. In September 2016, he joined the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge as Assistant Organist, a post he will now hold in tandem with the post at St George's.

Nicholas has performed extensively as a soloist both in the UK and abroad. International engagements have included performances in Norway, the United States, and in the opening concert of the 2012 City of Münster Orgelsommer. UK recital venues have included St Paul's, Westminster, and Southwark Cathedrals in London, the Cathedrals in Wells, Ely and Truro, and Westminster Abbey. Nicholas has a particular interest in new music, and gave a solo recital as part of the 2014 London Festival of Contemporary Church music. He regularly collaborates with composer Toby Young and has premiered several of his works.

Nicholas also enjoys performing with singers and instrumentalists. He has recently appeared as director and harpsichord soloist in Bach's Fifth Brandenburg Concerto, and will perform as organ soloist in Poulenc's Organ Concerto in Birmingham Town Hall in March 2017. As accompanist to the Cambridge University Musical Society (CUMS) Chorus during 2012 and 2013, Nicholas acted as an assistant to Stephen Cleobury, and was the organist for all concerts over the season. As the accompanist for the Birmingham Conservatoire Chamber Choir in 2014 and 2015, he played for their busy schedule of concerts, CD recordings, and BBC radio broadcasts, under the direction of Paul Spicer.

# The Undercroft

ueen Anne's Act of 1711 which lead to the building of St George's in 1724, contained a provision that a "Free School" be incorporated into the design of the proposed fifty new churches. As far as we know, a free school was never established in the undercroft, probably due to the lack of available light, and the first parish school did not open until 1804, transferring to its present site in South Street in 1898.

We don't know what use, if any, the space was put to during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, but no burial has ever taken place in the space. By the 1920s it was a wine and spirits cellar. This continued until just before the war, when the Bishop of London gave instruction to The Reverend Montgomery Campbell, the then Rector (who later also became Bishop of London) to close it down due to complaints from local residents about excessive noise. During the war all the stained glass windows were removed from church and stored in the undercroft, and not fitted back into the windows until 1948. The Undercroft continued to be used for storage, and was let to Sotheby's the Auctioneers in St George's Street for thirty years until 2014.

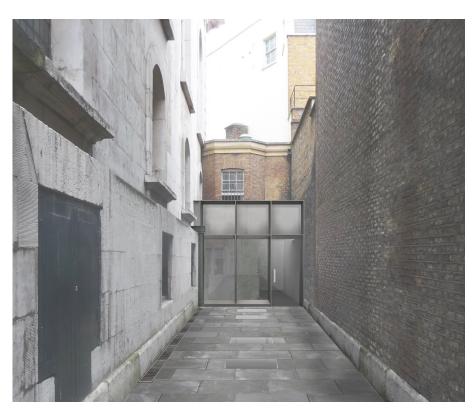
We now have plans to incorporate the space into the full life of the church. A smart new lavatory block (with four female WCs, two male urinals, one male WC, and a disabled access WC) will be built under the portico, replacing the rather shabby inadequate lavatories installed in the south west corner in the 1960s. This will provide proper facilities for all users of the church. The space under the main church will be configured to contain a large "green room", restaurant and bar facilities. See architect's plan overleaf.

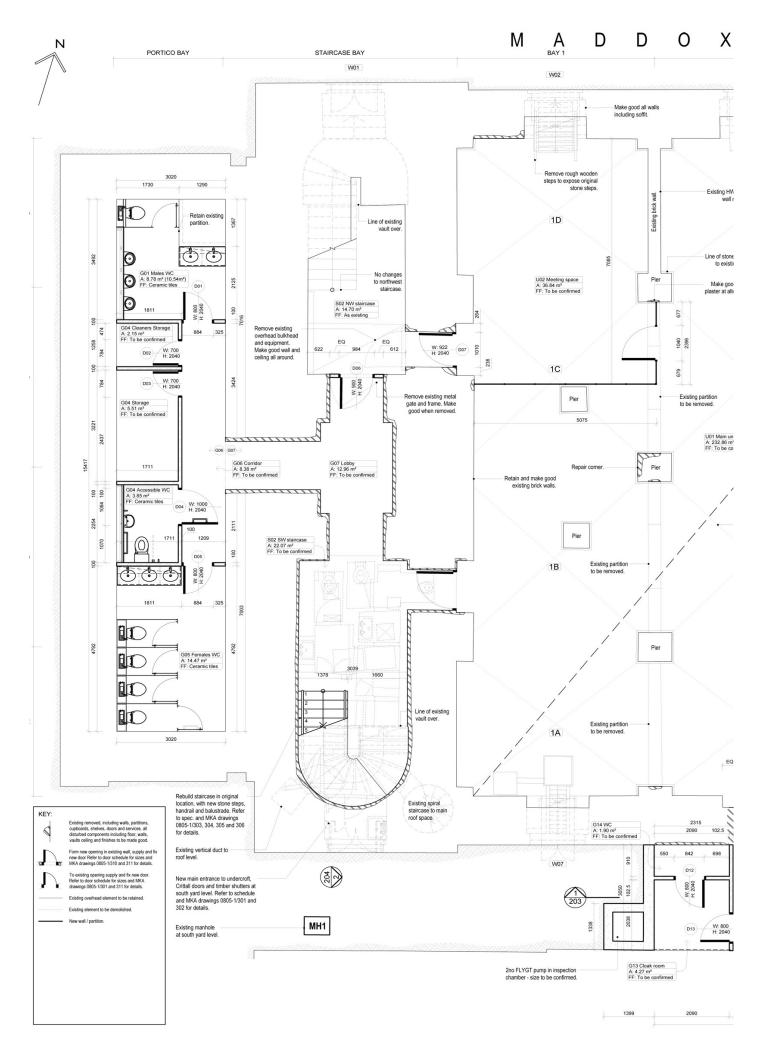
The green room will be for musicians when we host concerts. It will also be used for PCC and other meetings (it can seat 40 people) and be the home for our Sunday school. At other times it will be available for private hire. The rest of the space will include a restaurant and bar area operating from Monday to Friday, serving lunch and dinner, and providing interval drinks etc., when concerts take place in Church. At the weekends this space will be available for wedding receptions, private hire, and Sunday church receptions. A visualisation of what this will look like (computer generated from the architect's plans) appears on the front page.

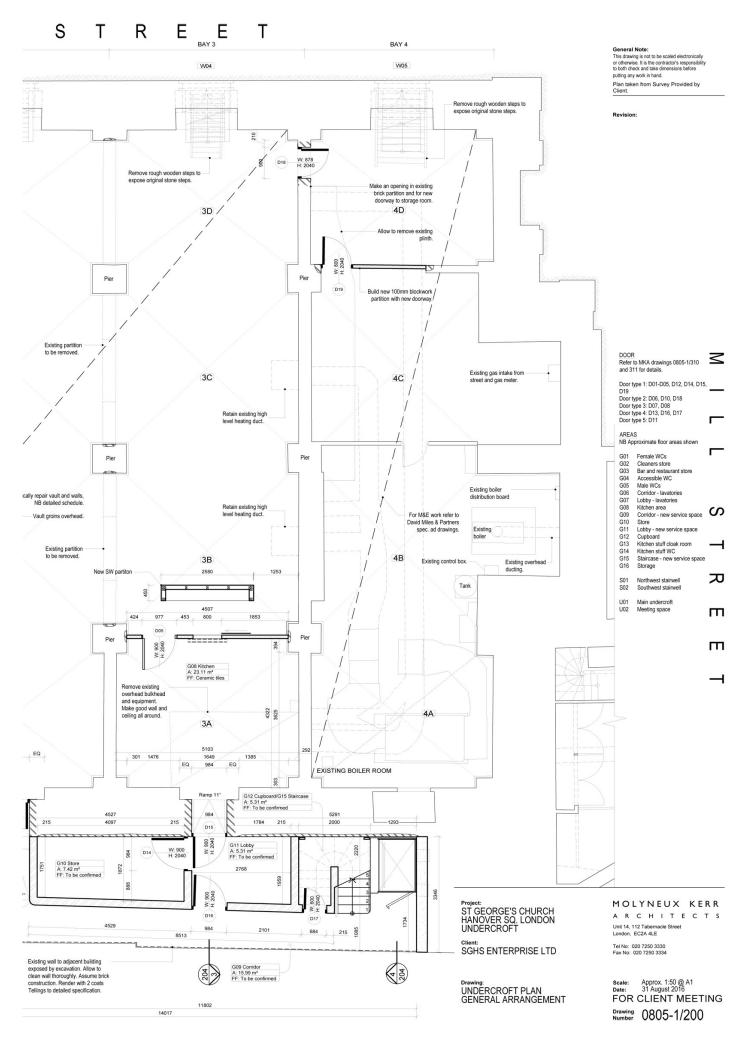
A new stairway down into the undercroft (needed for fire regulations) and a disabled access lift will be installed at the east end of the yard (just below the Rector's vestry window), which will provide wheel-chair access to both the church and undercroft from pavement level. We have now received the planning permission from Westminster City Council for this new small structure. See the picture at the bottom of this page. The main entrance to the undercroft will be by a new doorway at the south west end of the yard down a new widened stone staircase which will replace the existing narrow stairway down to the present lavatories. This means the undercroft space can operate independently of the church, or together with the church, with entrance down the new stone staircase from the south lobby.

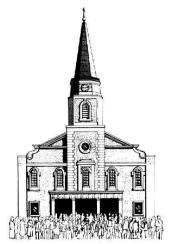
The PCC have agreed the project in principle, but a final decision still has to be made when we have the full costings and funding arrangements in place. Our present timetable, if all goes according to plan, is for works to start after Easter 2017, with phase one, the new lavatories and disabled access, to be completed before Advent 2017, and with phase two, the fit out of the main undercroft space to start in January 2018 and to be open by Easter 2018. December 2018 sees the opening of the new Crossrail Station in Hanover Square, when the footfall past the church is projected to increase significantly, and we the church must be ready to capitalise on this. This is an exciting new venture which integrates the component parts of our Mission Action Plan, (dignified worship, musical excellence and thoughtful preservation) and will help to further cement St George's into the life of the area. Fundraising for the project will start soon!!

Michael Beckett Church Warden









Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 3rd Sunday before Advent 11.00am Sung Eucharist Darke Communion Service in E Purcell O God, thou art my God Reger Toccata & Fugue in D Op 59

Sunday 13th November Remembrance Sunday 10.55am Sung Eucharist Fauré Requiem Mass (with orchestra)

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November Christ the King 11.00am Sung Eucharist Mozart Missa Brevis in C K259 Purcell Declare his honour Gigout Toccata

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November Advent Sunday 11.00am Sung Eucharist Plainsong The Advent Prose Byrd Mass for Five Voices Byrd Laetentur coeli Andrew Carter Toccata on Veni Emmanuel

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December Second Sunday of Advent 11,00am Sung Eucharist Domenico Scarlati

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Domenico Scarlatti
Mass for Four Voices
Gibbons This is the record of John
Pachelbel Toccata in E minor

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December Third Sunday of Advent 11.00am Sung Eucharist Richard Hobson Missa Brevis MacMillan O radiant dawn Bach Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

# Services at Grosvenor Chapel November 2016—January 2017

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm Community Carol Service

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December
Fourtham Sunday of Advent
11.00 Sung Eucharist
Esquivel Missa Ave Virgo sanctissima
Guerrero Ave virgo sanctissima
Garth Edmundson Toccata-Prelude on
Vom Himmel hoch

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve 11.00pm Carols 11.30pm Midnight Mass Richard Shepherd Mass of the Nativity Tavener A Christmas Proclamation J.S.Bach In dulci jubilo

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day 11.00am Sung Eucharist Byrd Mass for Five Voices Darke In the bleak midwinter Daguin Noel Suisse

Sunday 1st January
The First Sunday after Christmas
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Mass with hymns and organ music

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January
The Epiphany of Our Lord
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Mozart Missa Brevis in D K194
Mendelssohn When Jesus our Lord
Cornelius The Three Kings

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January The Baptism of Christ 11,00am Sung Eucharist Palestrina Missa Qual'e il piu grande amor Peter Phillips In splendente nube Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January The Second Sunday of Epiphany 11.00am Sung Eucharist Filipe de Magalhães Missa O soberana luz Poulenc Videntes stellam

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January The Presentation of Christ in the Temple 11.00am Sung Eucharist Rubbra Missa Sancti Dominici Tallis Videte miraculum Holst Nunc Dimittis

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February The Fourth Sunday before Lent 11,00am Sung Eucharist Alessandro Scarlatti Mass for Five Voices Purcell Thy word is a lantern

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February The Third Sunday before Lent 11.00am Sung Eucharist Byrd Mass for Four Voices Guerrero Hoc est praeceptum meum

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February The Second Sunday before Lent 11.00am Sung Eucharist Kenneth Leighton Missa Brevis Giacomo Carissimi Beatus vir

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February
The Sunday next before Lent
11,00am Sung Eucharist
Claudio Monteverdi
Mass for Four Voices
Schütz Was betrübst du dich,
meine Seele?



# Churches Together in Westminster Prisons Mission

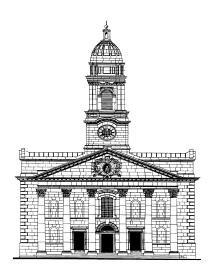
#### CHURCHES OF MANY DENOMINA-TIONS MARK PRISONS WEEK.

or many years Prisons Week was marked mainly by Roman Catholic churches which used the occasion the focus attention of congregations onto this controversial subject. Often the central purpose was to call for prayers for the plight of people detained in prisons while awaiting trial, or serving custodial sentences. This was sometimes extended to include those who worked in prisons. the families of inmates and the victims of crime.

Gradually churches of other denominations have joined in, often encouraged by their leaders or a few churches and members of congregations with a particular interest in the subject and knowledge of prison conditions.

Sadly, during all these years, there have been few positive outcomes. The prison population has doubled since Mrs Thatcher was Prime Minister, when there were about 45,000 people in prison. On 16th September there were 94,721 men, women and children in British prisons. In England and there were 81.969 men,3,838 women and 940 children (aged 10-17). More than any other country in western Europe. Nearly double the number, per head of population, of those in France, Germany or Italy. There is not more crime, violence, or the causes of crime here, but we lock up more people and keep them in prison for longer than our neighbours. Against this background, is there any useful purpose in maintaining Prisons Week each year?

The leaders of all the main Christian traditions believe that it has



become more important to mark Prisons Week than ever before. This view is shared by the Executive of Churches Together in Westminster (CTiW), which comprises 80+ churches in central London. St George's is an active member of CTiW and was one of the pioneers of the Prisons Mission it launched three years ago. The individuals, who do the active work in support of Prison Chaplaincy Teams and their home churches with which they share their learning, have worked hard to develop new material for Prisons Week this year. This draws



Whitby Bay, HM Prison Hull: Orpington Methodist Church Bronze Award for Mixed Media 2015



Love and Life, HM Prison Grendon

Sir Hugh Casson Award for Portraits 2015

attention not just to prison inmates, but to the entire criminal justice and penal system and all those involved within, or eafected by it.

The booklet published by CTiW has a new authenticity and in addition to many suggested prayers, intercessions, readings and hymns, it includes a list of organisations which provide help, advice or services on the subject. There is also a quiz to assist and provoke discussions with church groups. This has been very well received by churches in London and distributed very widely by bodies such as St Paul's Cathedral Institute and Vincentians in Partnership, a national Roman Catholic organisation. Special services have been held, using the booklet as a resource, in Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist and Church of Scotland churches. In addition to worship, several of these churches have arranged post Prisons Week activities, to focus on what they should do to address what they perceive to be the real crisis within the criminal justice system. Such action is in addition to the prayers which are urgently needed.

On 10th October Bishop James Langstaff of Rochester, who is also Bishop to Prisons, launched Prison Hope at a special service held inside Pentonville prison. The aim of this new national initiative is to attract, during 2017, many more churches to support and pray for local prisons, encourage volunteering and focus on the hope inspired by Jesus. Churches and people keen to learn more can find this

when the website opens in November (<a href="www.prisonhope.org.uk">www.prisonhope.org.uk</a>) and the organisation can be contacted via <a href="mailto:info@prisonhope.org.uk">info@prisonhope.org.uk</a>.

Another new development which reflects the crisis in our prisons was the call on 12th October, by the national Association of Prison Governors for an independent Public Inquiry into the state of prisons, following the "unprecedented" rise in violence, self harm and suicides. There were 105 self inflicted deaths in custody during the 6 months to June. Almost double the total 5 years ago. Bishop Moth, the Catholic Liaison Bishop for Prisons, welcomed this announcement and explained that it "underlines the current serious state of the prison service".

It is appreciated that not every one concerned about the dire state of our prisons wants, is able, or is suitable to undertake voluntary work inside prisons. There are many other worthwhile forms of ministry. One is to ensure that St George's becomes more "Welcoming Church" to exoffenders and discharged prisoners. This requires careful thought, planning and change. Secondly, individuals can become friends with men or women serving custodial sentences. The work of Prisoners Penfriends has been shown to be of real value. It is a safe, worthwhile and rewarding way to practise a simple but effective Christian ministry. Information about the training and support for found this can be gwyn.morgan@prisonerspenfriend s.org .

Members of St George's Church who are active with our Prisons Mission are keen to answer questions and hear your suggestions about our aims and activities.

John Plummer Coordinator. Prisons Mission CTiW 62 Perth Road London N4 3HB

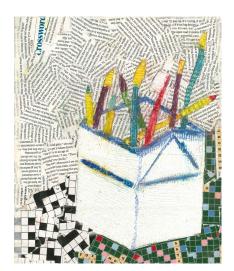
020 7272 1639

Sarah Jane Vernon writes:

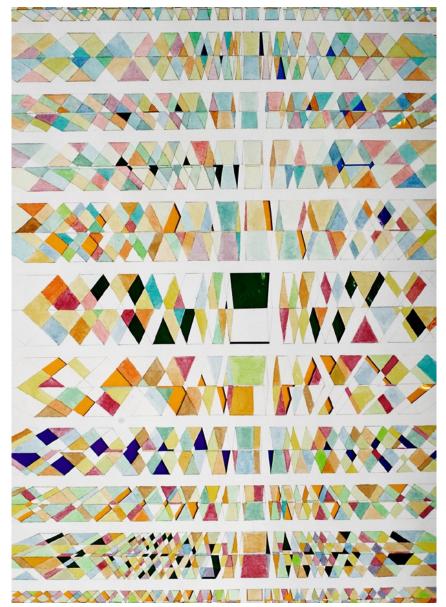
t the heart of Prisons Week - which for forty years has been encouraging the Christian community to pray for the needs of all those affected by prisons - is the Sunday Prison Service. This was held at St George's on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October, marking at the same time Harvest Festival with a collection donated to the West London Mission for its work with homeless and marginalised people.

The service aimed to focus thought and prayer on the men, women and children detained behind prison walls, to ensure that they are not 'out of sight and out of mind'. It also highlighted the involvement of volunteers from St George's in the Churches Together in Westminster Prisons Mission - the nature of the work, what they find for themselves through that work and what is then brought back to the church and its congregation.

Alistair Milward addressed the service about his experiences at Wandsworth Prison. He volunteers through the Wandsworth Chaplaincy Community Trust, a charity as he explained "that works out of the Chaplaincy office at the prison and is there for men who have a release date set and have asked for help. It's safe and meaningful work that can help the man get on his feet after release and in a secular setting be supported by a befriender or mentor. The charity trains and assigns people such as myself to a prisoner and we meet at the prison a few times



Pencils in Milk Carton, HM Prison & Young Offenders' Institution Parc, Wales. The Lamb Building Chambers Commended Award for Mixed Media 2015



Kaleidoscope Fulfilment, HM Prison Peterborough. Inside Time First Time Entrant Award for Mixed Media 2015

and on the date of their release and for a few months thereafter.

Alistair is clear that "if I thought that I could have any meaningful impact on the horrendous published statistics surrounding self harm, recidivism (reoffending), rehabilitation, assault and substance abuse whilst inside prison - I really needn't have bothered. These are huge problems..."

"But given what I've seen, what I've learnt, given what I have found in myself to offer to another; it fills me with an almost perverse confidence that I might, just might actually make a difference to someone else, some other day. Someone for whom the concept of hope has got lost in ...their locked up world." Prayers were offered for vic-

Prayers were offered for victims of crime, the families of all victims or perpetrators of crime, those those who work in the criminal justice system and those who work inside prisons. The Intercessions were led by John Rowland, who is also involved in the CTiW Prisons Mission, and concluded in prayer and hope for prisoners themselves: Give to all prisoners...the strength to lift first their eyes and then their hearts to recognise your light...set them free from the power of darkness, make them ready to start again in hope.

Images generously supplied by the Koestler Trust. The Koestler Trust is the UK's leading prison arts charity. We play a vital part in the rehabilitative journey offered to prisoners and exprisoners to transform their lives through participation in the arts. For more information visit www.koestlertrust.org.uk or tweet @koestlertrus

# Christmas at St George's

#### Thursday 1st December

7.00pm St George's Handel's *Messiah* See page 14

#### **Tuesday 13th December**

7.00pm svenor Chapel

Grosvenor Chapel
Community Carol Service

#### Sunday 18th December

6.00pm
St George's
Parish Carol Service

# Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve

4.30pm

St George's

#### Solemn Vigil Mass of Christmas

Sumsion in F The angel Gabriel from heaven came (arr Pettman)

11.00pm

**Grosvenor Chapel** 

#### Carols & Midnight Mass

Shepherd Mass of the Nativity Tavener A Christmas Proclamation J.S.Bach In dulci jubilo

# Sunday 25th December Christmas Day

11,00am

St George's

Sung Eucharist St Nicolas Mass (Haydn) Ding dong! Merrily on high (arr Wood) Comes the Light (Ann Burgess)

There is also a Sung Eucharist at 11.00am at Grosvenor Chapel on Christmas morning.



# LONDON BACH SOCIETY'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2016 7.30pm

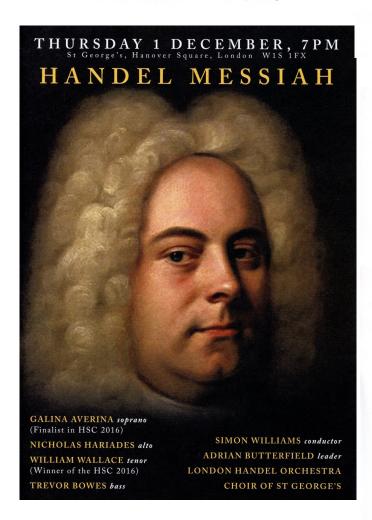
"In the footsteps of Bach"

Programme includes

Solo Cantata "Vergnügte Ruh..." BWV 170 Motet "Jesu, meine Freude" Chaconne for solo violin Chorale Preludes from Orgelbüchlein Chorale Preludes from Orgelbüchlein Project

Steinitz Bach Players, Amici Voices, Anna Harvey, William Whitehead Ian Partridge

Tickets £30, £25, £20, £15: Call 01883 717372 Or go online www.bachlive.co.uk and navigate to Bachfest 2016 Tickets also on sale at the door from 6.45pm



Tickets: £45, £40, £35 & £12 (restricted/no view) Book online: www.london-handel-festival.com Book by phone: 01460 54660

(Monday-Friday 10am-12.30pm & 2-4pm)

#### Friends of the London Handel Festival FIRST WINTER SERIES CONCERT

A Pastoral for the Duchess of Parson's Green

Wednesday 23rd November 2016 at 7:00 pm





Scholars and Gentlemen

Music by

**George Frideric Handel Maurice Greene** 

Giovanni Bononcini

Featuring Lisa Rijmer (soprano-HSC Finalist 2009) Luke Green (harpsichord)

Concert will be in St George's Church, Hanover Square, W1 Tickets will be £12 (Friends of the London Handel Festival £10) to include substantial refreshments at the interval at no charge Tickets available at the door from 6:30 pm on the night.

For information email mark@windisch.co.uk or text / phone 07939 552658





### Friends of the London Handel **Festival** With Opera Lyrica **SECOND WINTER SERIES CONCERT**

Tuesday 21st February 2017 at 7:00pm A concert of arias by Handel and others

Performers are subject to confirmation but will include finalists and a winner of the London Handel Festival singing competition

TBA – soprano

Alexander Simpson – countertenor

William Wallace - tenor

TBA-Harpsichord

Concert will be in St George's Church, Hanover Square, W1 Tickets will be £12 (Friends of the London Handel Festival £10) to include substantial refreshments at the interval at no charge Tickets available at the door from 6:30 pm on the night. For information email mark@windisch.co.uk

or text / phone 07939 552658

# Hyde Park Place Estate Charity

#### **CIVIL TRUSTEES**

At their meeting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September, the Civil Trustees of the Hyde Park Place Estate Charity awarded grants totalling £40,073 to the following organisations working in the City of Westminster:

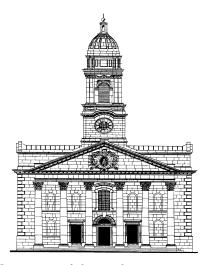
St Andrew's Club
Blind in Business
The Foundation for Young Musicians
Beanstalk
Shelter
The Mosaic Community Trust
St John's Wood Adventure Playground
Bishop Creighton House
Encouragement Through Arts and Talking
Westminster Boating Base
All Souls Clubhouse
St George's School
St George's Hanover Square - Refreshment Coupon Scheme

Further meetings of the Civil Trustees will be held on Wednesday  $23^{\rm rd}$  November 2016 (application deadline: Monday  $7^{\rm th}$  November), and Wednesday  $8^{\rm th}$  March 2017 (application deadline: Monday  $20^{\rm th}$  February).

#### **ECCLESIASTICAL TRUSTEES**

The next meeting of the Ecclesiastical Trustees will be held on Sunday  $27^{\rm th}$  November 2016 (application deadline: Monday  $14^{\rm th}$  November).

Shirley Vaughan Clerk to the Trustees



#### Continued from front page

And it is to support and if possible expand this scheme that is one of the motivations for opening up the Undercroft. Use of the large space under the church for storage has long been one of the relatively small number of revenue streams open to St George's which is why, when considering the uses to which it will now be put, it has been necessary for financial considerations to be taken seriously.

That said we should not, I think, be apologetic about opening as a week-day restaurant. Mayfair being Mayfair, social engagement means reaching out to those who during the week work in the area in auction houses, art galleries, merchant banks, embassies and fashionable shops as well as those who will pass by in ever greater numbers once the Elizabeth Line station in Hanover Square is open. And if in engaging with such people over lunch or interval drinks at a concert we are able to generate sufficient funds to allow us to enhance the support we give to the less fortunate, be they homeless, in prison or living in poverty elsewhere in the world, then we can continue to be proud of our mission-focussed stewardship of the resources available to us.

# PARISH OF ST GEORGE, HANOVER SQUARE

Charity No: 1134811

# St George's Church The Vestry, 2A Mill Street, London W1S 1FX

Tel: 020 7629 0874

Email:

rector@stgeorgeshanoversquare.org
parish.administrator@stgeorgeshanoversquare.org
verger@stgeorgeshanoversquare.org
little.dragons@stgeorgeshanoversquare.org

Website: www.stgeorgeshanoversquare.org

# St George's Hanover Square Foundation

**Charity No 1120505** 

Email:

campaign@stgeorgeshanoversquare.org

## **Hyde Park Place Estate Charity**

Charity No 212439

Email:

hppec@stgeorgeshanoversquare.org

# Grosvenor Chapel 24 South Audley Street, London W1K 2PA

Tel: 020 7499 1684

Email:

richard.fermer@grosvenorchapel.org.uk info@grosvenorchapel.org.uk

