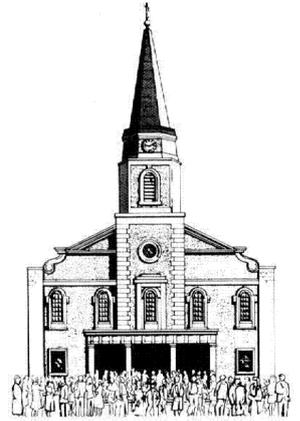


NEWSLETTER

Parish of St George

Hanover Square



St George's Church

Grosvenor Chapel

March-June 2017: issue 36



Fr Nicolas Stebbing and young Zimbabweans being helped by Tariro.

Tariro UK is the Parish Lent Charity.

For details see page 2.

Few of us enjoy filling in forms; church administrators are no exception. Even before the year's end we are being chivvied by the diocesan powers that be to complete elements of the dreaded online Annual Return. I say dreaded because it is chock full of unanswerable questions which, to judge from their capacity to survive repeated challenges, clearly enjoy the status of the law of the Medes and Persians. However among questions that can be answered are ones that relate to so-called Fresh Expressions of Church. Those in the know will recognise this as the no longer particularly fresh expression of Our Lord's injunction to 'go out and make disciples of all nations'. But over time the Fresh Expressions label has been taken over and its meaning 'refined' to describe certain types of Christian activity and not others. While this year we have looked at whether *Morning Calm** could be described as a 'Fresh Expression', the fact that, in the

end, we decided it cannot only serve to confirm that St George's remains a square peg in this particular round hole.

And yet . . . a church that daily feeds the hungry and therefore welcomes into its hallowed warmth those who under other circumstances would never darken a church's doors**; that addresses the focussed needs of young people in Zimbabwe (see page 2); that reaches out pastorally to those in prison well beyond the parish boundaries (see page 8); and that now vicariously through the global engagement of its new Assistant Priest turns its attention to the uncomfortable reality of modern slavery (see page 10) can surely be forgiven for adapting with some confidence the celebrated words of Wren's memorial to read *Lector si testimonium requiris lege. Read on . . .*

* our now nine-year old early morning, week-day service with music played by students from the Royal College of Music.

**The food voucher programme for rough sleepers is now in its fifth year.

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The Rector writes . . .

friendship with Goodenough College students as and when opportunities arise. Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find pieces written by Fr Alan about Goodenough College and slavery in the modern world.

LENT CHARITY

Our Lent charity is *Tariro - Hope for Youth in Zimbabwe*. The founder of *Tariro*, Fr Nicolas Stebbing who is himself from Zimbabwe and a member of the Community of the Resurrection in Mirfield came to preach Holy Week and Easter in the parish two years ago. And in November we welcomed him back to St George's to speak about the charity and answer questions. Since then we have agreed to support *Tariro* in partnership with our school and with the Grosvenor Chapel who have already been giving support. 'Tariro' means 'hope' in Shona which is one of the two main languages in Zimbabwe. Tariro UK is a small grant making body raising money to support orphans or young people in Zimbabwe whose one parent can no longer look after them. It funds between 45 and 50 young people who need help and support in four centres across the country, supporting them through school and then in further education or practical projects until they are able to stand on their own feet. *Tariro* gives these children and young people hope when they have had little, it gives them a reason to live and helps them thrive. Further information can be found at www.tarirouk.com

Fr Alan is joining a team of gifted assistant clergy in the parish here at St George's and at the Grosvenor Chapel to whom we are most grateful. We now have an incumbent Rector who is just a plain Reverend, with three priests who although they are legally Curates are in fact Doctors (Dr Fermer PhD London, Dr Piggott DPhil Oxon, and Dr McCormack DPhil Oxon) as well as a fourth who is a Canon (Fr Alistair Macdonald-Radcliff) who helps us in an honorary capacity. And to cap it all, two of this distinguished quartet have been or are currently Deans! Fr Alan is aiming to be with us every fortnight and preach once a month, and I know that many of the congregation have enjoyed getting to know him immensely. We look forward to forging links of

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sunday 9th April

Palm Sunday Liturgy at 11am

Monday 10th-Thursday 13th April

Holy Communion at 12.10pm

Friday 14th April

Good Friday

Liturgy of the Passion at 10am

St Matthew Passion by J.S. Bach

at 2.30pm (with sermon)

Sunday 16th April

Easter Day

Sung Eucharist at 11am

with renewal of baptismal vows

followed by a reception.

Members of the congregation (but regretfully not their guests due to limited space) who wish to attend the *St Matthew Passion* should please inform the Verger, Seamus O'Hare by **Monday 3rd April**.

PRAYER SPACES IN SCHOOLS

The Diocese of London is working in partnership with an organisation dedicated to introducing special areas set aside in schools for prayer and meditation/reflection. In the case of our own school, which received a silver star Religious Quality Mark before Christmas, we are already rather ahead in that there are prayer corners in every classroom and in three corridors. However we would like to do even more work on this and choose a week in the year to focus on setting up a bigger Prayer Space in the school and working out ways of linking it to what is already going on in classrooms. The idea is that the main input and preparation for this should come from Christians in local churches. I am therefore appealing for help from anybody at St George's or the Grosvenor Chapel who might be interested in receiving modest training and support as we work to agree and set up a Prayer Space. The commit-

ment would be specifically for a special week rather than carrying on into infinity!

Mothering Sunday is on **Sunday 26th March** and all children and families as well as children from our **St George's Hanover Square School** are warmly invited to join us for what are thrice yearly services where children are involved in leading worship/reading, and the sermon geared to families with children at the Sung Eucharist at 11am. The service is followed by customary refreshments. We extend a similar invitation to families with children to celebrate Pentecost on **Whitsunday (4th June)**.

St George's Patronal Festival will be kept this year on **Sunday 23rd April** and the Sung Eucharist will be followed by a festive reception. Three days later on **Wednesday 26th April** the Royal British Legion will be presenting a special **St George's Day concert**.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is to be moved this year from a weekday to **Sunday 30th April** following on after the Sung Eucharist at 12.30pm. Members of the Parochial Church Council are elected at this meeting which is preceded by the **Annual Vestry**

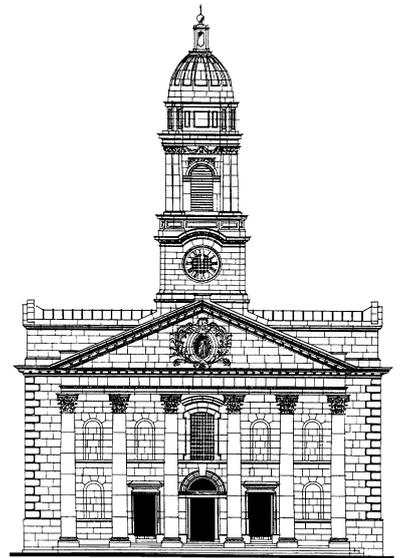
Meeting to elect Churchwardens. Please join us to hear reports and plans for the future.

Rogation Sunday is on **21st May** and the Sung Eucharist will be followed by the traditional 'Beating the Bounds' walk around the boundaries of our Parish of Mayfair. We would like to attract walkers both from St George's and the Grosvenor Chapel. Further information about the ancient custom of Beating the Bounds may be found at www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beating_the_bounds

We had hoped to make a final decision about the time of the Friday Eucharist but are still gathering evidence. So for the moment it remains at 1.10pm and a final decision will be made after Easter.

There are daily prayers in church, Monday - Thursday at 12.10pm Midday Prayer is said daily 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 12th May** at 13.10pm. Please inform the Verger if you wish to include names for prayer. His contact details may be found on the back page.



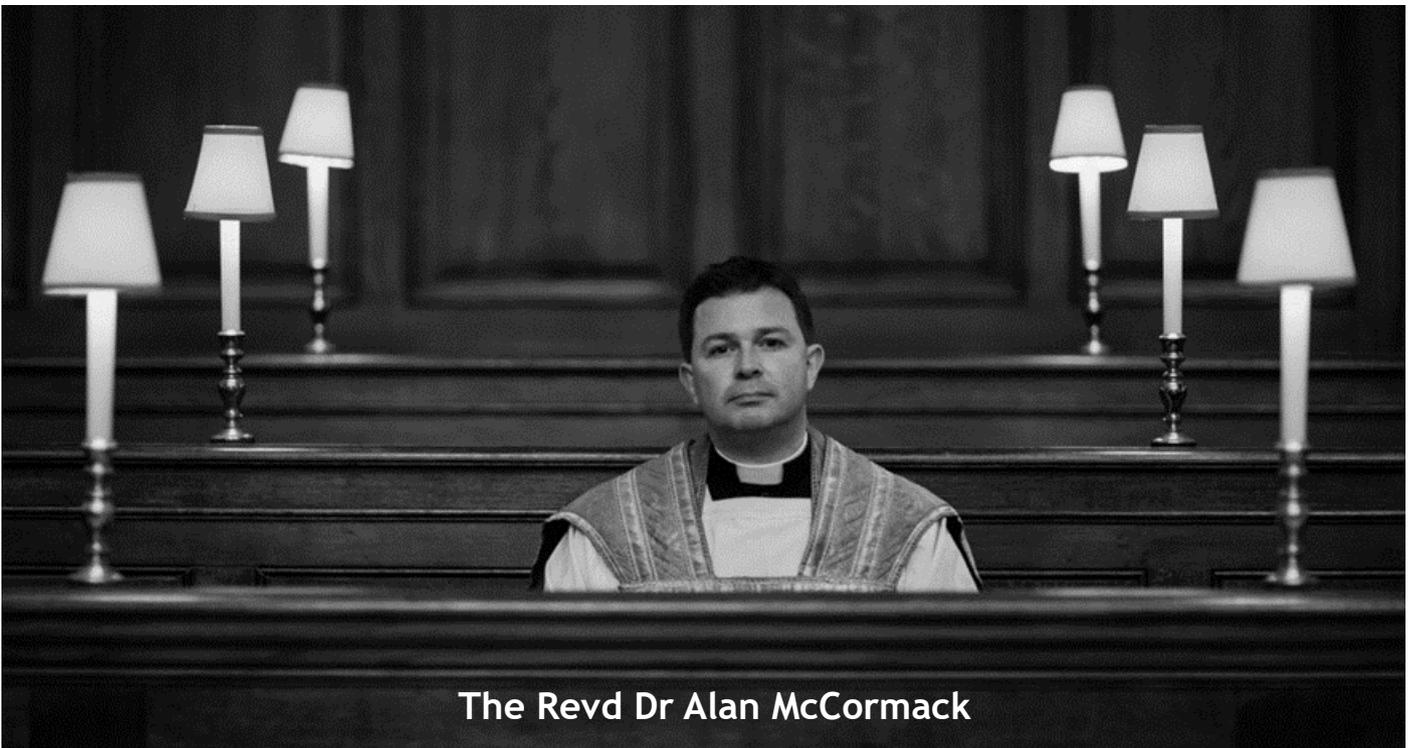
And finally, looking ahead, some **dates for your diaries** further ahead:

Marriage Vows renewal on **Sunday 9th July**

Baptismal vows renewal on **Sunday 17th September**

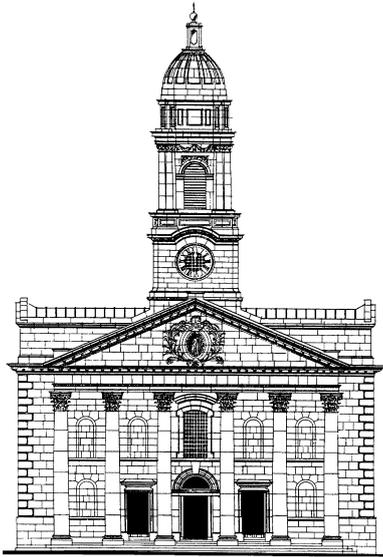
Prisons Sunday on **Sunday 15th October**

The Royal Society of St George will join us for their **Annual Parade Service** on **Sunday 22nd October**



The Revd Dr Alan McCormack

The Revd Dr Alan McCormack is a native of Northern Ireland who ministered in the Church of Ireland as Dean of Residence in Trinity College, Dublin for about a decade before moving to London in 2007. He was Rector of St Botolph without Bishopsgate and St Vedast-alias-Foster in the City of London before moving to his current role as the Dean of Goodenough College in Bloomsbury. He still maintains very close links with the City and was very recently Chaplain to the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor. Educated at Oxford and at Yale, his specialism is in Hebrew textual hermeneutics. A keen student of Chinese cultures, he has served as an Advisor on Chinese Christian Affairs to Rowan Williams, formerly Archbishop of Canterbury. To relax Alan attends the theatre (as befits a Member of the Garrick) and cooks. He practises mixed martial arts several times each week, which explains why he can rarely stay for sherry after church.



Services at St George's March—June 2017

Wednesday 1st March
Ash Wednesday
8.40am Morning Calm
1.10pm Holy Communion
with the imposition of ashes

Thursday 2nd March
**St Chad, Bishop of Lichfield,
Missionary, 672**
8.40am Morning Calm
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 3rd March
8.40am Morning Calm
1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 5th March
First Sunday in Lent
8.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant: The Rector
Preacher: Canon Alistair
Macdonald-Radcliff
Mass for Four Voices (Byrd)
Miserere (Allegri)
Prelude in B minor BWV 544i
(Bach)

Monday 6th March
8.40am Morning Calm
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 7th March
**Ss Perpetua, Felicity &
companions, Martyrs, 203**
8.40am Morning Calm
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 8th March
Ember Day
8.40am Morning Calm
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45 Holy Communion

Thursday 9th March
8.40am Morning Calm
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 10th March
Ember Day
8.40am Morning Calm
1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 12th March
Second Sunday in Lent
8.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant: The Rector
Preacher: Fr Alan McCormack
Missa Papae Marcelli (Palestrina)
Sicut cervus (Palestrina)
A voluntary (Bull)

Monday 13th March
8.40am Morning Calm
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 14th March
8.40am Morning Calm
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 15th March
8.40am Morning Calm
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 16th March
8.40am Morning Calm
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 17th March
8.40am Morning Calm
1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 19th March
Third Sunday in Lent
8.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rector
Missa Iste Confessor (Palestrina)
Purge me, O Lord (Tallis)
Fugue in A minor (Pachelbel)

Monday 20th March
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 21st March
**St Benedict, Abbot of Monte
Cassino, c550**
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 22nd March
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 23rd March
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 24th March
1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 26th March
Mothering Sunday
8.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant: Fr Alan McCormack
Preacher: The Rector
Missa Brevis in F (Haydn)
Like as the hart (Howells)
Toccata from Suite Gothique
(Boëllman)

Monday 27th March
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 28th March
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 29th March
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 30th March
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 31st March
1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 2nd April
Passion Sunday
8.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant: The Rector
Preacher: Fr Alan McCormack
Mass for Five Voices (Byrd)
Crucifixus (Lotti)
Herzlich tut mich verlangen
(Brahms)

Monday 3rd April
St Richard, Bp of Chichester, 1253
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 4th April
St Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, 397
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 5th April
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 6th April
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 7th April
1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 9th April
Palm Sunday
8.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector
Missa Brevis (Matthias)
Passion according to St Matthew
(Lassus)
Pueri Hebraeorum (Victoria)
Fantasia in F minor K608 (Mozart)

Monday 10th April
Monday in Holy Week
12.10pm Holy Communion

Tuesday 11th April
Tuesday in Holy Week
12.10pm Holy Communion

Wednesday 12th April
Wednesday in Holy Week
12.10pm Holy Communion

Thursday 13th April
Maundy Thursday
12.10pm Holy Communion

Friday 14th April
Good Friday
10.00am Good Friday Liturgy
2.30pm Vespers:
Bach St Matthew Passion
Preacher:
The Revd Dr Alan McCormack
(*ticket only from London Handel Festival 01460 54660*)

Sunday 16th April
Easter Day
8.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rector
Coronation Mass (Mozart)
Hallelujah (Handel)
Paraphrase sur un Choeur de Judas Macchabé de Händel (Guilmant)

Monday 17th April
No services

Tuesday 18th April
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 19th April
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 20th April
12.10pm Holy Communion

Friday 21st April
1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd April
St George's Patronal Festival
8.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rector
Missa Brevis (Ives)
The Fair Chivalry (Ashfield)
Crown Imperial (Walton)

Monday 24th April
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 25th April
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 26th April
St Mark the Evangelist (trans)
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 27th April
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 28th April
1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 30th April
Second Sunday after Easter
8.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant: The Rector
Preacher:
The Revd Dr Alan McCormack
Spatzen Messe (Mozart)
Blessed be the God and Father (S S Wesley)
Paean (Howells)

Monday 1st May
Ss Philip & James, Apostles
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 2nd May
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 3rd May
The Invention of the Cross
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 4th May
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 5th May
1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 7th May
Third Sunday after Easter
8.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
Canon Alistair Macdonald-Radcliff
Missa Brevis (MacMillan)
Most glorious Lord of Life (le Fleming)
St Andrews' Suite (MacMillan)

Monday 8th May
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 9th May
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 10th May
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 11th May
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 12th May
1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 14th May
Fourth Sunday after Easter
8.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant: Fr Alan McCormack
Preacher: The Rector
Missa sine nomine (Hassler)
Surgens Jesus (Philips)

Monday 15th May
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 16th May
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 17th May
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 18th May
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 19th May
St Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury 988
1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 21st May
Fifth Sunday after Easter
Rogation Sunday
8.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant: The Rector
Preacher: Fr Alan McCormack

Communion Service in A (Stanford)
Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow)
Service followed by Beating of the Bounds

Monday 22nd May
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 23rd May
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 24th May
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 25th May
Ascension Day
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 26th May
St Augustine, Archbishop of Canterbury 605
1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 28th May
Sunday after Ascension Day
8.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rector
Missa Ascendens Christus (Victoria)
God is gone up (Finzi)

Monday 29th May
No services

Tuesday 30th May
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 31st May
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 1st June
St Nicomede, Priest & Martyr
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 2nd June
1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 4th June
Whitsunday
8.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rector
Messe Solennelle (Langlais)
O Lord, give thy Holy Spirit (Tallis)
Final from Symphony No 1 (Vierne)

Monday 5th June
St Boniface (Wynfrith) of Crediton, Bishop, Apostle of Germany, Martyr, 754
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 6th June
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 7th June
Ember Day
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 8th June
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 9th June
Ember Day
1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 11th June
Trinity Sunday
8.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant: Fr Alan McCormack
Preacher: The Rector
Mass in G (Schubert)
The Cherubic Hymn (Glinka)

Monday 12th June
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 13th June
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 14th June
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 15th June
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 16^h June
1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 18th June
First Sunday after Trinity
8.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rector
Missa Brevis 'New Norcia' (Leece)
Panis Angelicus (Franck)

Monday 19th June
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 20th June
Translation of Edward,
King of the West Saxons, 979
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 21st June
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 22nd June
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 23rd June
1.10pm Holy Communion

Sunday 25th June
Second Sunday after Trinity
8.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Rector
Missa Che fa oggi il mio sole
(Allegri)
Ave verum corpus (Philips)

Monday 26th June
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 27th June
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 28st June
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion

Thursday 29th June
St Peter the Apostle
1.10pm Holy Communion

Friday 30th June
1.10pm Holy Communion



Father Alan McCormack is
Dean of Goodenough College.
He writes as follows:

Goodenough College is a residential College based in Bloomsbury which aims to provide a safe and stimulating environment for 700 students, and their families, from over 90 countries. The vision of Frederick Craufurd Goodenough, Chairman of Barclays DCO, the College is an independent charity founded in 1930. Goodenough acquired the whole of Mecklenburgh Square for his new College and its fine buildings were designed by Sir Herbert Baker. The Patron of the College is Her Majesty the Queen whose most recent visit in December 2016 was marked by her re-visiting the College building she had in fact opened some sixty years ago.

College members study almost every subject imaginable (exclusively at graduate level) in every London tertiary institution imaginable. The College has an opera company, a symphony orchestra, many sporting teams and an annual TEDx conference. Lectures and sem-

inars happen on a daily basis in Term, often featuring some of the biggest names in global academe and public life.

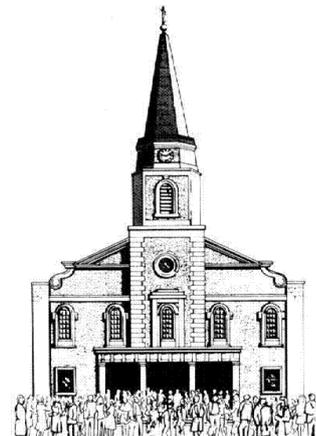
The Dean co-ordinates the entirety of student activity and runs also an impressive 'Two Cities' representation programme where the talented young leaders-in-waiting hit the financial, parliamentary and diplomatic cocktail party circuits. It is pleasing to report that the Rector's HOLY COCKTAILS have already become a much desired addition to this social itinerary.

Many Goodenough College events are open to the public and attendance from St George's parishioners would be very welcome.



Services at Grosvenor Chapel

March – June 2017



Wednesday 1st March 7pm

Ash Wednesday

7.00pm Sung Eucharist
Lassus *Missa Octavi Toni*
Purcell *Remember not, Lord, our offences*

Sunday 5th March
The First Sunday of Lent

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Lent Prose
Lassus
Missa super Amor ecco colei
Allegri *Miserere mei*
Lassus *Timor et tremor*

Sunday 12th March
The Second Sunday of Lent

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Guerrero *Missa Inter vestibulum*
Morales *Peccantem me quotidie*

Sunday 19th March
The Third Sunday of Lent

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Berkeley *Mass for 5 voices*
Palestrina *Sicut cervus*

Sunday 26th March
The Fourth Sunday of Lent

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Bartolini *Messa a Cinque Voci*
Monteverdi *Ave Maris Stella*

Sunday 2nd April
The Fifth Sunday of Lent

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Josquin *Missa Pange lingua*
Tallis *Salvator mundi*

Sunday 9th April
Palm Sunday

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Weelkes
Hosanna to the Son of David
Lassus *Missa Bell' Amfitrit' altera*
Victoria *St Matthew Passion*
Bruckner *Christus factus est*

Thursday 13th April
Maundy Thursday

7.00pm Sung Eucharist
Victoria *Missa Trahe me post te*
Vaughan Williams
Love bade me welcome
Tallis *O sacrum convivium*
Durufle *Ubi caritas*
Tallis
The Lamentation of Jeremiah

Friday 14th April

Good Friday

12.00 Good Friday Liturgy
Plainsong *The St John Passion*
John of Portugal *Crux Fidelis*
Sanders *The Reproaches*
Poulenc *Vinea mea electa*

Sunday 16th April
Easter Day

11.00 Sung Eucharist
(with orchestra)
Walford Davies
O sons and daughters
Mozart *Spatzenmesse K220*
Bach *Awake, thou wintry earth*
Bach *Prelude & Fugue in G major BWV 541*

Sunday 23rd April
The Second Sunday of Easter

11.00am Mass with hymns and organ music

Sunday 30th April
The Third Sunday of Easter

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Moore
Missa in Tempore Paschalis
Byrd *Victimae Paschali laudes*
Bach *Christ ist erstanden BWV 627*

Sunday 7th May
The Fourth Sunday of Easter

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Lassus *Missa Paschalis*
Lassus *Surrexit pastor bonus*
Bach *Fantasia in G major BWV 572*

Sunday 14th May
The Fifth Sunday of Easter

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Palestrina
Missa Nasce la gioja mia
Taverner
Dum transisset sabbatum
Buxtehude *Prelude, Fugue & Chaconne*

Sunday 21st May
The Sixth Sunday of Easter

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Mozart *Missa Brevis in F*
Philips
Christus resurgens ex mortuis
Mendelssohn
Allegro maestoso e vivace

Thursday 25th May
Ascension Day

7.00pm Sung Eucharist
Victoria *Missa Ascendens Christus*
Philips *Ascendit Deus*
Bach *Heut' triumphiret Gottes Sohn BWV 630*

Sunday 28th May
Sunday after Ascension

11.00am Sung Eucharist
A Scarlatti *Mass for Five Voices*
Sweelinck *Viri Galilaei*
Bach *Prelude in D major BWV 532(i)*

Sunday 4th June
Pentecost

11.00am Sung Eucharist
McDowall *Missa Brevis (Tongues of Fire)*
Tallis *Loquebantur variis linguis de Grigny Dialogue (Veni creator)*

Sunday 11th June
Trinity Sunday

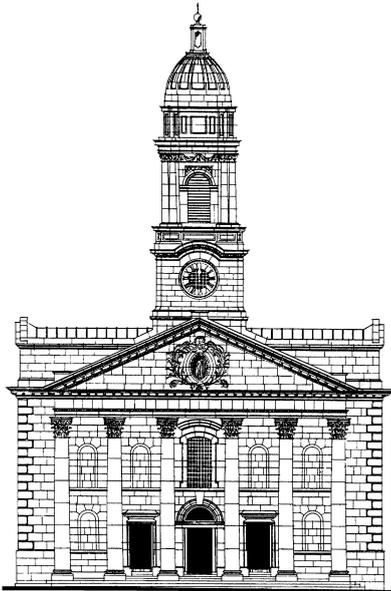
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Tye *Euge Bone Mass*
Sheppard *Adesto sancta trinitas*
Bach *Fugue in E flat BWV 552(ii)*

Sunday 18th June
First Sunday after Trinity

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Stanford *Communion Service in C*
Messiaen *O sacrum convivium*
Whitlock *Here, O my Lord*
Wallis *March in F*

Sunday 25th June
Second Sunday after Trinity

11.00am Sung Eucharist
Schubert *Mass in G*
Wesley
The Lord hath been mindful of us
Mendelssohn *Fugue (Second Sonata)*



OUR TEAM STARTS WORK IN EUROPE'S BIGGEST PRISON FOR WOMEN.

March 2017 is the tenth anniversary of a report on women's prisons published under the leadership of Baroness Corston. This contained 43 recommendations, including a demand for all women's prisons to be replaced by small custodial units so that most women would serve their sentences in the community and attend local facilities to address such issues as mental illness, addiction and domestic violence. Some of the recommendations were adopted by the then Labour government and the number of women in custody was reduced, but the proposal for small local custodial centres was rejected in England and Wales and only partially implemented in Scotland.

The Corston Report lifted the lid on the scandalous conditions in which female prisoners were incarcerated. The review was triggered in 2006, after six women in HMP Styal, Cheshire killed themselves within thirteen months. Last year twelve women took their own lives while in prisons in England and Wales, double that when Corston visited several prisons and was shocked by the scale of mental illness, abuse and deprivation. In 2016 the Prison Governors Association called for a new Independent Public Inquiry because of the "unprecedented rise of violence, self harm and suicides" in prisons for both men and women.

Today, six out of ten women are homeless when discharged from prison. Women's Centres can be a vital anchor in otherwise chaotic lives, but many are now facing closure due to cuts in funding. Baroness Corston now says that "the overwhelming majority of these women are troubled rather than

Churches Together in Westminster Prisons Mission

troublesome". She argues that women offenders should be treated differently. Among the differences she points out are that emotional, physical and sexual abuse, as well as self harm and domestic violence are much more common in the female prison population than the male. Also, many women are sole parents and coerced into crime by men. She says that "it's a system that sets fragile women up to fail. Women, men and their victims all deserve a better kind of justice".

The Churches Together in Westminster, Prisons Mission, of which St George's church is on of the founding members, has recently begun to work at **HMP Bronzefield**, near Ashford in Middlesex. Since the closure of the ancient Holloway prison last year, this has become the largest prison for women in Europe. It is managed by the French company Sodexo and holds 550 women, from those remanded in custody while awaiting trial, to those serving sentences, including "life", following conviction for the most serious crimes. The prison looks very different from the typical huge, forbidding, Victorian, pan-optic monstrosities. Once inside the outer, security walls, it comprises a dozen largely self-contained two and three story cell blocks, surrounded by grass lawns, trees and flower beds. It is much quieter and lighter than the old prisons for men.

The Managing Chaplain Marcel McCarron (Anglican) leads a small multi-faith team of male and female chaplains. He is keen to make good use of our Prisons Mission participants for a wide variety of both challenging and rewarding activities. He asks, for example, "how can you approach a regular weekly meeting with a young woman who is just beginning to face up to the fact that she will spend the next fifteen years of her life in prison and be in her early forties when eventually discharged? How can we be of value to her?"



Her Majesty's Prison Bronzefield

We have made several exploratory visits to HMP Bronzefield and a group of volunteers from three "engaged" churches are now undergoing the usual lengthy, bureaucratic process of gaining security clearance, before beginning regular attendance there. We are confident that the experiences and lessons learned through our work at the big London prisons for young and adult men, we are ready and able to be useful to the multi-faith chaplaincy team and the inmates at this prison for women. Regular reports of progress and problems will be given to the Parochial Church Council and to any members of the congregation.

PRISONS WEEK 8-15 OCTOBER 2017

Last year, more local churches than ever devised interesting and effective ways to mark **Prisons Week**. The special CTiW booklet, to which several St George's people made a big contribution was used by churches, of many denominations, well beyond London. We are already working on a new and improved booklet, which will include a wider variety of prayers, reflections, a quiz and suggestions for special services and discussions. The aim is to communicate information about prisons, prisoners, staff, the criminal justice system and victims of crime, and to interest congregations about a part of contemporary life which is usually "out of sight and out of mind". We need your suggestions in order to make the 2017 booklet more authentic and more useful.

John Plummer
Coordinator. Prisons Mission

2017 London Handel Festival Concerts at St George's & Grosvenor Chapel



Saturday 18th March
Grosvenor Chapel
Come and Sing: Coronation Anthems
From 11.00am

Monday 20th March
Lunchtime Concert
1.00pm
Marie Lys soprano &
Nathaniel Mander harpsichord
Music by Purcell & Handel

Tuesday 21st March
Mayfair Organ Concerts
1.10pm
James Gough organ
St Laurence Catford
*Music by Handel, Buxtehude, Handel
& Grainger*

Grosvenor Chapel
Handel Singing Competition
Semi-final
6.00pm

Thursday 23rd March
Lunchtime Concert
1.00pm
Students from Guildhall School of
Music & Drama
Music by Handel & Strozzi

Monday 27th March
Lunchtime Concert
1.00pm
Shaked Bar soprano & Chad Kelly
Music by Handel & Strozzi

Tuesday 28th March
Mayfair Organ Concerts
1.10pm
Dexter Kennedy organ
College of Wooster, Ohio, USA
*Music by Muffat, Bohm, Handel,
Smyth & Bach*

Tuesday 28th March
7.00pm
Opera Settecento
Directed by Leo Duarte
Handel's Ormisda

Thursday 30th March
Lunchtime Concert
1.00pm
Students from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance
Music by Corelli, Vivaldi & Telemann

Friday 31st March
Music from the Courts of Europe
7.00pm
Southbank Sinfonia & Vox Musica
*Music by Bach, Campra, Handel,
Telemann & Lotti*

Tuesday 4th April
Mayfair Organ Concerts
1.10pm
Edward Dean organ
Horsham
*Music by Boyce, Mendelssohn, Bach
& Handel*

Tuesday 4th April
Handel Singing Competition
Final
7.00pm
With London Handel Orchestra
Directed by Laurence Cummings

Wednesday 5th April
Lunchtime Concert
1.00pm
Galina Averina soprano
With Musica Poetica
*Music by Handel, Cavalli, Bach &
Rameau*

Thursday 6th April
Lunchtime Concert
1.00pm
Students from the Royal College of
Music
Historical Performance Faculty
*Music by Corelli, Handel &
Marcello*

Thursday 6th April
The Italian Connection
7.00pm
The Brook Street Band
*Music by Handel, Bach,
Telemann, Leclair & Vivaldi*

Friday 7th April
The Great Mr Handel
7.30pm
A 75th anniversary screening of the
British film classic

Tuesday 11th April
Mayfair Organ Concerts
1.10pm
Ben Horden organ
St Bartholomew the Great,
Smithfield
*Music by Lully, Bach, Purcell,
Stanley & Handel*

Friday 14th April
Good Friday
2.30pm
Bach St Matthew Passion
Performed as part of
Good Friday Vespers
Soloists &
Choir of St George's
London Handel Orchestra
Conductor Laurence Cummings

Tuesday 18th April
Mayfair Organ Concerts
1.10pm
Nicholas Morris
St George's & Clare College,
Cambridge
*Music by Mozart, Bach, Handel &
Guilmant*

Wednesday 19th April
Lunchtime Concert
1.00pm
William Wallace tenor
Nathaniel Mander harpsichord
Music by Handel & Vivaldi

Thursday 20th April
Lunchtime Concert
1.00pm
Pavla Flamova soprano
With Baroque Ensemble LUX
*Music by Pergolesi, Vivaldi &
Handel*

Thursday 20th April
Il Duello Amoroso
7.00pm
La Nuova Musica
Directed by David Bates
Music by Handel & Steffani

Monday 24th April
7.00pm
Joseph and his Brethren
London Handel Singers
London Handel Orchestra
Conductor Laurence Cummings

*For more detailed information
about the Festival see*
www.london-handel-festival.com

Tickets from
boxoffice@londonhandelfestival.org.uk

Hyde Park Place Estate Charity

Modern Slavery

Seminar

'Sins before Our Eyes'
held in Istanbul on 6th-
7th February 2017

CIVIL TRUSTEES

At their meeting on Wednesday 23rd November 2016, the Civil Trustees of the Hyde Park Place Estate Charity awarded grants totalling £41,276 to the following organisations working in the City of Westminster:

Asthma Relief

ABF The Soldiers' Charity

Crisis UK

Fitzrovia Youth in Action

Listening Books

Age UK Westminster

St George's Hanover Square – 'Morning Calm'

The Samaritans (Central London Branch)

Macmillan Cancer Support

Westbourne Park Family Centre

St George's School

St George's Hanover Square - Refreshment Coupon Scheme

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

ECCLESIASTICAL TRUSTEES

A total of £64,804 was awarded in grants at the Ecclesiastical Trustees' meeting held on Sunday 4th December 2016, 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 on Sunday 21st May (application deadline: Monday 8th May).

Shirley Vaughan

Clerk to the Trustees

The Revd Dr Alan McCormack writes:

I was honoured to be invited to the Seminar on Modern Slavery held in Istanbul on 6th- 7th February 2017 by His All Holiness Bartholomew, Patriarch of Constantinople, New Rome. This initiative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate was held in conjunction with the Church of England to examine the response of the Orthodox and Anglican Churches to the scourge of modern slavery, debt slavery and human trafficking in the modern world. Seminar participants felt that slavery was very clearly tied to issues of migration. My invitation to attend came directly from His Eminence Nikitas, Metropolitan of the Dardanelles, with whom I had worked closely many years ago while he was Metropolitan of Hong Kong.

The seminar will in God's grace provide a stimulus to Christian thinking in this increasingly important area of human brokenness.

It is clear that the churches' response to issues in modern slavery has now been put on a firmer and more formal footing following this seminar. It concluded in the issuing of a joint declaration, the 'Istanbul Declaration':

Modern Slavery - A Joint Declaration

1. We, **Bartholomew**, Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, and **Justin**, Archbishop of Canterbury and Primate of All England, co-sponsored a special international Forum on Modern Slavery titled "Sins Before Our Eyes" at the Phanar from February 6-7, 2017. The Forum, originally proposed during the official visit by the Ecumenical Patriarch to Lambeth Palace in November 2015, was a high-level gathering of distinguished scholars, practitioners and policymakers from around the world, invited to discuss the contemporary problem of human exploitation. The Forum also takes place within the context of 2017: The Year of the Sanctity of Childhood, as declared by the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



2. For religious communities world-wide and for the global human-rights community, the protection of human dignity and fundamental human rights is of utmost importance. The role of the Church in the world is “to preach good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim release to the captives and to set at liberty the oppressed.” (Isaiah 61.1, Luke 4.18) This was clearly articulated in the final Encyclical of the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church (Crete, June 2016): “The Church lives not for herself. She offers herself for the whole of humanity in order to raise up and renew the world into a new heaven and a new earth.”

3. We are convinced that there is an intimate and inseparable link between preserving God’s natural creation and protecting God’s image in every human being, especially those most vulnerable to the myriad forms of human exploitation that comprise the sin of modern slavery. The same arrogance and greed are to blame for the oppression and exploitation of innocent victims - most often children and women - of human trafficking, human smuggling, prostitution, the sale of human organs, indentured labor, and the many other dimensions of modern slavery. Each and every person bears the burden and pays the price for the fact that there are more people in slavery today than at any other time in history.

4. In his keynote address, the Ecumenical Patriarch observed: “The Orthodox Church is often accused of neglecting the world for the sake of liturgical worship and spiritual life, turning primarily toward the Kingdom of God to come, disregarding challenges of the present. In fact, however, whatever the Church says, whatever the Church does, is done in the Name of God and for the sake of human dignity and the eternal destiny of the human being. It is impossible for the Church to close its eyes to evil, to be indifferent to the cry of the needy,

oppressed and exploited. True Faith is a source of permanent struggle against the powers of inhumanity.” In his opening address, Archbishop Welby emphasized: “Slavery is all around us, but we are too blind to see it. It is in our hands, and yet we are too insensitive to touch it. The enslaved are next to us in the streets, but we are too ignorant to walk alongside them. It must not be relegated to a footnote in history. It is still a living reality in all of our communities, as I have seen from personal experience in the United Kingdom, not because we think it is acceptable, but because our sin lies in blindness and ignorance.”

5. Therefore,

i. We **condemn** all forms of human enslavement as the most heinous of sins, inasmuch as it violates the free will and the integrity of every human being created in the image of God.

ii. We **commend** the efforts of the international community and endorse the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.

iii. We **pray** that all victims of modern slavery may be liberated in order to rebuild their lives and that the perpetrators may be brought to justice.

iv. We **repent** for not doing nearly enough swiftly enough to curb the plague of modern slavery, acknowledging that our ignorance and indifference are the worst forms of tolerance and complicity. We are judged each day by what we refuse to see and fail to do for the most vulnerable among us.

v. We **appeal** to local and national governments to pass and implement strict laws against modern slavery, with a budget and capability to ensure organizations are held

to account for modern slavery in their supply chains, while also allocating resources and services for trafficking victims, who are exposed to and endangered by such injustice.

vi. We **encourage** our leaders to find appropriate and effective ways of **prosecuting** those involved in human trafficking, **preventing** all forms of modern slavery, and **protecting** its victims in our communities and promoting **hope** wherever people are exploited.

vii. We **urge** our faithful and communities - the members of the Orthodox Church and the Church of England - as well as all people of good will to become educated, raise awareness, and take action with regard to these tragedies of modern slavery, and to commit themselves to working and praying actively towards the eradication of this scourge against humanity.

viii. We **commit** to the establishment of a joint taskforce for modern slavery to bring forward timely recommendations as to how the Orthodox Church and the Church of England can collaborate in the battle against this cruel exploitation.

At the Phanar, February 7, 2017

✠ **BARTHOLOMEW**
Archbishop of Constantinople-
New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch

✠ **JUSTIN**
Archbishop of Canterbury
and Primate of All England

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