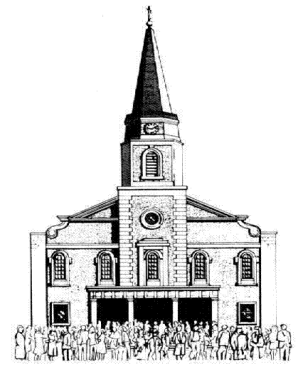


NEWSLETTER

Parish of St George

Hanover Square



November 2015 – February 2016: issue 32



October 2015 has been tinged with sadness at St George's as we said à Dieu to two much-loved members of our worshipping community who were also both long-serving members of our Parochial Church Council. Tributes to **Charles Soresby** and **Malcolm Lothian**, taken from the addresses given at their respective Requiem Masses by Fr Roddy, may be found on pages 11 & 12 of this issue of the Parish Newsletter.

Later in November we will also be saying an appreciative farewell to **Denys Darlow**, organist and direc-

tor of music at St George's between 1972 and 2000, who died earlier in the year. Details of his memorial concert, presented appropriately by the London Handel Festival which he founded in 1978, will be found on page 10.

Also on page 10, are details of the first commercial recording to be made on the St George's Richards Fowkes organ whose third anniversary we celebrated recently.

Following the practice observed by many churches these days, St George's has for the past three years been sending out a Weekly Email

Inside this issue

The Rector writes	2
Mayfair Organ Concerts 3, 8 & 10	
Services at St George's	4
Fr Richard writes	7
Grosvenor Chapel services	9
Charles Soresby	11
Malcolm Lothian	12
Prisons Mission	14
Christmas at St George's	14
Messiah	15
HPPEC	15

detailing the services and non-liturgical events of following week and giving information about future matters of interest both within the parish and further afield. Hard copies of this email are now being made available in the church on Sunday mornings and to accommodate this change we have re-named it the *Weekly Bulletin*. If you would like to receive the Bulletin in its original email form, please let us know. Contact details may be found on the back page.

Finally, a number of readers have told us they are happy to read this Newsletter in electronic form on the St George's website. If you also wish to do this, please let us know and we will take your name off the mailing list. This will save £1.61 a copy.

The Rector writes . . .



Motherhood and the humility of God.

We are used to thinking about the Church and Our Lady as Mother as well as about our own mothers on Mothering Sunday in Lent. But the season of Christmas is also a wonderful time to ponder and reflect on the mystery of motherhood. Dom Gueranger, the first Abbot of Solesmes (a Benedictine monastery between Le Mans and Tours in France) reminds us that if the Church is mother, then every Christian is also a mother, and at Christmas we think about the mystery of the infancy of the soul of man, and the mystery of the infancy of man's soul in Christ. He goes on to comment that in the three Masses of Christmas we are given a symbol of three births of the Word.

First of all is the *eternal* birth of the Word in the bosom of the Father. Secondly there is the *historical* birth of the Word from the Virgin's womb. And then thirdly, as the fruit of the Incarnation, there is the *spiritual* birth of the Word in the womb of the Christian soul. Each of these three births taking place in silence and hiddenness - *How silently the wondrous gift is given.* And God's attitude to his world is revealed above all in his humility. All of our humiliations will never bring us so low that we could be on a level with his lowliness. No. Only God could reach the humility of

God.

As we approach Advent and Christmas may it be our joy and delight to bring God's Word to birth in the womb of our own souls.

We are delighted to welcome Judith Standing, our new Headteacher to St George's School.

She writes:

Hello, my name is Judith Standing and I am the new headteacher at St George's (Hanover Square) C of E Primary School. I am delighted to be here and have settled really quickly into life in Westminster. I have been a teacher for 15 years having qualified in July 2000. I worked for 4 years in Lambeth followed by 11 years in Lewisham where I was headteacher for my final three years. I have always



worked in Church schools and I relish the opportunity to share my faith with the pupils whom I teach and meet with on a daily basis. My background is Baptist; however I currently attend a Church of England church in South East London. I am married with one daughter who is 13 years old. I am keen to work closely with members of the local parish and would love to show you around St George's and welcome you to school events.

The Parochial Church Council is now fully represented on the Governing Body of our school with the

appointment of Sarah Jackson-Stevens who joins Marie Rowland-Kidman. Marie has recently been elected as Co-Chair of Governors. I am grateful to them both for fulfilling these important roles, and we are fortunate to have a newly reconstituted Governing Body with a wide range of experience and gifts.

St George's Hanover Square Primary School will be coming to us for their Carol Service on **Friday 19th December** at **2.30pm**

The Little Dragons

St George's Sunday School have chosen a new name, and since the beginning of the academic year have been meeting as **Little Dragons** at 11am on Sundays. I'm grateful to their leaders for a wonderful programme of fun activities with a spiritual dimension and purpose, and would encourage those with young children to think about joining them. Please contact Sarah Jackson-Stevens or Katherine Harris for further information using the Little Dragons email address on the back page.

Devotional icon of the figure of Jesus Christ

One of a number of ideas to emerge recently from the process of revising our Mission Action Plan is the possibility of installing a pricket stand so people coming into the church during the week can light a candle as they frequently ask to do. Our weekday mission is necessarily rather different to that exercised on a Sunday morning and I feel it is incumbent upon us to be as responsive as we can be to the spiritual needs of the wide diversity of people who come through our doors every day.



Icon: work in progress

Lighting a candle is a prayerful act even to people who would have difficulty articulating such an understanding of prayer and many find it helpful to have a focus for such an act. I have therefore asked the iconographer Dr Derek Bird to write an icon of the figure of Christ on the cross in the style of Giotto which he is hoping to have finished after Easter. With our stained glass and reredos we are not short of visual imagery in St George's but, other than the crucifix on the altar, we have no immediate representation of Our Lord on the Cross. We are raising funds to cover the cost so if you feel able to contribute to something we haven't seen before at St George's, please get in touch.

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 20th 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.

Community Partnership with Christian Aid - thank you for your support for the project we are supporting **NURTURING CHANGE - Maternal and Child Healthcare in Kenya**. We still need to raise just over £2,000 towards the £5,000 target we aim to raise, to be triple match funded, and do so by the end of this year. Your support would be gratefully received.

There are daily prayers in church, Monday - Friday at 12.10pm The Midday Office is said on most days, but with the Eucharist on Fridays and Saints Days. Please join us if you are in the area.

Requiem for departed loved ones will be celebrated on Friday 15th January at 12.10pm. Please inform the Verger if you wish to include the names of loved ones. Contact details are on the back page.

Holy Cocktail Hour Open House with drinks on Wednesdays at the Rectory, 21a Down Street W1J 7AW - entrance in Brick Street opposite the tapas bar on the following dates: November 11th, January 13th, April 6th. Please feel welcome to drop in between 6.30-8.00pm.



Mayfair Organ Concerts

Tuesdays
at St George's or Grosvenor Chapel
at 1.10pm

Tuesday 3rd November
St George's
Andrew Cantrill
(Royal Hospital School, Holbrook)

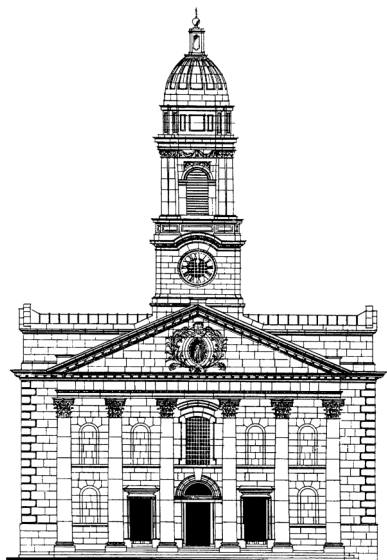
Tuesday 10th November
Grosvenor Chapel
Jonathan Bunney
(St Giles in the Fields)
Boyvin, Gibbons, Scheidemann, Froberger, Frescobaldi, Bach

Tuesday 17th November
St George's
Christopher Strange
(Organ Scholar, Grosvenor Chapel)
Buxtehude, Wammes, Whitlock, Franck

Tuesday 24th November
Grosvenor Chapel
Richard Hobson
(Grosvenor Chapel)
Couperin, Bach, Buxtehude, Reger

Tuesday 1st December
St George's
Robin Walker
(St George's Hanover Square)

MOC listing continues on page 8



Services at St George's November 2015—February 2016

Sunday 1st November

All Saints' Day

08.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Sung Eucharist

Celebrant: The Rector

Preacher:

Canon Alistair Macdonald-Radcliff

Missa Brevis (Dove)

O quam gloriosum (Victoria)

Fantasia in F minor (Mozart)

Monday 2nd November

All Souls

8.40am Morning Calm

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 3rd November

8.40am Morning Calm

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 4th November

8.40am Morning Calm

12.10pm Midday Prayer

5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 5th November

8.40am Morning Calm

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 6th November

St Leonard, Hermit, 6th century

8.40am Morning Calm

12.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 8th November

Remembrance Sunday

08.30am Holy Communion

10.55am Sung Eucharist

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector

Requiem (Durufié)

Fugue in E flat BWV 552 (Bach)

Monday 9th November

8.40am Morning Calm

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 10th November

8.40am Morning Calm

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 11th November

St Martin, Bishop of Tours,

c 397

8.40am Morning Calm

11.00am Act of Remembrance

12.10pm Midday Prayer

5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 12th November

8.40am Morning Calm

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 13th November

St Britius, Bishop of Tours, 444

8.40am Morning Calm

12.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 15th November

23rd Sunday after Trinity

08.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Sung Eucharist

Celebrant & Preacher:

The Revd Michael Redman

Missa Bel' Amfrit' Altera (Lassus)

Christe adoramus te (Monteverdi)

Canzone (Soderini)

Monday 16th November

8.40am Morning Calm

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 17th November

8.40am Morning Calm

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 18th November

8.40am Morning Calm

12.10pm Midday Prayer

5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 19th November

8.40am Morning Calm

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 20th November

St Edmund, King of the East
Angles, Martyr 870

8.40am Morning Calm

12.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd November

Sunday next before Advent

08.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Sung Eucharist

Celebrant & Preacher:

The Revd David Cherry

Darke in A minor

A Hymn for St Cecilia (Howells)

J'át jsem v tom rozveseleny

(Eben)

Monday 23rd November

8.40am Morning Calm

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 24th November

8.40am Morning Calm

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 25th November

St Catherine of Alexandria,

Martyr 4th century

8.40am Morning Calm

12.10pm Midday Prayer

5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 26th November

8.40am Morning Calm

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 27th November

8.40am Morning Calm (final)

12.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 29th November

First Sunday in Advent

08.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Sung Eucharist

Celebrant & Preacher:

The Rector

Missa Cantate Domino (Lobo)

This is the record of John

(Gibbons)

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

BWV 661 (Bach)

Monday 30th November

St Andrew the Apostle

12.10pm Holy Communion

Tuesday 1st December

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 2nd December

12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 3rd December

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 4th December

12.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 6th December

Second Sunday in Advent

08.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
(attended by the Réunion des
Gastronomes)
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rector
Stanford in A
And the glory of the Lord
(Handel)
Prelude in C BWV 547 (Bach)

Monday 7th December

12.10pm Holy Communion

Tuesday 8th December

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 9th December

12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 10th December

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 11th December

12.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 13th December

Third Sunday in Advent

08.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rector
Missa Brevis in D minor (Mozart)
Laententur coeli (Byrd)
Ut queant laxis ((Titelouze)

Monday 14th December

12.10pm Holy Communion

Tuesday 15th December

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 16th December

12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 17th December

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 18th December

12.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 20th December

Fourth Sunday in Advent

08.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rector
Missa Sancta et Immaculata
(Guererro)
Ne timeas Maria (Victoria)
Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich
her BWV 700 (Bach)

6.00pm Parish Carol Service

Monday 21st December

St Thomas, the Apostle
12.10pm Holy Communion

Tuesday 22nd December

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 23rd December

12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 24th December

Christmas Eve
4.30pm Solemn Vigil
Mass of Christmas
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rector
Mass of the Quiet Hour (Oldroyd)
Nativity Carol (Rutter)
On Christmas Night (Frahm)

Friday 25th December

CHRISTMAS DAY

11.00 Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rector
St Nicolas Mass (Haydn)
This lovely Lady (Kelly)
Noel I (Daquin)

Sunday 27th December

First Sunday after Christmas

08.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rector
Missa O Magnum Mysterium
(Victoria)
Wie schön leuchtet der Morgen-
stern (Buxtehude)

**There will be no services
between 28th December &
2nd January**

Sunday 3rd January

The Epiphany (transferred)

08.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rector
Missa Brevis (Kelly)
The Three Kings (Cornelius)
Es ist das Heil uns kommen her
(Markull)

Monday 4th January

12.10pm Holy Communion

Tuesday 5th January

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 6th January

12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 7th January

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 8th January

St Lucian, Priest & Martyr 290
12.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 10th January

First Sunday after Epiphany

08.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rector
Missa Brevis (Palestrina)
O Jesu Christ, meins Lebens Licht
(Bach)
Praeludium in G minor (Tunder)

Monday 11th January

12.10pm Holy Communion

Tuesday 12th January

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 13th January

**St Hilary, Bp of Poitiers,
Teacher 367**
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 14th January

12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 15th January

St Lucian, Priest & Martyr 290
12.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 17th January

Second Sunday after Epiphany

08.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rector
Missa Brevis in B ♭ (Mozart)
Vinum bonum (Lassus)

Monday 18th January
12.10pm Holy Communion

Tuesday 19th January
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 20th January
St Fabian, Bp of Rome, Martyr 250
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 21st January
St Agnes, child martyr at Rome 304
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 22nd January
St Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, first martyr of Spain
12.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 24th January
Conversion of St Paul (transferred)
08.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rector
Messe Solennelle (Langlais)
How lovely are the messengers (Mendelssohn)
Toccata from Suite Gothique (Boellman)

Monday 25th January
12.10pm Holy Communion

Tuesday 26th January
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 27th January
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 28th January
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 29th January
12.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 31st January
The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Candlemas (transferred)
08.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rector
Darke in A minor
Light of the World (Elgar)
Praeludium in major (Brixi)

Monday 1st February
12.10pm Holy Communion

Tuesday 2nd February
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 3rd February
St Blasius, Bp of Sebastapol & Martyr c316
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 4th February
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 5th February
St Agatha, Martyr in Sicily 251
12.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 7th February
Quinquagesima
08.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rector
Missa Brevis (Antony le Fleming)
O nata lux (Tallis)
Carillon (Mathias)

Monday 8th February
12.10pm Holy Communion

Tuesday 9th February
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 10th February
ASH WEDNESDAY
12.10pm Holy Communion
with imposition of ashes

Thursday 11th February
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 12th February
12.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 14th February
First Sunday in Lent
08.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rector
Mass for 4 Voices (Byrd)
Miserere (Allegri)
Lent Prose
Fantasia in C minor BWV 562 (Bach)

Monday 15th February
12.10pm Holy Communion

Tuesday 16th February
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 17th February
Ember Day
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 18th February
Ember Day
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 19th February
Ember Day
12.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 21st February
Second Sunday in Lent
08.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rector
Missa Papae Marcelli (Palestrina)
Lent Prose
O Lord in thy Wrath (Gibbons)
Ligatura per Organo (Cotumacci)

Monday 22nd February
12.10pm Holy Communion

Tuesday 23rd February
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 24th February
St Mathias, the Apostle
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 25th February
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 26th February
12.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 28th February
Third Sunday in Lent
08.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rector
Missa Simile est Regnum Coelorum (Victoria)
Lent Prose
Was me throughly (S S Wesley)
Herzliebster Jesu (Brahms)

Monday 29th February
12.10pm Holy Communion



Fr Richard Fermer writes . . .

On Bell and Becket: A Pilgrimage to Canterbury

The Chapel's Pilgrimage to Canterbury fell on the day when the Church of England commemorates George Bell (1883 - 1958), himself a former Dean of Canterbury and wartime Bishop of Chichester. There is a clear point of contact with the cleric who first inspired pilgrimages to Canterbury, Archbishop Thomas Becket, murdered by knights in 1170. Both Bell and Becket were called "pestilent priests": Thomas, as legend has it, by King Henry II, and Bell by wartime Foreign Minister, Anthony Eden. They both stood up, in different ways, to the power of the State.

Like Wolsey and Cromwell after him, Becket rose from relatively humble stock, minor Norman gentry, to become chancellor and confidante of King Henry II, who made him archbishop. As chancellor he had been responsible for extracting taxes from the Church. As Archbishop he resisted tooth and claw any infringement of the State on the Church. Why this *volte face*? Why did he not continue as King Henry expected, to support the interests of the Crown? The question is even more poignant when one remembers that when Henry nominated him



to Canterbury, Becket wasn't even an ordained priest! In fact, he was ordained priest on one day, and consecrated Archbishop on the next!

Some say that he took very seriously his consecration vows and tried to be a good and independent archbishop. When he was murdered he was found wearing a penitential hair shirt. There was genuine piety there. Yet, there was clearly also a power struggle between two powerful institutions the Church and the State and to personalities Becket and Henry. This is where the controversy may lie. Was Becket defending the interests of the Church as an institution and so his own power, or was he upholding the values Christ's Kingdom?

With George Bell it is much clearer. A recent archbishop, Rowan Williams, wrote of Bell



that "he retained a rare capacity to see the Church's responsibility as related to those whose voices did not find an easy hearing in the 'heart and centre of British life' as normally conceived, and to understand that the calling of an established church had something to do with this." This Bell did by championing the cause of the poor, making friendships with Christians of other nations and denominations at a time when the world moved from one world war to the next. He opposed Hitler from the early thirties, but also reminded his countrymen that all Germans were not Nazis. He opposed the indiscriminate area bombing of German cities and of the use of the two nuclear bombs in Japan. As a result, many have seen this outspokenness as the reason why he was twice overlooked to become Archbishop of Canterbury.

Let me remind you of some of his words in the House of Lord's debate that he tabled about area bombing in WWII:

"It will be said that this area bombing ... is definitely designed to diminish the sacrifice of British lives and to shorten the war. We all wish with all our hearts that these two objects could be achieved, but to justify methods inhumane in themselves by arguments of expediency smacks of the Nazi philosophy that Might is Right. Why is there this forgetfulness of the ideals by which our cause is inspired? How can the War Cabinet fail to see that this progressive devastation of cities is threatening the roots of civilization? The sufferings of Europe, brought about by the demoniac cruelty of Hitler and his Nazis are not to be healed by the use of power only, power exclusive and unlimited. The Allies stand for something greater than power. The chief name inscribed on our banner is "Law." It is of supreme importance that we who, with our Allies, are the liberators of Europe should so use power that it is always under the control of law. It is because the bombing of enemy towns—this area bombing—raises this issue of power unlimited and exclusive that such immense importance is bound to attach to the policy and action of His Majesty's Government."

Whether you agree with his judgement on this issue or not, I think you can acknowledge that Bell was not defending the Church as an institution, but trying to pose questions to the State raised by the Gospel. As Rowan Williams writes: "Part of the Church's responsibility to and for the nation at large is discharged by its readiness to nurture and support voices of questioning within the culture, voices

that themselves challenge a society about what it considers to be of worth and meaning. A *moral* society is one that is strong enough to expose itself to the judgement of others, to hold itself accountable to more than its own immediate interests." We know these issues again as we struggle to find a response to the refugee crisis.

It is paradox that pilgrims come to the great spiritual centre and shrine of Canterbury to step outside of everyday life, only to find that it is, indeed, a costly point of interface between the Gospel and world. If we are to be true pilgrims of Christ, we must not only wrestle to pray attentively and live devoutly, but also struggle with the world, which includes our neighbours, questions of justice and peace, but also the world within ourselves. Becket and Bell were prepared, in different ways, to wrestle with the world even if this meant going against the tide, even if this means being disadvantaged. As the Collect for the commemoration of Bell prays:

"God of peace, you sustained your bishop George Bell with the courage to proclaim your truth and justice in the face of disapproval in his own nation: As he taught that we, along with our enemies, are all children of God, may we stand with Christ in his hour of grieving, that at length we may enter your country where there is no sorrow nor sighing, but fullness of joy in you..."

Bell was a great friend of one of the leaders of the Confessing Church in Germany that opposed Hitler, Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Moments before Bonhoeffer was taken away from his fellow

prisoners in order to be executed by the Nazis, he asked Captain Payne Best to pass on a message to his friend George Bell:

"Tell the Bishop that for me this is the end but also the beginning. With him (the Bishop) I believe in the principle of our Universal Christian brotherhood which rises above all national interests, and that our victory is certain"

Mayfair Organ Concerts

Continued from page 3

Tuesday 8th December

Grosvenor Chapel
Roger Judd
(Ludlow Parish Church)
Bach, Pachelbel, Buxtehude, Brahms, Heiller

Tuesday 15th December

St George's
Jonathan Gregory
(Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church)
Bach, Bennett, Brahms, Buxtehude, Messiaen, Heron, Pachelbel

Tuesday 22nd December

Grosvenor Chapel
Richard Hobson
(Grosvenor Chapel)
Music for Christmas by Bach, Buxtehude, Daquin, Ireland, Bedard

Tuesday 5th January

St George's
Alexander Pott
(Organ Scholar, Westminster Cathedral)

Tuesday 12th January

Grosvenor Chapel
John Keys
(St Mary's, Nottingham)

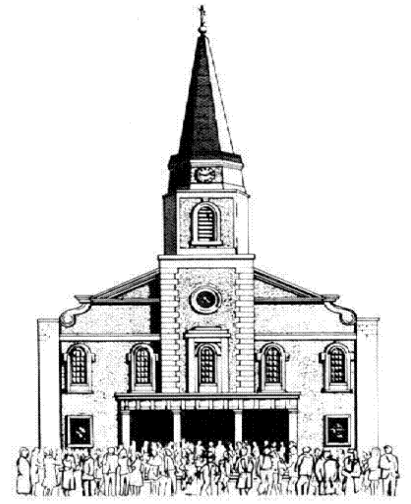
Tuesday 19th January

St George's
Thomas Wilkinson
(St Andrews University)

MOC listing continues on page 10

Services at Grosvenor Chapel

November 2015—February 2016



Sunday 1st November

All Saints Day

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria)
O quam gloriosum est regnum (Victoria)
Placare Christe servulis (Marcel Dupré)

Monday 2nd November

7.00pm Lucernarum for the Feast of All Souls

I will lift up mine eyes (Mawby)
Nunc Dimittis (Burgon)
Salve Regina (Lennox Berkeley)

Sunday November 8th

Remembrance Sunday

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Requiem Mass (Fauré)
with orchestra

Sunday November 15th

The 2nd Sunday before Advent

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Communion Service in F (Darke)
O pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Howells)
Fugue in B minor (Bach)

Sunday November 22nd

Christ the King

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Missa Eugue Bone (Tye)
O clap your hands (Gibbons)
Fantasia in G (Bach)

Sunday November 29th

The First Sunday of Advent

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Missa Nasce la gioja mia (Palestrina)
Vigilate (Byrd)
Toccata on Veni Emanuel (Andrew Carter)

Sunday December 6th

The Second Sunday of Advent

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Missa simile est regnum coelorum (Guerrero)
Canite tuba (Guerrero)
Nun komm der Heiden Heiland (Bach)

Sunday December 13th

The Third Sunday of Advent

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Missa Brevis in D minor K65 (Mozart)
Prepare ye the way of the Lord (Wise)
Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (Bach)

Tuesday December 15th

6.45pm Community Carol Service

Sunday December 20th

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Missa Dixit Maria (Hassler)
Ave Maria (Parsons)
Ecce concipies (Handl)
Fugue on the Magnificat (Bach)

Thursday 24th December

Christmas Eve

11.30pm Midnight Mass
 St Nicholas Mass (Haydn)
 Benedicamus Domino (Warlock)

Friday 25th December

Christmas Day

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Mass for Five Voices (Byrd)
Quem vidistis pastores? (Dering)

Sunday 3rd January

The Epiphany of Our Lord

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Missa Brevis (Ives)
Here is the little door (Howells)
The Three Kings (Cornelius)

Sunday 10th January

The Baptism of Christ

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Missa Dies sanctificatus (Palestrina)
Tribus Miraculis (Marenzio)

Sunday 17th January

The Second Sunday of Epiphany

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Mass for Five Voices (Scarlatti)
Lo! Star-led chiefs (Crotch)

Sunday 24th January

The Third Sunday of Epiphany

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Missa Ave Virgo sanctissima (Esquivel)
Sing joyfully (Byrd)

Sunday 31st January

The Presentation of Christ

11.00am Sung Eucharist & Confirmation
Missa Brevis in C K258 (Mozart)
Maria das Jungfräuelein (Eccard)
Nunc Dimittis in G (Stanford)

Sunday 7th February

The Sunday next before Lent

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Missa Brevis (Leighton)
Like as the hart (Howells)

Wednesday 10th February

Ash Wednesday

7.00pm Sung Eucharist
Mass for Four Voices (Byrd)
In ieiunio et fletu (Tallis)

Sunday 14th February

The First Sunday of Lent

11.00am Sung Eucharist
The Lent Prose
Missa Inter vestibulum ad altare (Guerrero)
Ad te levavi oculos meos (White)
Miserere mei (Allegri)

Sunday 21st February
The Second Sunday of Lent
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Missa San Marco (Corp)
A Litany (Walton)

Sunday 28th February
The Third Sunday of Lent
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Missa Che fà hoggi il mio sole
(Allegri)
Super flumina Babylonis
(Palestrina)

Mayfair Organ Concerts

Continued from page 8

Tuesday 26th January
Grosvenor Chapel
Peter Wright
(Southwark Cathedral)

Tuesday 2nd February
St George's
Simon Williams
(St George's)

Tuesday 9th February
Grosvenor Chapel
Richard Hobson
(Grosvenor Chapel)

Tuesday 16th February
St George's
Jeremy Cole
(St Martin-in-the-Fields)

Tuesday 23rd February
Grosvenor Chapel
Carol Williams
(Civic Organist, San Diego,
California)



LONDON HANDEL FESTIVAL

DENYS DARLOW MEMORIAL CONCERT

TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 7pm
St George's, Hanover Square
London, W1S 1FX

RACHEL NICHOLLS SOPRANO
MONA JULSRUD SOPRANO
CLINT VAN DER LINDE COUNTER-TENOR
ANDREW KENNEDY TENOR
JAMES RUTHERFORD BARITONE

LAURENCE CUMMINGS CONDUCTOR
ADRIAN BUTTERFIELD CONDUCTOR/LEADER

LONDON HANDEL ORCHESTRA
CHOIR OF ST GEORGE'S

On 24 November we celebrate Denys Darlow's musical life which for many years revolved around the Tilford Bach Festival and the London Handel Festival. Laurence Cummings has programmed a concert to include vocal, choral and instrumental music by composers close to Denys' heart and which will be performed by members, past and present, of the London Handel Orchestra, the Choir of St George's and by soloists, who were supported and encouraged by Denys at the beginning of their careers. They will come together, some travelling long distances, for this very special occasion of thanks and remembrance.

Music by Handel, JS Bach, Roseingrave and Denys Darlow.

Photographs: Laurence Cummings
Rachel Nicolls; Mona Julsrud

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Announce *Parthenia Nova* the first CD recording of the Richards Fowkes organ at St George's Hanover Square

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The Organ of St George's, Hanover Square
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Music by Bach, Weckman, Böhm, Sweelinck and Philips plus the first recordings of works by Joel Martinson, David Sanger and Philip Moore.

Released by Fugue State Records, FSRC009

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Price: £14.50 (although we may be able to negotiate a discount)

Charles Soresby, long-standing parishioner at St George's and member of the Parochial Church Council for 37 years, died on 7th October at the age of 98.

The following is edited from the address given by the Rector at his Requiem Mass at St George's on Friday 23rd October:



Charles Soresby was born in during the First World War in Retford, Nottinghamshire where his father was organist and choirmaster and, like our own Director of Music, a music graduate of Durham. His mother was a fine pianist. He came from a musical line in that his grandfather was for many years organist at Chester Cathedral where Charles and Brenda married, and he knew Elgar and Vaughan Williams.

Sadly Charles's father died when he was only six, and he grew up with his mother and two older sisters, Joy and Elizabeth. There was little money to spare and times were not easy. Charles had a fine mind and was well read, but the looming war put paid to any thought of the kind of university education both his father and grandfather had enjoyed. There was some thought that the family might emigrate to Canada,

and this almost came off, but in the event Charles's teenage years were spent in the Blackpool and Manchester areas. He received the offer of a place at a Freemasons School but the family turned this down for religious reasons, and he left school at 14.

Charles began working as an apprentice for Grotrian Steinweg Pianos as a technician and learned all the tasks associated with tuning and rebuilding pianos. After a good stint there he moved to the Selfridges piano department before the 2nd World War.

His wartime army career was shrouded in some secrecy which raises the possibility that Charles may have been involved in military intelligence. What is known, is that he joined the Pioneer Corps whose tasks were to do with light engineering, and went to North Africa. After the D-day landings he looked after German PoWs in Belgium. On the way there though Charles remembered fondly being billeted just one comfortable night in Paris at the Georges V!

After the war he moved from Selfridges to the Army and Navy Store as manager of the Music Department, selling pianos and other instruments, records and sheet music and running the piano tuning business there. On occasion he would be called out at the last minute to sort out piano tuning and repairs at the Royal Albert Hall and newly opened Festival Hall.

With the closure of yet another music department and still with a young family to feed, Charles turned his hand to the insurance business - he insured one of the first Audi cars in this country - and became the Insurance Manager for the Army and Navy Group, now part of the House of Fraser.

Ever flexible, when the insurance department closed, he went into general management for the House of Fraser, based first in Victoria and then latterly at Barkers of Kensington. Amongst the myriad peculiar tasks that came his way were listening to the whole of Solti's Ring Cycle to check there were no scratches before sending it to a demanding overseas customer! And then, during the Beatles craze, he was asked to go to a gentlemen's hairdressing

wearing a wig so it could be trimmed in the Beatles style to enable his Managing Director to turn up suitably attired at the staff dance! Yet another task during this spell was personally supervising the purchase of Christmas items for the Queen's household. He felt greatly honoured to be invited to no fewer than three Buckingham Palace garden parties.

Charles met his wife Brenda in the early 1950s though his sister Joy who played in the same orchestra and, though shy, they clearly hit it off. After getting married in Chester Cathedral, they lived in the Kilburn/Maida Vale area of London. Family life consisted of, good humouredly, putting up with his son Roger's increasingly whacky projects with his Meccano set or producing noxious chemicals in test tubes, and with his daughters Caroline and Brenda and their latest tie dye or art projects. Money was always tight, but it never stopped the family having a fulfilling and creative time, and always able to have a summer holiday.

Charles was pleased with the success of his children, and delighted to have three grandchildren, though life was tinged with sadness when Brenda died. He led a full life, and his association with St George's goes back to the time Roger was a choir-boy here in the mid 1960s eventually going on to become head chorister here. He was a long-serving member of the Parochial Church Council a faithful Christian who would be here every Friday in time for the 12.10 Eucharist, travelling in to the West End on the underground and buses at over 98 years old.

We shall miss him. In my case, I will miss our weekly chats. He was a gentle man, smart with high standards, decent, cheerful and displaying quiet wisdom and, dare I say, holiness. May he rest in God's peace. But the last word should go to Charles whose goodbyes were always a cheery "Hey -Ho!"

Malcolm Lothian, headmaster of St George's Hanover Square Primary School for nearly 40 years, member of the Parochial Church Council at St George's for 37 years and Church Warden for 17 years, died on 19th October aged 69.

The following is edited from the address given by the Rector at his Solemn Requiem Mass on Friday 30th October:



When Sue fell out of the sitting room window she was cleaning - a huge drop on to the hard pavement below - she picked herself up, made her way back up the steps to the front door and rang the bell. Malcolm opened the door and said quietly, "when you go out in future could you please take your keys."

All of us here today will, I guess, recognise in that short anecdote the Malcolm we know and love. He never over reacted. Above all else he was calm whether an IRA bomb was going off in Hyde Park during a picnic when his calmness stopped everyone else flapping or when the school kitchen caught fire and everybody was told not to cough.

Until the age of seven Malcolm lived in a beautiful part of Scotland near Lossiemouth. Years later you could still hear the accent when he said *brilliant* or *Scotland*. He loved school and used to carry his teacher's bag. She made a lasting impression on him just as later he had a similar effect on so many other children. Many people here today will, I imagine, remember Malcolm the headmaster.

He met Martin, his oldest friend, at Sunday School, after he moved to London, in a church in which his mother was Churchwarden.

He went to grammar school and began teaching in Upper Tulse Hill, as well as being a tutor in charge at an evening institute - and in the prison service. He seemed to need little sleep in his twenties and managed all of this while finding time to party away at the best night clubs on a regular basis. He celebrated his 21st on top of the Post Office Tower. And oh what wonderful parties over the years lots of you will remember. The many parties at school and at home and elsewhere were Malcolm's way of saying thank-you to those who gave so much to the community.

I never saw the Marlene Dietrich impression - with the full fur - although have witnessed it - with a scarf as a prop - one leg curling round the door in the Rectory when we begged him to oblige.

Malcolm became the youngest headmaster in London and with his long hair curling round his chin and blue velvet suit, he didn't go unnoticed.

There have been memorable celebrations of nearly his 40 years as headmaster, notably at Marlborough House to mark 30 years and latterly when the Bishop of London came for his farewell Mass when he left St George's School in July last year. So he knew he was cherished and loved because many of you have been able to tell him so.

But our loss - your loss - is enormous: Malcolm the wonderful

husband; Malcolm the godfather (with 29 god children); Malcolm the Headmaster - he will have an irreplaceable part in the lives of thousands of children over 4 decades who have grown up with Malcolm as the epitome of a kind, wise, sage and modest presence in their lives, a father figure (and who could forget his wonderful dog, Georgina!); Malcolm the colleague and mentor in the world of Education - so highly respected in local Westminster Schools; Malcolm the Churchwarden and servant of the Deanery and Diocese; Malcolm the discreet and esteemed Mason; Malcolm the Parish Clerk; Malcolm the magistrate for over 25 years; Malcolm the drinking companion at the *Punch Bowl* - known in code as *The Annex* - or on occasion at *The Audley* - aka *The Antique Shop* - so well known and well-liked in the local community and sometime Chairman of the *Residents of Mayfair* group; Malcolm the sociable friend who really cared about you; Malcolm who could and who did talk to anybody - *and* remember their names (I can't think of anybody I know who has such a good memory for names, even the names of the two doctors looking after him in his final few hours of life!)

His genuine interest in others I guess lay at the heart of his gift of being able to get so many people to do things for him and for the school, for example top chefs. Every year the School sings at *The Ritz* or the *RAC* and other well known hotels in the area as part of the *Charity Adopt a School*. St George's was the first school to take part, and now a top chef visits the school every year to encourage the children. Indeed Prince Charles came in recent years and there are now over 500 schools involved with this charity.

Malcolm loved travelling abroad - and in style: to Positano on the Amalfi Coast with Sue; to Australia and New Zealand; but when in London he liked to keep within W1 though he did allow himself to be seen in places as far afield as Ascot once a year.

He was close to his family in Australia as well as here in London, in



At Positano in 2014

Suffolk and up north and we hold them in our prayers.

At St George's, Malcolm has been a mainstay of Church life for over 40 years. And we have been moved by many of you who have not only been in touch with Sue, but have sent cards and messages to others of us here at Church. Few who heard it can possibly forget his unique utterance during the prayers for the church militant of the words '*the punishment of wickedness and vice*' - moderated only at Christmas. Not only Churchwarden for nearly 20 years but also head server and Parish Clerk and a wise Chairman of the Finance Committee and of the Charities associated with St George's.

He has been a discreet help and support to me and to my predecessors as Rector - in the case of Bill Atkins and John Slater stepping in to do increasingly more in the liturgy as their health failed. Brought up as an Anglo Catholic lad he knew all the different permutations of traditional practice and could guide me and other priests with confidence -and in a way I welcomed given I'd only ever known public school religion prior to university and am not the natural that Malcolm was. And yet he was more than a Churchman. I quickly recognised that his role here was quasi diaconal. In some Dioceses he would have been a permanent Deacon. And I was not at all surprised when I asked him if he had ever explored a sense of vocation to dis-

cover that, yes he had. But it was not to be. Except in all probability, so discreet was he - the most discreet man I have known - that probably more has been divulged and shared with Malcolm than to many a priest so there has been a great hidden ministry as a pastor. He it was who would be the first and the last to visit when others fell sick or were dying, quietly and without fuss. He would faithfully say his prayers every night. And he never lost hope, never showing any sign of being unhappy or down even during his final months since July.

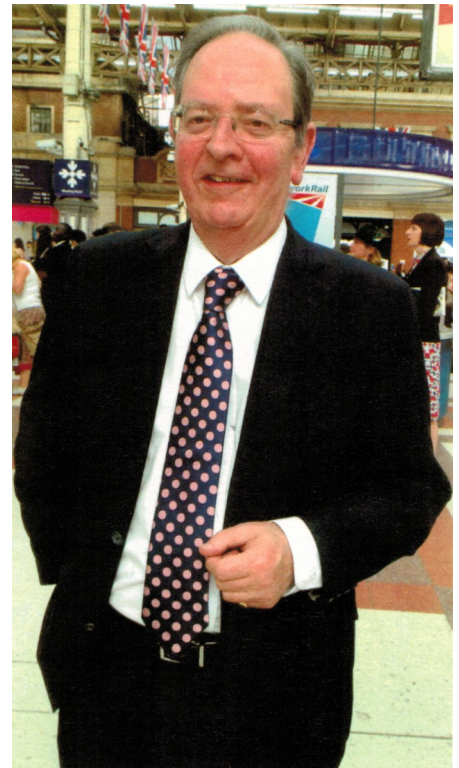
There is a lot in today's service about resting in peace - and certainly death is partly about falling asleep with Jesus. We seem to imagine a long eternal night. But I know I for one need to remind myself that death is equally about waking up - about waking in God. For the Christian there is as much about the morning as there is about the night. We speak of light, indeed of light perpetual. But do we dare imagine it?

Which is why last night when some of us gathered in prayer and vigil at Sue and Malcolm's home I took along a piece of music. Our choir today sings the Requiem by Fauré but last night we listened to another French composer, to Maurice Ravel and that wonderful little bit from *Daphnis and Chloe: Lever du Jour*: daybreak or sunrise, a glorious reminder of light and of waking up in God.

So give thanks. Let us pray for Malcolm as he begins a new stage of life, confident in God's love and mercy. The opening words of the Lord's Prayer call God our Father: a father who loves, who welcomes, who forgives those who come to him. And we pray for ourselves, reminded as we are about the fragility of life, perhaps attending to any unfinished dreams or the healing of relationships with God and with others, and pray that when *our* time comes we will be able to say thank you to God for all that we have been given but,

more importantly, for all that we have been able to give to God and to other people.

May Malcolm indeed rest in peace but wake in God's eternal morning.





SGHS Prisons Mission

New Church Members

The ecumenical Prisons Mission developed by Churches Together in Westminster is continuing to make progress and provide support and services needed by multi-faith Prison Chaplaincy Teams. St George's Church was one of the three founding member churches. We have recently been joined by St Martin in the Fields (CoE) from which six members of the congregation will become regular participants and St Columba's in Knightsbridge (CoS) with three participants.

One new participant described his introductory visit to Wandsworth prison as "a bit sobering. The environment was somewhat alien to me. I presupposed what a prison would look like from the inside through media images, but I wasn't prepared for the noise and smell of the place and the desolate look on the faces of some of the inmates we walked past. Prison appears to me a curious juxtaposition of punishment and care; the removal of an individual's liberties and yet, at the same time, trying to rebuild and introduce civil values". Another new participant said that she "can't imagine being confined to a cell 12 feet by 7 feet for up to 23 hours a day", but she "looked forward to being able to serve in some way as this is often a group of people who are forgotten about. Out of sight and out of mind, but they deserve every

chance we can give them to reform and avoid reoffending".

Baptism in Prison

A prison chaplain recently told me a little about the life of a young man he had got to know in recent years as he had served several custodial sentences at the same prison.

Jimmy had had a troubled childhood with many absences from school and little formal learning. Petty crime and a broken home were two regular features of his early years. His mother was addicted to drugs and during each prison sentence Jimmy determined to go straight. Each time he failed and met the chaplain again in prison a few months after the previous discharge. During his current sentence Jimmy attended several courses and regularly took part in Bible studies and Christian worship. He was so strongly committed to a different future that he chose to be baptised in the prison chapel. This time he was even more convinced that he needed to change and lead a very different life. The Chaplaincy Team and others gave him all the support they could within the limits of their human resources. Quite soon Jimmy will be released and be confronted again with all the pressures, risks and temptations which have led him to crime so often before. Will he survive and become an independent, crime-free member of society? What help will he find outside prison?

Prisons Week 2015

St George's Church will mark Prisons Week between 15 and 22 November with special prayers, sermons and information. Attention will be focused

not only on the largest ever prison population of 86,000 men, women and children but on all those concerned with or affected by the whole criminal justice system - prisoners' families, prison officers, chaplaincy teams and of course victims of crimes.

CHRISTMAS AT ST GEORGE'S

Sunday 20th December

6.00pm

Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols with the St George's Choir followed by refreshments.

Thursday 24th December

Christmas Eve

4.30pm

Solemn Vigil Mass of Christmas with blessing of the Crib & Carols for Children
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector
Mass of the Quiet Hour (Oldroyd)
Nativity Carol (Rutter)
On Christmas Night (Frahm)

There will also be a Midnight Mass at the Grosvenor Chapel (at 11.30pm) starting with carols at 11.00pm.

Friday 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY

11.00am Sung Eucharist

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector
Missa Sancti Nicolae (Haydn)
This lovely Lady (Kelly)
I saw three ships (arr Preston)
Noel I (Daquin)

HANDEL MESSIAH

THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 2015 7PM

St George's, Hanover Square, St George Street
London, W1S 1FX

Please join us for our
annual Christmas
performance of
Messiah.

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Alice PRIVETT *soprano*
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Sally BRUCE-PAYNE *mezzo-soprano*
Rupert CHARLESWORTH *tenor*
(Winner of the Handel Singing Competition 2013)
Timothy NELSON *bass-baritone*

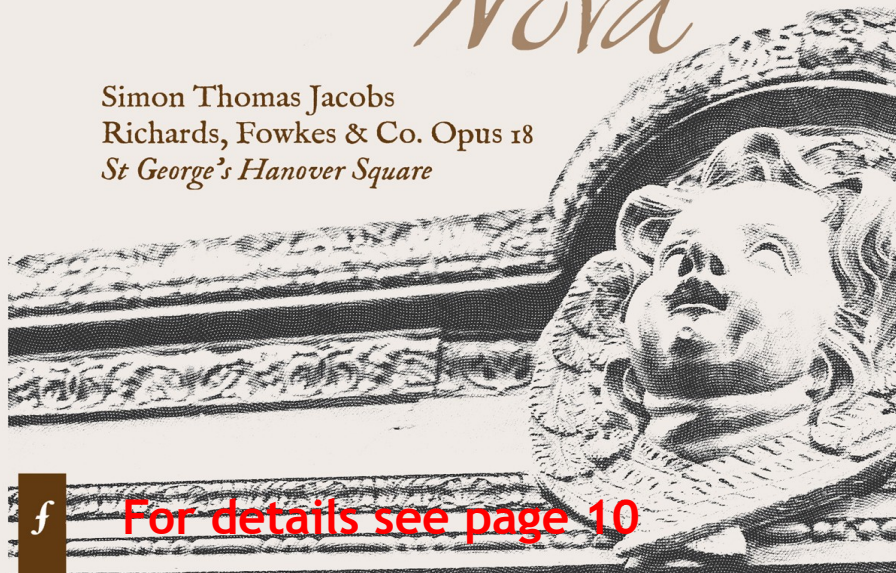
Simon WILLIAMS *conductor*
London Handel Orchestra
Adrian BUTTERFIELD *leader*
Choir of St George's



www.london-handel-festival.com

PARTHENIA *Nova*

Simon Thomas Jacobs
Richards, Fowkes & Co. Opus 18
St George's Hanover Square



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For details see page 10

Hyde Park Place Estate Charity

CIVIL TRUSTEES

At their meeting on Wednesday 30th September, the Civil Trustees of the Hyde Park Place Estate Charity awarded grants totalling £31,976 to the following organisations working in the City of Westminster:

Asthma Relief

Westbourne Park Family
Centre

Alone in London

ABF The Soldiers' Charity

The Passage

Blind Veterans UK

Whizz-Kidz

Dream Arts

St George's Hanover Square -
Morning Calm

St George's School

St George's Hanover Square -
Refreshment Coupon Scheme for
the Homeless

The next meeting of the Civil Trustees will be held on Wednesday 25th November (application deadline: Monday 9th November). A further meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th February (application deadline: Monday 8th February).

Shirley Vaughan
Clerk to the Trustees

PARISH OF ST GEORGE, HANOVER SQUARE

Charity No: 11348811

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St George's Hanover Square Foundation

Charity No 1120505

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Hyde Park Place Estate Charity

Charity No 212439

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