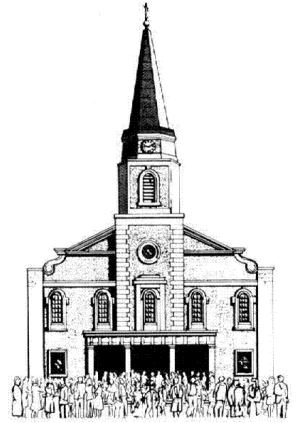


NEWSLETTER

Parish of St George

Hanover Square



St George's Church

Grosvenor Chapel

July – October 2018: issue 40



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It had been hoped that this, the 40th edition of the St George's Parish Newsletter, could have been devoted in large measure to our plans for the Undercroft as we moved forward towards its opening. That will now have to wait.

Work on the converting this former storage facility into a fully integrated element of the 21st-century church is progressing, though it is now running behind its original timeline.

While this is frustrating, the good news is that this is not because the contractors have encountered any issues with the build, but rather that the complexities of what is involved had not been fully understood and this has resulted in delays. It now looks like the building works will be completed by mid-October. On the positive side, the delay will not cost us any

more investment, in itself, being down to the contractor's performance; however it does mean that we do not anticipate the Undercroft being open before the New Year.

In relation to the search for our partner to run the space for us, the process remains ongoing, though nearing the end. We have set ourselves a deadline of the end of July as the latest date for a decision, after when we can work with the partner to finalise the remaining parts of the building work relating to the catering facilities and look and feel of the whole space.

Whilst we would clearly not have wanted any of these delays, the advantage we have is that is very much a long-term venture for us and so we are able to ride out such short-term frustrations, with our

eyes set firmly on the end game and the ongoing benefits.

In the meantime, life goes on. The roles of magazine editor and contributor are distinct, and the editor of this Newsletter has, by and large, respected that distinction and has not trespassed on the contributor's territory. The motivation for breaking that convention with the article on pages 9 and 10 has been a perceived need to redress an imbalance that has perhaps existed between the column inches we have devoted to the two major social programmes with which St George's is currently involved: on the one hand the Prisons Mission (once more eloquently reported on by John Plummer on pages 7 and 8) and on the other, the Food Voucher Scheme which seeks to address matters that confront us daily at our own front door.

The Rector writes . . .



Following decades of faithful service and support of St George's in various capacities **Michael Beckett** retired in the spring after nearly a dozen years as Churchwarden, first working closely with Malcolm Lothian as a colleague, and then helping to look after the parish in a strong and fruitful partnership with Mark Hewitt. They both work incredibly hard for us, and you will perhaps be unaware that the responsibilities and scale of the job go well beyond the average parish. We owe immense thanks to Michael (supported by Lilia) not only for his work for the church but also as a key Governor of our school.

He is succeeded as Churchwarden by **Graham Barnes**, who is also a server – as is Anne his wife and as indeed was Malcolm Lothian. Like Michael and Lilia (prior to their move) Graham and Anne live locally and this will no doubt prove useful as far as being responsible for the fabric is concerned. We wish Graham well.

Michael has overseen major fabric works: the complete and thorough interior Restoration (coming into church almost every day during the project); the installation of a new organ and, along with Mark Hewitt and Stephen Wikner, has driven forward the redevelopment of the Undercroft space beneath us, seeing the building through a period of profound change and improvement as Chairman of the Fabric Committee.

Lest we forget, some years ago there were bold decisions to be made in finding the right Architect for the building... and both of us had to make difficult calls in the midst of conflicting advice. We were blessed in finding Colin Kerr. Michael has also been Chairman of the Hyde Park Place Estate Charity. He has helped to look after church flats and property, and along with Mark Hewitt and myself, has kept a close eye on our investments as we have reviewed who the best managers of our funds might be. In addition he has had wider commitments as Chairman of Governors at St Gabriel's, Pimlico.

Michael also holds a lot of the recent history of the parish within him. Along with others, as we look forward to our tercentenary, we will need to ensure that much of it is remembered and recorded. Above all, we think of Michael being a congenial friend to so many at St George's, including members of the choir, donating music for new settings of the Sung Mass to extend the repertoire; and hosting stylish parties at Christmas and on other occasions.



Michael Beckett & The Rector

There is a huge amount of public achievement to be thankful for. But also there is another side: the quiet kindnesses and wisdom; the support and care – received in private and discreetly – for which a priest is always grateful. There have been occasions when unnecessary fuss and kerfuffle have been avoided thanks to Michael's wisdom and nous. Michael – thank you from all of us.

Baptism Renewal Sunday when we invite families who have celebrated the sacrament at St George's back to renew vows and links is on **Sunday 9th September**, followed by a party.

Harvest Festival in aid of provision for homeless people is on **Sunday 7th October**, again followed by bubbly refreshments.

Prisons Week Sunday is on **Sunday 14th October** and will include the latest reports concerning the project we support with volunteers as part of our ecumenical engagement.

Royal Society of St George Parade Sunday is on **Sunday 21st October** as we welcome a number of visitors.

There are daily prayers in church, Monday – Thursday at 12.10pm The Midday 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 3rd August at 1.10pm. Please inform the Verger if you wish to include names for prayer. Contact details are on the back page.

Holy Cocktail Hour Open House – all are welcome for drinks on Wednesdays 26th September, 17th October, 28th November at 6.30pm until 8pm at the Rectory, 21a Down Street W1J 7AW (entrance in Brick Street opposite the tapas bar - top bell).

Mayfair Organ Concerts

A weekly series of lunchtime organ concerts
now beginning its sixth year
at St George's, Hanover Square & the Grosvenor Chapel.
Every Tuesday 1.10-1.50pm



Tuesday 3rd July
1.10pm
Grosvenor Chapel
Richard Hobson
(Grosvenor Chapel)
*Music by Couperin, Bach,
Frank Bridge & John Cook*

Tuesday 10th July
1.10pm
St George's
Ashley Wagner (Royal
Birmingham Conservatoire)
*Music by Alain, Bach, Byrd,
Debussy, Fournier & Reger*

Tuesday 17th July
1.10pm
Grosvenor Chapel
Ben Lewis-Smith
(St Columba's, Pont Street)
Programme to be announced

Tuesday 24th July
1.10pm
St George's
Peter Gould (Portsmouth)
*Music by Bednall, Buxtehude,
Handel, Howells, Mulet,
Shepherd & Walton*

Tuesday 31st July
1.10pm
Grosvenor Chapel
Willem Hórmann
(‘s Hertogenbosch)
Programme to be announced

Tuesday 7th August
1.10pm
St George's
Simon Harden (Dublin)
*Music by Bovet, Buxtehude,
Connesson & Ritter*

Tuesday 14th August
1.10pm
Grosvenor Chapel
Alex Flood
(St Peter's, St Albans)
Programme to be announced

Tuesday 21st August
1.10pm
St George's
Michael Overbury
(Worksop Priory)
*Music by Bach, Farnaby, Munday
& Stanford*

Tuesday 28th August
1.10pm
Grosvenor Chapel
Richard Hobson
Programme to be announced

Tuesday 4th September
1.10pm
St George's
David Maw
Programme to be announced

Tuesday 11th September
1.10pm
Grosvenor Chapel
Andrew Benson-Wilson
(Basingstoke)
Programme to be announced

Tuesday 18th September
1.10pm
St George's
Adam Cobb
Programme to be announced

Tuesday 25th September
1.10pm
Grosvenor Chapel
Soloist & programme
to be announced
Programme to be announced

Tuesday 2nd October
1.10pm
St George's
Alberto Brigandi
Programme to be announced

Tuesday 9th October
1.10pm
Grosvenor Chapel
Soloist & programme
to be announced

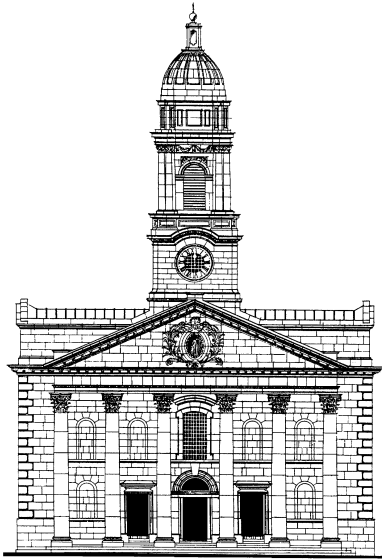
Tuesday 16th October
1.10pm
St George's
Herman Jordaan
Programme to be announced

Tuesday 23rd October
1.10pm
Grosvenor Chapel
Soloist & programme
to be announced

Tuesday 30th October
1.10pm
St George's
Simon Williams (St George's)
Programme to be announced

@mayfair_organ

www.organrecitals.com/mayfair



Services at St George's July-October 2018

Sunday 1st July Fifth Sunday after Trinity

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector
Missa Euge bone (Tye)
O sacrum convivium (Tallis)
Prelude in C BWV 547 (Bach)

Monday 2nd July
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 3rd July
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 4th July
Translation of St Martin, Bishop of
Tours, c 397
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 5th July
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 6th July
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 8th July
Sixth Sunday after Trinity
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist &
Renewal of marriage vows
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector
Missa Brevis in F (Haydn)
Beati quorum via (Stanford)
Trio Sonata No 4: Adagio-Vivace
(Bach)

Monday 9th July
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 10th July
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 11th July
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 12th July
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 13th July
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 15th July
Seventh Sunday after Trinity
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant: The Rector
Preacher:
The Revd Dr Alan McCormack
Missa Brevis (Lennox Berkeley)
Strengthen for service (Paul Ayres)
Paeon (Leighton)

Monday 16th July
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 17th July
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 18th July
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 19th July
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 20th July
St Margaret of Antioch,
Martyr, 4th c
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 22nd July
St Mary Magdalene
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector
Communion Service in B flat
(Stanford)
When Mary through the garden
went (Stanford)
Prelude on Song 22 (Stanford)

Monday 23rd July
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 24th July
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 25th July
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 26th July
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 27th July
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 29th July
Ninth Sunday after Trinity
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant: The Rector
Preacher:
The Revd Dr Alan McCormack
Missa Brevis (Palestrina)
Exultate Deo (Palestrina)
Allegro maestoso from Sonata No 5
(Mendelssohn)

Monday 30th July
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 31st July
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 1st August
12.10pm Midday Prayer
No 5.45pm service

Thursday 2nd August
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 3rd August
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 5th August
The Transfiguration of our Lord
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant: The Rector
Preacher:
The Very Revd Leighton Lee
(Dean of Calgary Cathedral)
Missa Aeterna Christi Munera
(Palestrina)
Jesu, joy of man's desiring (Bach)
Allbreve (Bach)

Monday 6th August
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 7th August
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 8th August
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Thursday 9th August
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 10th August
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 12th August
Eleventh Sunday after Trinity
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector
Short Service (Batten)
Ego sum panis vivus (Byrd)
Fugue in G minor (Bach)

Monday 13th August
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 14th August
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 15th August
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Thursday 16th August
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 17th August
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 19th August
Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector
Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria)
Jesu, dulcis memoria (Victoria)
A Fancy (Byrd)

Monday 20th August
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 21st August
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 22nd August
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Thursday 23rd August
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 24th August
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 26th August
Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant:
The Revd Dr Alan McCormack
Preacher: The Rector
Mass for four voices (Byrd)
Sacerdotes Domini (Byrd)
Voluntary in D (Tomkins)

Monday 27th August
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 28th August
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 29th August
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Thursday 30th August
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 31st August
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 2nd September
Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector
Communion Service in F (Darke)
O soft self-wounding pelican (Peter Leech)
Prelude & Fugue in A minor (Bach)

Monday 3rd September
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 4th September
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 5th September
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 6th September
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 7th September
St Evurtius, Bp of Orleans,
4th cent
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 9th September
Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist &
Renewal of Baptismal Vows
Celebrant: The Rector
Preacher:
The Revd Dr Alan McCormack
Missa Brevis in B flat (Mozart)
If ye love me (Tallis)
Fugue sur la trompette (Couperin)

Monday 10th September
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 11th September
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 12th September
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 13th September
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 14th September
Holy Cross Day
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 16th September
Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Revd Dr Alan McCormack
Missa Brevis (Dove)
Adoramus te, Christe (Lassus)
Symphony 1 - Final (Vierne)

Monday 17th September
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 18th September
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 19th September
Ember Day
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 20th September
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 21st September
St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 23rd September
Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant: The Rector
Preacher:
Canon Alistair McDonald-Radcliff
Mass for five voices (Byrd)
Panis angelicus (Dering)
A fancie - for my ladye nevell (Byrd)

Monday 24th September
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 25th September
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 26th September
St Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage,
Martyr 258
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 27th September
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 28th September
St Michael & All Angels (trans)
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 30th September
Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant:
The Revd Dr Alan McCormack
Preacher: The Rector
Missa Brevis 'New Norcia' (Leece)
Tantum ergo (Durufle)
Psalm Prelude Set 1/iii (Howells)

Monday 1st October
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 2nd October
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 3rd October
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 4th October
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 5th October
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 7th October
Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
Harvest Festival
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant: The Rector
Preacher:
The Revd Dr Alan McCormack
Sparrow Mass (Mozart)
For the beauty of the earth (Rutter)
Chorale Prelude on 'Dundee' (Parry)

Monday 8th October
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 9th October
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 10th October
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 11th October
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 12th October
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 14th October
Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
Prisons Sunday
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant: The Rector
Preacher: Members of the
Prisons Mission Team
Communion Service in G (Whitlock)
O sacrum convivium (Messiaen)
Sonata No 6 - Fuga (Mendelssohn)

Monday 15th October
12.10pm Midday Prayer



Sunday 21st October
Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity
 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
 11.00am Sung Eucharist &
 Royal Society of St George
 Parade Service
 Celebrant: The Rector
 Preacher:
 The Revd David Addington
Missa Brevis (Kelly)
Salvator mundi (Tallis)
Crown Imperial (Walton)

Monday 29th October
 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 30th October
 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 31st October
 12.10pm Midday Prayer
 5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Monday 22nd October
 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 23rd October
 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 24th October
 12.10pm Midday Prayer
 5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 25th October
 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 26th October
 1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 28th October
Twenty-second Sunday after Trinity
 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
 11.00am Sung Eucharist
 Celebrant:
 The Revd Dr Alan McCormack
 Preacher: The Rector
Mass for All Saints
(Gabriel Jackson)
Holy is the true light (Harris)
St Andrew's Suite (MacMillan)



Tuesday 16th October
 12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 17th October
St Etheldreda, Abbess of Ely, 679
 12.10pm Midday Prayer
 5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 18th October
St Luke the Evangelist
 1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Friday 19th October
 1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

As anticipated in the previous edition of the Newsletter, the weekend of 15th–17th June saw a party from both parts of the Mayfair Parish on a visit to Dublin. Apart from meeting the deans of both cathedrals and other dignitaries, the group visited Trinity College where Dr Alan McCormack, now Assistant Priest at St George's, was Dean of Chapel and Chaplain for nearly 10 years. On the Sunday, Fr Alan was celebrant at the Sung Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral and the preacher was our Rector, Fr Roderick Leece.



Churches Together in Westminster Prisons Mission

ART BY PRISONERS

The Prisons Mission, which operates under the auspices of Churches Together in Westminster (CTiW) arranged a series of shows of art by prisoners at three central London churches from March until June. The purpose was to use the artwork as the focus to attract a wider audience of church people and the general public and make them more aware of the grave crisis within the British prison system.



Different Faces

The venture involved a partnership with the host churches and the Koestler Trust, which for over 50 years has promoted the visual arts in prisons as an aid to education, recovery and rehabilitation. The Prisons Mission raised over £10,000 from individual benefactors, so that there would be no financial burden on either the churches or the Koestler Trust.

We identified four churches as suitable hosts because of their very busy central London locations, keen support for the work of our Prisons Mission and cross-denominational reach. These were St James's Piccadilly, Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, St Martin-in-the-Fields and Notre Dame de France in Leicester Square. Unfortunately, the last of these had to withdraw from the programme for entirely internal reasons. This resulted in the disappointing absence of a Roman Catholic church from the series. The Rt Rev Richard Moth,

the RC Bishop for Prisons sent a message of appreciation for the shows and related lectures and events. St George's Hanover Square was not chosen as a host church because its daily footfall is much less than the others and it does not presently have a suitable space to display artwork of this scale. However, members of this church, Alistair Milward, Sarah Tubbs, Sarah Jane Vernon and Freddie de Sibert, who are also active Prisons Mission participants, were very fully engaged in the development, funding and management of the whole initiative.

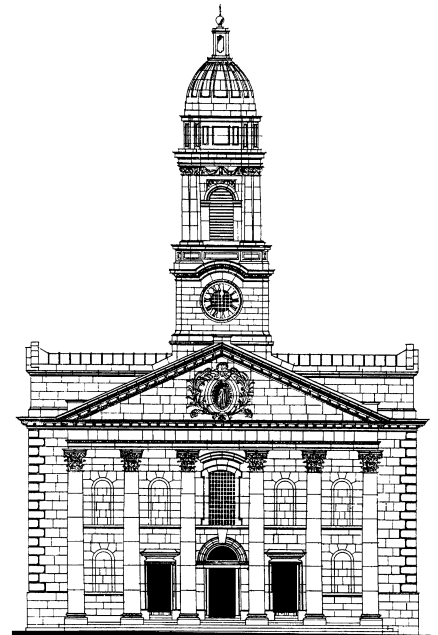
"Portraits from Prison".

The artwork on display included 24 paintings, drawings and sculpted pieces by men, women and children serving custodial sentences in British prisons. Each picture had a brief narrative describing what it meant to the artist. The exhibition attracted a lot of interest from casual visitors attending, or just passing through the churches and they were asked to complete forms explaining why they had liked, or found interesting, a particular piece of work. These forms were all sent by the Koestler Trust to the individual artists in prisons. We found that the most



Inside my Head

effective use of the shows was to arrange for groups of visitors from interested churches or other organisa-



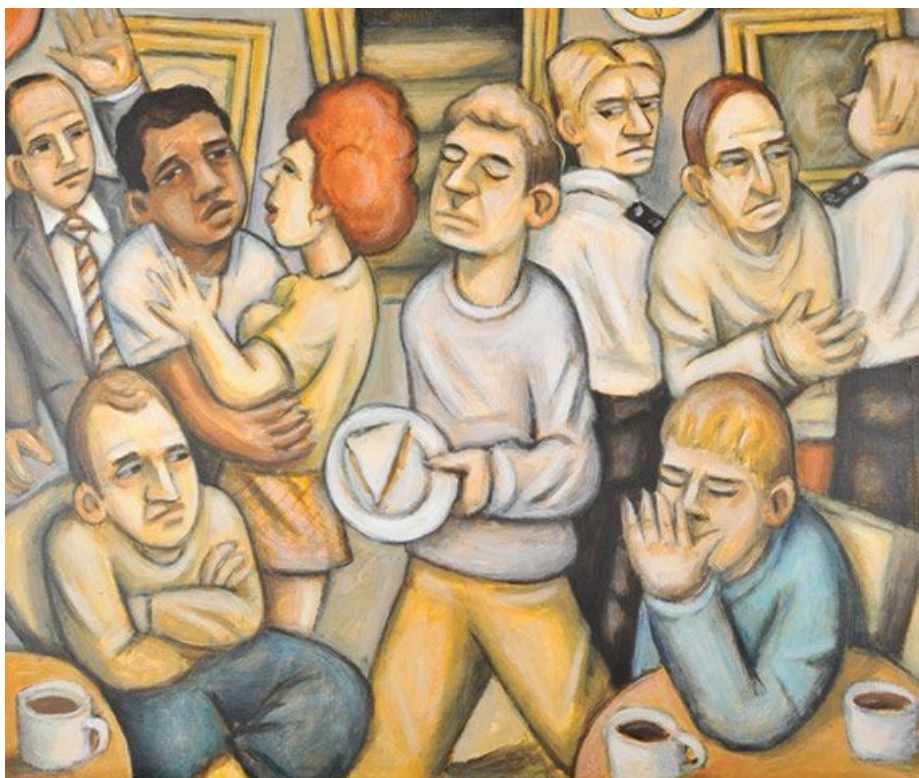
tions to attend together. On these occasions, we had a former prison artist and an experienced Prisons Mission volunteer in attendance, to answer questions and facilitate discussions about prison issues.



RIP Mr Jones
(made with cigarette stubs)

"Can Prison Work?"

The planning with each host church, in advance of the shows, included arrangements for special services, events and lectures relevant to the subject. Jonathan Aitken opened the first show at St James's Piccadilly. He was a Government Minister before conviction for perjury in 1999 and serving a custodial sentence, beginning at HMP Wandsworth. He explained the value of art in the self esteem and journey towards recovery for some prisoners, which he had both witnessed and experienced personally. Jonathan's own



The Visit

recovery will continue with his ordination in St Paul's Cathedral on 30th June.

Peter Dawson, the Director of the Prison Reform Trust, the leading think-tank, presented the first lecture on the theme 'Can Prison Work? For Offenders? For Victims? For Tax payers?' As a former Prison Officer, then Governor of prisons for men, women and young offenders, he provided a wide range of information which provoked keen questions and discussions.

John Plummer addressed the same theme from a different perspective, when he lectured those attending the show when it moved to Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church. One of the outcomes is that the Minister Rev Simon Woodman and several local Baptists will attend an introductory visit to one of London's prisons, arranged by the Prisons Mission as part of the church's future involvement in this ministry.

The show next moved to St Martin-in-the-Fields on 5th May and remained open to the public until 10th June. More space was available for an increased number of pictures to be very attractively displayed and Revs Richard Carter and Jonathan

Evens arranged several special services and group visits to the exhibition for worshippers and others. On 8th May a very distinguished panel of speakers addressed the Can Prison Work? theme. These were Dame Anne Owers, former HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, Chair of the Independent Police Complaints Commission, now Chair of the Koestler Trust and first Chair of the Independent Monitoring Boards of all British Prisons; Professor Nick Hardwick CBE, also a former HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, Chair of the Independent Police Complaints Commission and now Professor of Criminal Justice at Royal Holloway University of London; and Juliet Lyon CBE, Former Director of the Prison Reform Trust and now Chair of the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody. Having visited every single prison, as well as many Police Custody Suites and Secure Hospitals and scrutinised the inner workings of the entire system, this panel provided a mass of information, observations and insights which were evidently appreciated by the large invited audience. It is hoped and expected that those who attended will be ready and willing to lead well-informed discussions about issues concerning the prison system with friends at their churches and elsewhere.

Visitors

Many visitors to the shows and lectures were casual and other organised groups were from churches or interested organisations. Several members of multi-faith Prison Chaplaincy Teams also attended. Only one Governor grade officer is known to have attended. Director Ian Whiteside of HMP & YO1 Bronzefield leads the biggest prison in Europe for women and girls, where Prisons Mission volunteers are active. He wrote to say that he was "significantly impressed" by the panel at St Martin-in-the-Fields and "held them all in the highest regard"; "hearing them speak was an opportunity not to be missed". He supports the learning and work in the prison's art workshop and is "confident that the current artists in my care will continue to progress and that their pictures will be shown at future Portraits from Prison exhibitions. He explains that his own "determination on improving standards of safety and decency was appropriately refreshed" by attending the lectures. He, for one, did not merely go to look at the pictures.

Review and Evaluation

The Prisons Mission is now conducting a candid Review and Evaluation of the entire Art by Prisoners initiative in collaboration with the three host churches and the Koestler Trust. We must learn lessons from our experiences this year and consider how best we might take this forward. Should we do something similar in 2019, or how could it be better and more effective? Please contribute your own observations and suggestions. Meanwhile, our work in London prisons and the Centre at Heathrow will continue and we must prepare to mark Prisons Week from 14th to 21st October. For all this work, we need your help.

**John Plummer
Coordinator
Prisons Mission
Churches Together In
Westminster
62 Perth Road
London**

The Food Coupon Scheme



Readers with long memories may recall the establishment seven years ago of our Food Coupon Scheme in terms of which, coupons distributed by Vestry staff to the needy who come to us, are redeemable at the Hanover Square Cabmen's Shelter for food to the value of (originally) £2.00, (now) £2.30. This, it will be recalled, was an alternative to handing out cash 'for a cup of tea' which we knew would all too often end up paying for a range of other liquids.

Much has of course changed in seven years. Most obviously, one can at present not see the characteristic late 19th century, green, grade II listed cabin under hoardings for the Crossrail station currently under construction in the NW corner of Hanover Square. Less obvious to all except those directly involved in the Scheme is the substantial growth in demand and a concomitant change in the social profile of those benefitting.

And therein lie two facets of a problem that has dogged the Scheme since its inception. For alongside the plaudits that it continues to attract are the persistent voices of those who maintain that what we are doing is not helpful. It is a body of considered opinion that holds that one of the reasons there are so many 'homeless' people on the streets of London at present is that the supportive infrastructure is so good and that by providing £16,000 worth of



The Cabmen's Shelter, Hanover Square as previously & as at present

food per annum St George's contributes significantly to this 'unhelpful' infrastructure. Liberal sensitivities may bristle at such sentiments but one only has to be at this particular coalface for a short while to realise that personal misfortune and adverse circumstance, while seldom absent, are far from being the only factors involved in London's homelessness narrative. The elephant in the room here is the word 'choice'. Do people choose such adversity? Almost certainly not. But, can one say with equal certainty that when offered help that would get them off the street and into an alternative and meaningful lifestyle, all concerned would respond positively? Possibly not and the reasons behind that particular negative are as complex as the homelessness phenomenon itself.

Where the element of choice undoubtedly does exist is among the increasing number of those who elect to come from abroad to live on the streets of London. Indeed such has been the increase in numbers coming to our doors recently that, having reduced the number of days on which we distribute coupons, we are now having to consider imposing a moratorium on distribu-



tion to avoid an unsustainable overspend. And we are not talking here about refugees or migrants from further afield but about the natives of countries within the European Union for whom life on the streets of London is more lucrative than it is back home. While one might sympathise with individuals who make such a stark personal choice, such sympathies should not turn a blind eye to the reality of criminality that can and does exploit such vulnerable individuals under our very noses. Life on the streets has always been rough and dangerous. It just gets more so when the unscrupulous enter the mix; ask any of our 'regulars'.

Continued overleaf . . .

Storage space



The Food Coupon Scheme (continued)

On page two, the Rector speaks warmly of Michael Beckett who retired earlier in the year as churchwarden. The Food Coupon Scheme was one of Michael's many babies and one of which he should rightly feel proud. It was conceived as a response both to a social need on our doorstep and to the problem encountered by those on weekday duty in the church when they were previously asked for 'the price of a cup of tea'. From the outset, those at the sharp end of the project have insisted that it can only be operated on a non-discriminatory basis. Anyone who comes and asks gets, even when we know some could themselves well afford to pay for one of Faye's bacon rolls and others are part of a well-organised group of men, women and children dropped off by minibus in the area earlier in the day. To do anything else would not only be practically impossible but it would offend an important underlying principle of philanthropic Christianity. That said, we ought not to be blind to some of the uncomfortable underlying issues inherent in our involvement in these murky waters nor be constrained in expressing opinions about such issues that may cut across currently fashionable points of view.

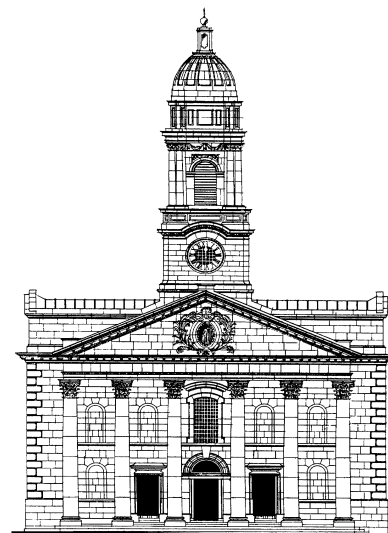
One of the strange things about churches large or small is that few if any have adequate storage space: space to stack chairs; to store hymnbooks; to hang vestments and altar frontals; to put away vacuum cleaners and floor polishers; and, perhaps above all, to file papers and documents. To be fair, until work started on converting the Undercroft, St George's was probably better served than most, not least because the boiler room in the basement only occupied half the available space, leaving a fair amount of room for storage. With the passage of time, this had admittedly become a bit of a glory hole but when we cleared it out early last summer before the start of work on the Undercroft, there were high hopes that, once the work was finished, we would at least be left with space for a readily accessible document archive. But it was not to be. For 'Archive Room' now read 'Restaurant Prep Room' - leaving just one remaining option.



High above the west end of the church just under the roof, accessible by a spiral staircase and running the full width of the building is a chamber that until a few days ago housed the bellows of the 19th and early 20th-century organ. Unused for 50 years at least, this equipment had just been left because it was considered too bulky to move - until now. Photographs appearing on this page illustrate where we are now. Photographs in the next edition will, I hope illustrate a fully functional Archive Room.



Hyde Park Place Estate Charity



CIVIL TRUSTEES

At their meetings on 7th March and 23rd May 2018, the Civil Trustees of the Hyde Park Place Estate Charity awarded grants totalling £85,905 to the following organisations working in the City of Westminster:

Westminster Boating Base
Cardboard Citizens
Asthma Relief
Westbourne Park Family Centre
Central London Samaritans
Encouragement Through the Arts and Talking (ETAT)
South Westminster Community Festival
Foundation for Young Musicians
St Augustine's CE Primary School
Streetwise Opera
STEM Skills Fund
The Passage
In-Deep Community Task Force
Iris Theatre
The Marylebone Project
FareShare
North Paddington Youth Club
DreamArts
Friends of the Elderly
St George's School
St George's Hanover Square - Refreshment Coupon Scheme

The next meeting of the Civil Trustees will be on Wednesday 26th September (application deadline: Monday 10th September). A further meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th November (application deadline: Monday 12th November).

ECCLESIASTICAL TRUSTEES

A total of £48,025 was awarded in grants at the Ecclesiastical Trustees' meeting held on Sunday 3rd June, for the benefit of the churches and clergy based in the original historic parish of St George's Hanover Square. The next meeting will be held in November.

Shirley Vaughan
Clerk to the Trustees

Mrs Judith Standing, Headteacher at St George's School writes:

Since the last Parish Newsletter, we have been incredibly busy at St George's. As a church school, we had a wonderful day focusing on Easter. We set up seven different stations relating to the Easter story (both inside the classroom and outside in the playground). The children then spent time at each station reflecting on the important aspects of each part and thinking about how they felt and how they would have reacted if they were one of Jesus's disciples.

In May our Year 2 and Year 6 children completed their SATs. We were extremely proud of the way the children worked throughout their tests.

Recently our choir were invited to sing at the Queen's Chapel during one of their lunchtime services. This was a fantastic privilege, and again we were incredibly proud of all the children.

We are looking forward to our Summer fair which is on 8th July, and we hope that many of you will be able to join us for that.

PARISH OF ST GEORGE, HANOVER SQUARE

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