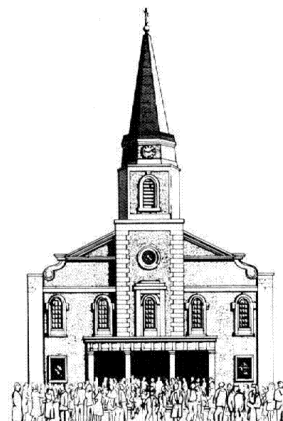


NEWSLETTER

Parish of St George

Hanover Square



St George's Church

Grosvenor Chapel

March—June 2019: issue 42



The Rector attends Forum on Modern Slavery in Istanbul January 2019

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One of the recurrent enquiries we receive in the Vestry is from people in pursuit of information about long dead relatives. This is often couched in terms of hushed expectation. The words, 'my great, great, great grandmother was married at St George's' often carry with them the unspoken expectation that Great-great-great Granny was probably a great lady if she'd been married in such a grand church. The reality, as one gently explains to the enquirer, is that for every great lady in 18th or 19th century Mayfair, there were dozens of ladies' maids, scullery maids, cooks, cleaners and other domestic servants to say nothing of the hair dressers, milliners, dress makers and myriad others that were needed to ensure that milady functioned in the style to which she was accustomed.

Plus ça change . . .

Mayfair still gives the impression it is a playground for the wealthy. To some extent of course it is. The car showrooms for vehicles with prices in six figures and the buildings which seldom show a light in their windows — buildings none of us could afford to occupy — attest to wealth beyond the wildest imagination of our forebears. Those of us who deal daily with local rough sleepers and others who depend on St George's for a square meal can and do tell a very different story. Yet, as the Rector points out in his article on modern slavery (on page 8), the lifestyles of the affluent in our midst sometimes ride on the back of questionable employment practices that make the conditions enjoyed by 18th and 19th century domestics and service providers look like a model of liberal values.

Modern slavery is very much alive

in our very midst - yes, even in Mayfair.

March 23rd 2019 marks the 294th anniversary of the consecration of St George's which means there are just six years before our tercentenary. Current plans to give substance to the celebration of this milestone include commissioning a book about The Parish of Mayfair in all its diversity, sacred and profane, and to complete the task started but by no means completed in 2010, to ensure that the Parish Church is in a condition of which all who know and love the building can be proud. Graham Barnes addresses this issue on page 9. The 21st century Christian community can sometimes look down its nose at decorative refinements, forgetting that in medieval times, when levels of personal wealth were substantially lower than at present, there was no hesitation to spend extravagantly on the best adornments for God's house.



The Rector writes . . .

sponding when he was calling. Instead, God is met with stubbornness and disobedience.

In Jesus Christ the Word of God starts afresh his conversation with us, to breach the distance, to restore God's presence to us. And the desire of God to share his life with us is expressed again in Christ who says: *I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.*

We are fortunate at St George's in having wonderful friends in America who oversee the American Friends of SGHS and who have visited us recently as they do regularly, and I would like to record my immense gratitude to them for their support and all the encouragement and work they do on our behalf. Also to bring the existence of our American Friends to your attention, and especially our wonderful Trustees: Dick Schulze, Marilyn Bodner and George Nowak.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

Those who have good friends find in their close friendship real blessings, and a generous love and acceptance. Not to mention an invaluable support in difficult times. We have so much to be thankful for in our friends.

There are other times when we feel the need to keep others at distance. It gives us some sense of security and a protection of personal space. Some say that distance is also at the heart of religions. The unknown gods, unreachable and far removed, communicate their demands through the mouth of the chosen shaman or priest, who are able to bridge the gap and receive their word.

But our faith is different. From the moment we are created, God constantly offers himself to be with us. In the Book of Genesis we dwell together with Him in the garden of Paradise, not to keep us at bay but to be close to us. But it was we who tried to hide our faces from him, not re-

Friday 19th April
GOOD FRIDAY
2.30pm

ST GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE

St Matthew Passion

The popular annual performance of Bach's St Matthew Passion, sung in German, and part of Good Friday Vespers. This is a rare opportunity to experience the work in its original liturgical context. Complete with sermon and congregational hymns.

NATHAN VALE
Evangelist & tenor

GEORGE HUMPHREYS
Christus & bass

ERICA ELOFF
Soprano

CHRISTOPHER AINSLIE
Countertenor

LONDON HANDEL ORCHESTRA
CHOIR OF ST GEORGE'S,
HANOVER SQUARE
LAURENCE CUMMINGS conductor

TICKETS: £55, £45, £40, £15, £12
www.london-handel-festival.com

Sunday 14th April
Palm Sunday Liturgy: 11am

Monday 15th April,
Wednesday 17th April & Maundy Thursday 18th April
Holy Communion: 1.10pm

Tuesday 16th April
Holy Communion: 5.45pm

Tuesday 16th April
Ecumenical Stations of the Cross
with clergy from St George's, Grosvenor Chapel and The
Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street
Starting at Farm Street & ending at the Grosvenor Chapel

Friday 19th April
Good Friday
Liturgy of the Passion at 10.00am
Bach's St Matthew's Passion: 2.30pm (with sermon)

Sunday 21st April
Easter Sunday
Sung Eucharist & renewal of vows & Holy Baptism: 11.00am
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 Vergers by **Monday 15th April.**

Lent course. Details of the 2019 Lent Course, held in the Grosvenor Chapel on Wednesdays in Lent, are to be found on page 10.

Mothering Sunday is on **Sunday 31st March** and all children and families 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. Followed by customary refreshments.

Whitsunday on **9th June** is of course another Sunday when we extend a similar invitation to families to celebrate Pentecost, and again followed by drinks.

St George's Patronal Festival will be kept this year on Sunday 28th April at which

The Revd Prebendary Jeremy Crossley will be the preacher, and the Sung Eucharist will be followed by a festive reception.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is on Thursday 25th April at 6.30pm. 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.

Marriage Renewal Sunday will be on Sunday 14th July - with preacher The Ven Luke Miller, Archdeacon of London, followed by a reception.

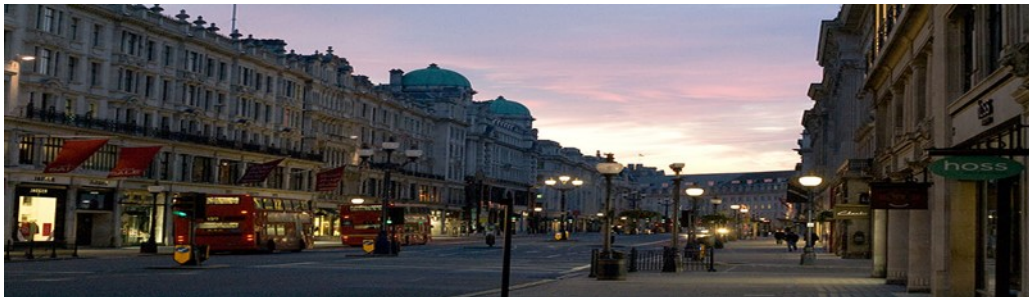
Morning Calm details of which appear below starts again on 6th May after a 21-month moratorium caused by work on the Undercroft.

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 12th April 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 15th May, 5th June, 26th June, at 6.30pm until 8pm at the Rectory, 21a Down Street W1J 7AW: entrance in Brick Street opposite the tapas bar - top bell. This follows the 5.45pm celebration of Holy Communion at St George's.

MORNING CALM



with music by students from the Royal College of Music



Monday 6th May - Friday 28th June 2019

Mondays to Fridays at 8.45am

FINDING SILENCE AND STILLNESS



Mayfair Organ Concerts

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

March 5	St George's	Loreto Aramendi	San Sebastián, Spain
March 12	Grosvenor Chapel	James Johnstone	Trinity Laban
March 19	St George's	Rashaan Allwood	Rice University, Texas
March 26	Grosvenor Chapel	Richard Hobson	Grosvenor Chapel
April 2	St George's	Matthew Jorysz	Westminster Abbey
April 9	Grosvenor Chapel	Alexander Pott	Magdalen College, Oxford
April 16	St George's	Domenico Gioffré	London
April 23	Grosvenor Chapel	Jeremiah Stephenson	All Saints, Margaret Street
April 30	St George's	Andrew Benson-Wilson	Basingstoke
May 7	Grosvenor Chapel	To be announced	
May 14	St George's	Carolyn Craig	Truro Cathedral
May 21	Grosvenor Chapel	Janette Fishell	Indiana, USA
May 28	St George's	Markus Sterk	Munich
June 4	Grosvenor Chapel	Julian Haggett	St Peter Mancroft, Norwich
June 11	St George's	Philip Meaden	Leeds Cathedral
June 18	Grosvenor Chapel	Margaret Phillips	Royal College of Music
June 25	St George's	Gary Cobb	Pepperdine University, California

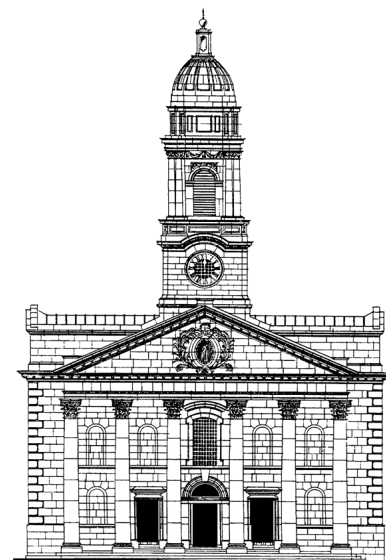
Handel's
Divas

London
Handel
Festival

27 March - 29 April 2019
London Handel Festival
www.london-handel-festival.com

27 March -
29 April 2019
www.london-handel-festival.com

Services at St George's March–June 2019



Friday 1st March
St David, Bishop of Menevia,
Patron of Wales, c601
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 3rd March
Quinquagesima
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & preacher: The Rector
Missa Bel'Amfitrit' altera (Lassus)
O nata lux (Tallis)
Fantasia in A minor (Byrd)

Monday 4th March
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 5th March
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 6th March
ASH WEDNESDAY
1.10pm Holy Communion
With imposition of ashes (BCP said)

Thursday 7th March
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 8th March
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 10th March
First Sunday in Lent
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist &
Admiral Byng commemoration
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector
Mass for four voices (Byrd)
Peace, perfect peace (Piers Maxim)
Comfort them, O Lord (Handel)
Prelude in B minor BWV 554i (Bach)

Monday 11th March
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 12th March
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 13th March
Ember Day
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 14th March
Ember Day
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 15th March
Ember Day
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 17th March
Second Sunday in Lent
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector
Missa Papae Marcelli (Palestrina)
Sicut cervus (Palestrina)
Fugue in C minor BWV 546ii (Bach)

Monday 18th March
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 19th March
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 20th March
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 21st March
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 22nd March
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 24th March
Third Sunday in Lent
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant: The Rector
Preacher:
The Revd Dr Alan McCormack
Missa Brevis (Grayston Ives)
Wash me thoroughly (S S Wesley)
Prelude & Fugue in F minor
BWV 534 (Bach)

Monday 25th March
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 26th March
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 27th March
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 28th March
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 29th March
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 31st March
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Mothering Sunday
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant:
The Revd Dr Alan McCormack
Preacher: The Rector
Missa Brevis in F (Haydn)
Ave Maria (Parsons)
Prelude in G BWV 541i (Bach)

Monday 1st April
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 2nd April
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 3rd April
St Richard, Bp of Chichester, 1253
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 4th April
12.10pm Midday Prayer

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

Sunday 7th April
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Passion Sunday
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant:
The Revd Dr Alan McCormack
Preacher: The Rector
Mass for five voices (Byrd)
Crucifixus (Lotti)
Prelude & Fugue in A minor BWV 543
(Bach)

Monday 8th April
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 9th April
12.10pm Midday Prayer

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

Thursday 11th April
12.10pm Midday Prayer

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

Sunday 14th April
Palm Sunday
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector
Missa Brevis (Mathias)
St Matthew Passion (Lassus)
Pueri Hebraorum (Victoria)
Valet will ich dir geben BWV 736
(Bach)

Monday 15th April
Monday in Holy Week
12.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Tuesday 16th April
Tuesday in Holy Week
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Wednesday 17th April
Wednesday in Holy Week
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 18th April
Maundy Thursday
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Friday 19th April
GOOD FRIDAY
10.00am Good Friday Liturgy
2.30pm Vespers
St Matthew Passion (Bach)
(Admission by ticket only from London Handel Festival box office: 01460 54660)

Sunday 21st April
EASTER DAY
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant: The Rector
Preacher:
The Revd Dr Alan McCormack
Coronation Mass (Mozart)
Hallelujah (Handel)
Paraphrase sur un cœur de Judas Maccabée de Händel (Guilmant)

Monday 22nd April
Monday in Easter Week
No services

Tuesday 23rd April
St George's Day
12.10pm Midday Prayer

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

Thursday 25th April
12.10pm Midday Prayer

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

Sunday 28th April
First Sunday after Easter
St George's Patronal Festival
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant: The Rector
Preacher:
The Revd Preb Jeremy Crossley
Missa in Tempore Paschalis (Philip Moore)
Give us the wings of faith (Bullock)
Alleluia (Faulkes)

Monday 29th April
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 30th April
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 1st May
Ss Philip & James, Apostles
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 2nd May
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 3rd May
The Invention of the Cross
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 5th May
Second Sunday after Easter
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector
Missa Cantate Domino (Lobo)
Vidi aquam (Gabriel Jackson)
Fantasia & Fugue in G minor (Parry)

Monday 6th May
No services

Tuesday 7th May
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 8th May
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 9th May
12.10pm Midday Prayer

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

Sunday 12th May
Third Sunday after Easter
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher: TBA
Communion Service in B flat (Stanford)
Blessed be the God and Father (S S Wesley)
Choral Song (S S Wesley)

Monday 13th May
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 14th May
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 15th May
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 16th May
12.10pm Midday Prayer

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

Sunday 19th May
Fourth Sunday after Easter
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Part of London Festival of Contemporary Church Music
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector
Mass for All Saints (Gabriel Jackson)
O sacrum convivium (Grayston Ives)
Prelude 'The Road to Emmaus' (Judith Bingham)

Monday 20th May
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 21st May
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 22nd May
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 23rd May
12.10pm Midday Prayer

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

Sunday 26th May
Fourth Sunday after Easter
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant: The Rector
Preacher:
The Revd Dr Alan McCormack
Missa Brevis in B flat (Mozart)
All things bright and beautiful (Rutter)
St Andrews' Suite (MacMillan)

Monday 27th May
No services

Tuesday 28th May
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 29th May
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 30th May
ASCENSION DAY
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

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

Sunday 2nd June
Sunday after Ascension
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector
Missa Ascendens Christus (Victoria)
Ascendit Deus (Philips)
Fantasia and Toccata in D minor (Stanford)

Monday 3rd June
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 4th June
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 5th June
St Boniface (Wynfrith) of Crediton, Bishop, Martyr 754
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 6th June
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 7th June
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 9th June
Whit Sunday
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant: The Rector
Preacher:
The Revd Dr Alan McCormack
Messe Solennelle (Vierne)
Loquebantur variis linguis (Tallis)
Imperial March (Elgar arr Martin)

Monday 10th June
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 11th June
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 12th June
Ember Day
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 13th June
Ember Day
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 14th June
Ember Day
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 16th June
Trinity Sunday
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector
Mass in G (Schubert)
The heavens are telling (Haydn)
Final from 1st Symphony (Vierne)

Monday 17th June
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 18th June
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 19th June
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 20th June
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 21st June
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 23rd June
Nativity of St John the Baptist
(transferred)
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant:
The Revd Dr Alan McCormack
Preacher: The Rector
Communion Service in C (Ireland)
Cum audisset Joannes (Cardoso)
Litanies (Alain)
Monday 24th June
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 25th June
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Wednesday 26th June
12.10pm Midday Prayer
5.45pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Thursday 27th June
12.10pm Midday Prayer

Friday 28th June
St Peter the Apostle (transferred)
1.10pm Holy Communion (BCP said)

Sunday 30th June
Second Sunday after Trinity
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP said)
11.00am Sung Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
The Revd Dr Alan McCormack
Missa Collegium Regale (Howells)
Ave verum corpus (Philips)
Paeon (Leighton)

Pour encourager les autres . . .

On Sunday 10th March St George's will mark the 262nd anniversary of the execution of Admiral John Byng on 14th March 1757 with performances of music by two composers linked to the unfortunate admiral and St George's. On 11th March 1757, Handel, undoubtedly aware of what was to happen three days later in Portsmouth, presided over a performance at Covent Garden of his oratorio *Triumph of Time and Truth* from which the anthem *Comfort them, O Lord* is taken. Some years ago, Piers Maxim, sometime countertenor in the St George's choir, composed a Threnody to the memory of the late admiral, in which Handel is portrayed lamenting Byng's death. *Peace, perfect peace* is taken from this work. The 260th anniversary of Handel's own death is marked on 14th April.

John Byng (1704–57) was a career naval officer from a distinguished naval family who went to sea at the age of 13. He worked his way steadily up the naval hierarchy, reaching the rank of captain at the age of 23, and vice-admiral at 43.

In 1756, in command of the Channel Fleet, he was ordered to sail to the Mediterranean to relieve the garrison at Port Mahon on the island Minorca which was under attack by the French. Byng protested that the forces at his disposal were inadequate for this purpose but in due course was prevailed upon to set sail. He arrived off Minorca on 19th May by when the French had already landed 15,000 troops. While attempting to make contact with the beleaguered garrison, a French naval squadron appeared, which Byng promptly engaged in what became known as the Battle of Minorca. The two fleets were evenly matched, and

the damage and losses suffered by each side were similar and not severe. The French withdrew and Byng remained on station for a further four days but made no attempt to land the small number of troops he had on board, judging that they would be hopelessly outnumbered. On 24th May, with the agreement of his senior officers that there was no realistic prospect of relieving the garrison, Byng ordered his fleet back to Gibraltar for repairs, re-provisioning and reinforcement. However before he could set sail again, a ship arrived from England bearing the news that he was relieved of his command and ordered home to face a court martial.

It would appear the French commander's bullish account of the Battle of Minorca reached London before Byng's own dispatch and this had provoked a wave of hostility both within government circles and among the public at large.

The Court convened at the end of December. Although it ruled that Byng was not guilty of personal cowardice, it held that he had 'failed to do his utmost' to fulfil his orders, and was thus in breach of the 12th Article of War, a verdict which resulted in a mandatory death sentence. However the court also unanimously recommended that the Lords of the Admiralty petition the King to exercise his prerogative of mercy. The First Lord at the time was Richard Grenville-Temple, William Pitt's brother-in-law. Both men were roundly disliked by George II who therefore seems to have had no hesitation in rejecting the Admiralty petition. The matter also

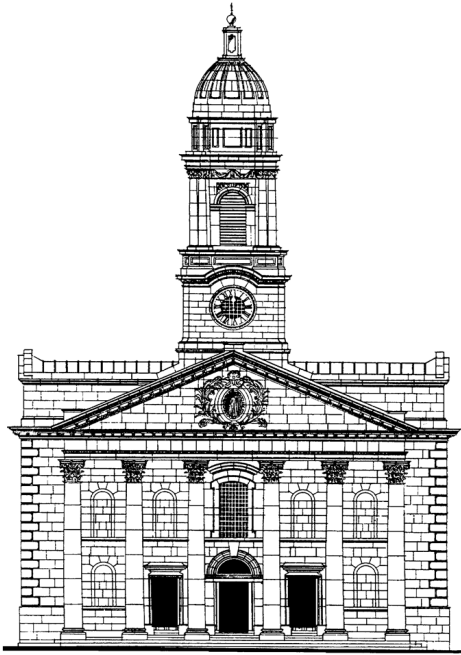


Admiral John Byng

went before Parliament where the Commons voted in Byng's favour and Lords against him. Public sentiment, which had initially not been favourable, had also swung behind the beleaguered admiral but to no avail. On 14th March 1757 he was taken on to the quarterdeck of HMS Monarch and shot dead by a detachment of Royal Marines.

Voltaire's quip addressed to the eponymous hero of his novella *Candide* that '*dans ce pays-ci, il est bon de tuer de temps en temps un amiral pour encourager les autres*' encapsulates the bemusement of a confirmed Anglophile. But like many another word spoken in jest, it contained more than a germ of truth for there is little doubt that later naval commanders displayed a consistently more bellicose attitude towards their foes.

That said, what happened was manifestly unjust and the Byng family's recent efforts to right this wrong is wholly understandable.



Early in January, Fr Alan McCormack and I were invited by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Istanbul to celebrate the Theophany and Blessing of the waters of the Golden Horn, prior to a Forum on Modern Slavery Awareness, Action and Impact.



**Frs Roderick Leece & Alan McCormack
top right**

It was an especially interesting time as the Ukrainian Orthodox Church were being recognised as independent from Moscow and a new (and young) Patriarch welcomed. The Liturgy took up the whole of Sunday morning from 10am until after 2pm, and Ukrainian President Poroshenko was coming and going during the service followed by journalists and security protection.

Modern Slavery Forum



President Poroshenko attends the ceremony recognising an autocephalous Ukrainian Orthodox Church

The Forum itself gathered participants from around the globe - including Australia, Africa, India, Europe and quite a number from North America. We began by looking at Human Rights and Legal issues, followed by a session on Forced Migration and Human Trafficking before considering a range of practical responses to the grave crime of modern slavery. The next day focused on particular ministries in this field within the Orthodox Church.

By pure coincidence the Diocese of London will be highlighting the same issues during Lent as the Bishop of London has chosen the following theme for the Lent Appeal 2019: *Modern Day Slavery - Hidden in Plain Sight*. There are six suggested charities but the Parochial Church Council have chosen two in particular to support this Lent. *Kalayaan* - a small London charity working to provide practical advice and support to, as well as campaign with and for the rights of, migrant domestic workers in the UK; and *The Rise Project* (run by the Children's Society) for boys and young men in London aged 11-17 who have been trafficked into the UK or are at risk of being trafficked.

Modern Slavery (which is a

general term) includes the crimes of human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices such as servitude, forced labour, forced or servile marriage, the sale and exploitation of children, and debt bondage.

How are we affected in this area? Mayfair is the home of many luxury 5 star hotels, high end shops, luxury flats owned by wealthy Arabs, Chinese and Russians and of wealth that comes from various dubious sources. Many properties are kept empty for a large part of the year. In the summer months Mayfair fills up as an escape from the Middle East. And a lot of Saudis travel with domestic servants . . . often slaves. Nearly 20,000 overseas domestic worker visas are granted each year by the UK, one suspects without sufficient questioning.

A definition of luxury is that it needs a lot of servicing. We might dream about a luxury home in Hollywood with the pool and garden etc. but forget just how many people will be involved in keeping it all going. Just as in the past; all the grand palatial houses would have had armies of servants, although it is quite possible many of the staff would have been rather better treated then than many are in our own time.



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

Through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) the Salvation Army are partners with the Government authorities in responding to Modern Slavery. Their recent report in October 2018 shows an increase in the numbers of victims they support of 20% last year and other charities (HESTA in 2017) report a 30% increase in people who are helped.

This brings the number of reported victims who receive support to 774 in London, although the police estimate there are 1600 people who are trapped in Modern Slavery in the capital. Those numbers are surely an underestimate. Kevin Hyland (the first Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner) was given a total figure nationally of 13,000 in 2017 but in reality expects the true number of victims to be in the tens of thousands.

The majority are female - from all over the world with a large number from Albania and Nigeria. Also men and women from Vietnam for the cannabis market and of course Eastern European gangs working in car washes, building sites, and farms.

80% of victims in London are from overseas compared to 51% nationally. There are also huge and rising numbers caught up in Modern Slavery who come from the United Kingdom forced into drugs and criminality. 45% victims are exploited for labour, 42% for sexual exploitation, and 14% for domestic servitude.

How might we respond in this area? I've noticed only a few top

restaurants and legal firms in the area have policies to show they are aware of the issues surrounding Modern Slavery and that they review and check their recruitment, supply chain, and training as part of their regular audit. We as a church are in the process of introducing a similar policy. Should we have asked questions when it came to our recent building project of £1.5 million on the church undercroft? Where did our contractors find their worker? What conditions were they working under? And similarly do we need to ask questions when it comes to the army of cleaners we've had in to give the church a number of deep cleans due to building work dust and debris?

The parish also sees an influx of sex workers - especially in the summer, congregating in the vicinity of Shepherd Market where old-fashioned brothels still exist, and nearby 5 star hotels. Another of the charities to be supported by the Diocesan Lent Appeal, Tamar, supports volunteers who reach out to those who have been sex trafficked.

Please support the Lent Appeal 2019: *Modern Day Slavery - Hidden in Plain Sight*.

And please join others in the Diocese of London as we pray:

Lord of the lost, we pray today for all those who are victims of modern slavery: people lured from their homes and families; people deceived while trying to find a better life; people who are desperate to trust anyone. Help us to be more vigilant and watchful; to be aware of those who may need our help, and those who do not know where help may lie. Amen

**The Revd Roderick Leece
Rector**

Sparkle

Faced with a birthday celebration many look in the mirror and decide that a little "sprucing up" is desirable. The same is true for buildings and we at St George's need now to put the sparkle back into our beloved church in good time for the Tercentenary in 2024.

Although that might seem a long way off, time waits for no man and there is much to be done. The Fabric Committee has now begun to assess exactly what is required. For example, both wooden and marble floors need attention; our altar hangings, vestments and robes are tired and we should install proper storage for them all. Of course, we must establish the cost of all that needs to be done and compile a programme of works so that each task is completed in time.

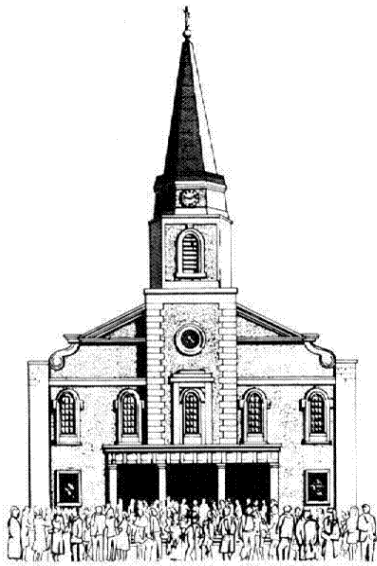
Clearly, the Fabric Committee will be busy. This is also your opportunity to help. First by telling me of any particular work that would put back the sparkle. Please email me your comments or simply tell me in church on a Sunday morning.

Then there is the need to keep the church clean. The team have done a magnificent job coping with the dust created by the work in the Undercroft. As that project nears completion we can enjoy a spring clean. We have started already but now need to bring in the proper equipment to allow us to reach the nooks and crannies which all churches have so many of. At St George's our focus will initially be on the reredos and the chandeliers. After that there will be the need to keep the whole church spick and span.

I hope that you find this update interesting and look forward to receiving your comments

**Graham Barnes
Churchwarden**

graham@grahambarnes.co.uk



Sunday 3rd March
Sunday next before Lent

11.00 Sung Eucharist
 Mozart *Missa Brevis* in F K192
 Howells *Like as the hart*

Wednesday 6th March

Ash Wednesday
 7.00 pm Sung Eucharist
 Lassus *Missa super Je prens en gres*
 Purcell *Remember not, Lord, our offences*

Sunday 10th March
The First Sunday of Lent

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

Sunday 17th March
The Second Sunday of Lent

11.00 Sung Eucharist
 Palestrina *Missa Pater noster*
 Walton *Drop, drop slow tears*

Sunday 24th March
The Third Sunday of Lent

11.00 Sung Eucharist
 Lennox Berkeley
Mass for Five Voices
 Palestrina *Sicut cervus*

Sunday 31st March
The Fourth Sunday of Lent

11.00 Sung Eucharist
 Kelly *Mass in C*
 Mathias *As truly as God is our Father*

Sunday 7th April
The Fifth Sunday of Lent

11.00 Sung Eucharist
 Guerrero *Missa de la Batalla*
 Escoutez
 Tallis *Sancte Deus*

Sunday 14th April
Palm Sunday

11.00 Sung Eucharist
 Weekes *Hosanna to the Son of David*
 Lassus *Missa Bel amfitrit altera*
 John Scott *St Luke Passion*
 Bruckner *Christus factus est*

Services at Grosvenor Chapel March—June 2019

Thursday 18th April

Maundy Thursday
 7.00 Sung Eucharist
 Victoria *Missa trahe me post te*
 Stanford *Gloria in C major*
 Duruflé *Ubi caritas*
 Vaughan Williams *Love bade me welcome*
 Tallis *O sacrum convivium*
 Tallis *The Lamentation of Jeremiah*

Friday 19th April

Good Friday
 Plainsong *The St John Passion*
 John of Portugal *Crux Fidelis*
 John Sanders *The Reproaches*
 Poulenc *Tenebrae factae sunt*

Sunday 21st April
Easter Day

11.00 Sung Eucharist
 (with orchestra)
 Walford Davies *O sons and daughters*
 Mozart *Missa Solemnis in C K337*
 Handel *Hallelujah*
 Widor *Toccata in F*

Sunday 28th April
The Second Sunday of Easter

11.00 Mass with hymns and organ music

Sunday 5th May
The Third Sunday of Easter

11.00 Sung Eucharist
 Lassus *Missa Paschalis*
 Peter Philips *Surgens Jesus*

Sunday 12th May
The Fourth Sunday of Easter

11.00 Sung Eucharist
 Francis Jackson *Missa Sancti Petri*
 Guerrero *Regina coeli*

Sunday 19th May
The Fifth Sunday of Easter

11.00 Sung Eucharist
 Richard Hobson *Missa Brevis*
 Rhiannon Randle *A New Heaven*

Sunday 26th May
The Sixth Sunday of Easter

11.00 Sung Eucharist
 Mozart *Missa Brevis in B flat K275*
 Howells *O pray for the peace of Jerusalem*

Sunday 2nd June
The Sunday after Ascension

11.00 Sung Eucharist
 Victoria *Missa Ascendens Christus*
 Wood *O Rex gloriae*

Sunday 9th June
The Feast of Pentecost

11.00 Sung Eucharist
 Tye *Mass Euge Bone*
 Tallis *Loquebantur variis linguis*

Sunday 16th June
Trinity Sunday

11.00 Sung Eucharist
 Mozart *Missa in C major K167*
 Tchaikowsky *Hymn to the Trinity*

Sunday 23rd June
The First Sunday after Trinity

11.00 Sung Eucharist
 Lennox Berkeley *Missa Brevis*
 Messiaen *O sacrum convivium*

Sunday 30th June
The Second Sunday after Trinity

11.00 Sung Eucharist
 Lassus *Missa super Mon Cœur se recommande à vous*
 Peter Philips *Tibi laus*

LENT COURSE 2019

During Lent Grosvenor Chapel will join with St George's and St John's Hyde Park to explore the dynamics of God's calling and sending in our lives. Join us on **Wednesdays at 7.00pm in the Chapel Garden Room** (blue door opposite the Florist Pulbrook & Gould) for a light supper, followed by a short talk and lively discussion amongst friends both old and new. Across the five sessions we'll discuss the ways in which we are loved and received by God and how this gives us the freedom to deal with the pressures we face with an imaginative and compassionate response.

From Wednesday 13th March until Wednesday 10th April.



We believe the Undercroft at St George's was originally built to house a free school. Certainly the *New Churches in London and Westminster Act of 1710*, which set up a Commission to build 50 churches in the West End and City of London, regarded the provision of educational facilities as of the utmost importance. In the end only 10 'Queen Anne Churches' were built, of which St George's was one, but no school was ever opened here. Nine other churches were rebuilt or modified.

Hawksmoor built four of the new churches: Christ Church, Spitalfields, St Anne's, Limehouse, St George's Bloomsbury,



The new SW staircase

The Undercroft at St George's



St George's Undercroft at the conclusion of Phase 1

and St George in the East. Thomas Archer built two: St John's, Smith Square and St Paul's, Deptford, and James Gibb one, St Mary le Strand. St George's Hanover Square is the only one architect John James built on his own account, but he was also joint architect with Nicholas Hawksmoor for St John, Horsleydown and St Luke, Old Street.

James's design included entrances along Maddox Street and on the south side of the church which allowed a certain amount of daylight to enter the undercroft. However, for reasons we don't fully understand, but lack of daylight was possibly one of them, the planned free school never opened and the space was used for storage for most of the next three centuries. Our first Church school opened in 1742 in South Street, on a site adjacent to the present school.

During the inter-war years of the twentieth century the undercroft space was used for wine storage by a local vintner. This continued until the Bishop of London received too many complaints about the noise,

and this ended his occupation. During the Second World War the undercroft was used to store all the stained glass from the East windows which were removed in early 1940, and not reinstated until after the war ended. From the early 1950s the space was again rented out, with Sotheby's being the tenant for most of this period until they vacated in 2013.

Thought and plans as to how to re-integrate the space into the life of the church have been on-going since 2007, and Maxwell Hutchinson, architect, drew up some plans in 2009, but at the time we were about to undertake the refurbishment of the interior of the church, and install a new organ, so funds were not available. When Sotheby's finally gave notice in 2012, we had to make some decisions, whether to remain as landlords and find new tenants, or embark on plans to engage the space with the mission action plan of the church.

New plans were drawn up by Colin Kerr, Church architect, and the decision to improve the church facilities with a new lavatory block under the portico, a



The disability lift inside the Church

green room/large meeting room and restaurant facilities was taken by the PCC in 2017, with building works starting that August.

This work is now complete. The new lavatory block reopened last October and we started using the new Green Room in December. Phase 2 – the fit out of the kitchen, the décor and furnishing of the new facility – has now begun and we are anticipating a full opening during the summer.

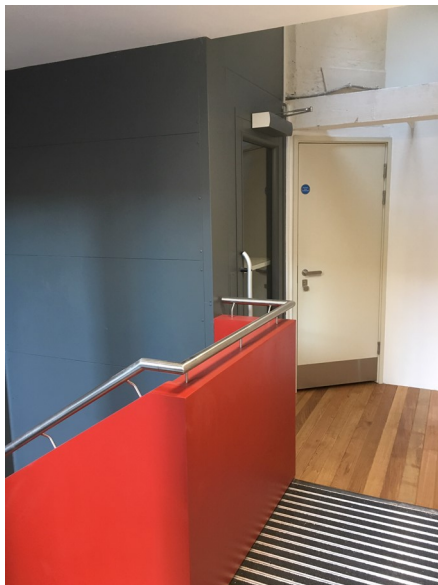
The new facilities will greatly enhance the life of the church, both in terms of far better amenities for all church users, and when the construction costs are paid, an additional income stream for the church. The lavatory block under the portico is entered via a new Portland stone staircase at the south west corner of the church. This staircase can be accessed either internally, from the south west side of the church, or from a new exterior entrance on the south west side of the church into the church yard, next to the large metal gates on to St George's Street. Those who remember the rickety staircase to the old lavatories will notice a great improvement.

The green room/large meeting room provides greatly improved facilities for musicians and other users of the church, who up to now have had to manage in the cramped conditions of the vestry and choir

vestry. This room will also be used for all larger church meetings, PCC meetings, and the Little Dragons Sunday School.

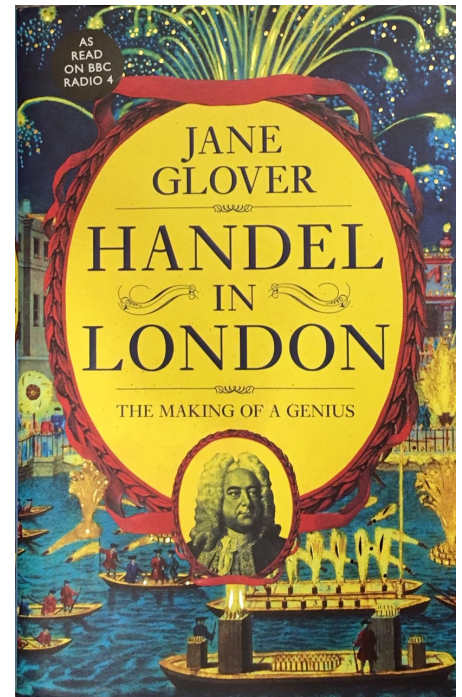
The restaurant area will include a bar which will serve interval drinks during concerts, and a seated dining area for up to 100 covers. The restaurant will be open weekdays, Monday to Friday only. On Saturdays the space will be available for private hire and wedding receptions, which we hope will increase St George's attraction as a wedding venue. On Sundays, the space will be used to serve drinks when we have refreshments following the service in church.

We are lucky the space has good headroom. A lot of undercrofts and crypts were built with low ceiling heights and left unfinished. Our vaulted ceiling was plastered back in 1724 and well finished; again, leading us to believe the space was built to be occupied, and not just to be used as a storage vault.



The disability lift off the South Yard

So, in 2019, after a mere 295 years, the undercroft of St George's Church will for the first time become an integral part of the body of the Church, and in its own way, help the church to continue to profess the Gospel of Christ.



Jane Glover

in conversation

with Andrew Gant

about her recently published book

Handel in London The Making of a Genius

St George's, Hanover Square

Tuesday 23rd April

6.30–8.00pm

The event will begin with a short recital and will be followed by a book signing session and a glass of wine

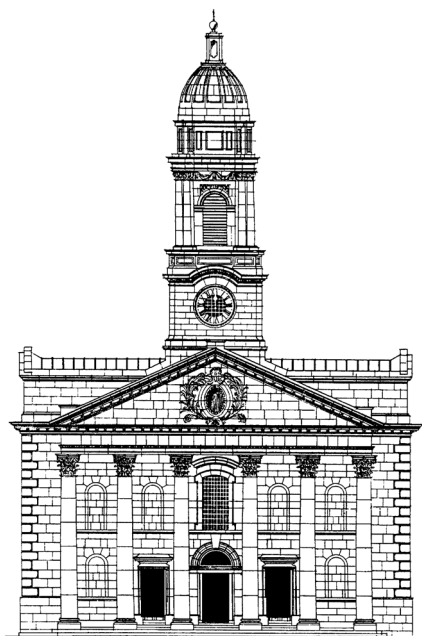
Tickets from Handel House website

www.handelhendrix.org
or by phoning 020 7399 1953

Early bird tickets: £12

Tickets booked
after 1st April: £15

Churches Together in Westminster Prisons Mission



Our Prisons Mission, run under the auspices of Churches Together in Westminster, continues to make cautious but encouraging progress. New Volunteers have joined from both already engaged churches like St Martin-in-the-Fields and new churches of different denominations, like Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church. These Volunteers bring with them a very useful range of skills and experiences.

Introductory visits have recently been arranged to HMP Wormwood Scrubs, the huge Victorian prison for 1,200 men and to HMP and Young Offenders Institution Bronzefield in Middlesex. The latter is now the biggest prison for girls and women in Europe and looks and feels very different. There are grassed spaces and quite modern two storey building which hold 550 women, who are remanded in custody while awaiting trial or sentence, or to serve short, medium or "life" sentences.

We expect to resume work with the Befriending Programme at HMP Wandsworth, under which Volunteers mentor inmates for several weeks before discharge and then continue to meet them when released in order to provide support as the men begin the difficult transition into liberty, which needs a home, positive adult relationships and employment. The first few days and weeks are crucial for recovery and building new, independent and crime-free lives.

In addition to these prisons, our Volunteers, led by the team from Notre Dame de France, the Roman

Catholic church in Leicester Square, work to support the multi-faith Chaplaincy Team at the Heathrow Immigration Removal Centre. This is a prison in all but name, within which about 550 people, mainly men, subject to immigration controls are detained indefinitely, pending asylum claims, other appeals or deportation. Nearly 40% of those detained are eventually allowed to remain in this country, either temporarily or permanently.

Introductory visits are arranged for potential Volunteers who are genuinely interested in the project but need to see "behind prison walls", learn and discuss more, before making a commitment. Small groups meet several of the Chaplains, attend a guided tour of the establishment and have a preliminary discussion about the activities for which Volunteers are needed. After this there are further discussions with the Coordinator and other Volunteers and if it is decided to proceed there will be another meeting with a Chaplain to agree the best match of skills, experience and available time and the appropriate starting place. Often new Volunteers will begin by shadowing a Chaplain or Prison Officer concerned with education, literacy classes or chapel worship. Volunteers are given suitable training and properly supervised as they become useful additions to the inside team.

All concerned with the Prisons Mission are well aware that for many people prisons are entirely unfamiliar, strange and even hostile places. Volunteers are consequently carefully supported and learn from each other, both informally and via regular bi-monthly Review Meetings.

VOLUNTEER SARAH JANE VERNON WRITES:

I attended an introductory visit to HMP and YOI Bronzefield arranged by the Prisons Mission. I found it significantly different from other London prisons of which I have experienced. It is managed by private sector contractor Sodexo and its Chaplaincy Team is welcoming and open to Volunteers. Every prison has a Safer Custody Team and I am in-

involved with this team at Bronzefield. Safer Custody Teams aim to identify, manage and support prisoners and detainees who are at risk of harm to themselves, to others and from others. These prisoners may have complex needs and display challenging behaviour. They are assessed and reviewed, taking into account risks and triggers to self-harm, using the multidisciplinary ACCT procedure (Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork).

For the last few months I have been going to Bronzefield about one day each week, shadowing a member of the Safer Custody Team. A day's work may include any number of ACCT reviews with "residents" (the title used for inmates at Bronzefield) for whom there may be concerns. These meetings are time consuming and meticulous and each one involves a range of operational staff. The problems and worries of these women are addressed and an action plan put into place to mitigate and deal with these as best as possible. I also attend Health and Care Review meetings where residents with mental and physical health issues reside in a separate wing. Along the way, in the main corridors or the outside spaces, we meet women who ask for a "distraction pack" for the time alone in their cells, or women who have an immediate problem and need something in particular sorted out.

A prison is a place of much sadness and some badness, but the sense of commitment to effecting change and achieving results, of care and consideration for each individual woman, and of a strong sense of responsibility, which is palpable in the work of the Safer Custody Team at Bronzefield. At present my role is to shadow the team, observe, listen and learn. Despite this, my experience, so far, is that every day I leave with a sense of practical achievement.

VOLUNTEER ALISTAIR MILWARD WRITES:

I have been volunteering for a charity called StoryBook Dads and working at HMP Wormwood Scrubs [aka 'The Scrubs'] under the direction of the PACT team there

(Prison Advice and Care Trust). StoryBook Dad was founded by Sharon Berry whilst working as a volunteer in HMP Channings Wood. Sharon began to realise how difficult it was for imprisoned parents to keep in touch with their children. She helped the Writer in Residence develop the Storybook Dads idea. Sharon moved to HMP Dartmoor and introduced the scheme there, recording prisoners on the wings and editing the stories from home. News of the work spread and it proved so popular that the Governor gave her a prison cell to work from and allowed her to employ a couple of prisoners to help with the editing of the recordings on-site. Other prisons heard about Storybook Dads and wanted to implement the project too.

Every Tuesday one of three volunteers goes into The Scrubs, signs into a workshop located on the prison's main 'spine', attached to which are the wings, which is also home to the education department with classrooms and library etc. There we set up simple recording equipment and receive applicants and help them to record a story for their children. The applicants are all vetted beforehand and the families have an opportunity to refuse to be contacted by the prisoner - these checks alone add 10 days sometimes to a treacle-like layer of bureaucracy. The stories cleared for copyright and available to the prisoners are, in the main, for younger children and have various iterations of the Gruffalo or some simple retellings of nursery favourites. As for the applicants themselves we tend to see the gentler sort, those who want to reach out to their children, to play a part. Remorse and regret will be just below the surface one suspects. Some will be young, barely adults themselves sometimes with a couple of children and an engaging naïveté as, smiling but without pride, they attempt to explain why one child lives with one mother and the other with another. A chaotic life left on hold, clutching at the slender strands that keep it all together. They've volunteered themselves after all, they're there because they want to be.

One afternoon I attended a family day at the visitors centre where the aim was to snag a few applicants as they sat in their family circles, identifying

those with children but sometimes addressing the partners and wives directly. A few applications were snatched from our hands by partners who filled them in on behalf of the inmate who couldn't write. Given that these few couldn't read either this seemed either brave or foolish, but we were able to reassure all concerned that we could help them all the way.

Two family day recruits came to us in the workshop a few weeks later, their clearances passed and their families waiting. I remembered peddling the idea to the family of one, an older inmate, who was grizzled and hardened, quite a lot of life and ink in the lines. Very shaved. We were a trifle nervous I have to say. A pause lengthened, we waited. Finally he cleared his throat, rubbed his hand over his face, wiped his eyes and standing said without turning from the door, "I'll come again if that's alright. Just feeling a bit emotional here. Sorry. Sorry." Three weeks later he read a story for his youngest but that day, the day he didn't read a story but reached into himself and found himself to be wanting was the day of which we Volunteers might be almost more proud. His children came to mind and reminded him that he was there and they were here and for that fact he alone was at fault and he wished it were different.

We never see the faces of the children as they receive a CD or a DVD with the voice of their father reading them a story set to sound effects and sometimes with music. We don't get to see their eyes widen with wonder and recognition or their eyelids droop as they drift off to the sound of their father's voice, calming and constant in their own chaotic lives.

FUTURE NEED AND PLANS.

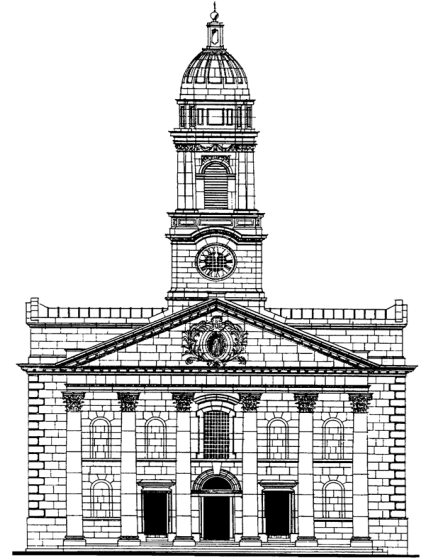
There is an urgent need for our Prisons Mission to expand and improve the effectiveness of our work in support of the multi-faith Prison Chaplaincy Teams. For this purpose, we need to recruit additional, suitable Volunteers from St George's Hanover Square and other churches. As well as work inside prisons, we also need Volunteers to assist with work essential to the founding purposes of the initiative, including the Shows of Art by Prisoners and the promotion of Prisons Week. New Volunteers will be given appropriate training and support and be able to undertake regular work in often difficult circumstances. This work will be challenging and varied, but potentially very rewarding. The prison

system is in crisis and it does not work well. It fails the offenders, the victims of crime, the tax-payers and the wider society. Our Prisons Mission's achievement is modest, against the scale of the problems, but these are definitely worthwhile.

For further information, to ask questions, or for a discussion, please contact the Coordinator, or one of our Volunteers.

John Plummer
Coordinator, Prisons Mission
Churches Together in Westminster

Hyde Park Place Estate Charity



CIVIL TRUSTEES

At their meeting on 28th November 2018, the Civil Trustees of the Hyde Park Place Estate Charity awarded grants totalling £52,179 to the following organisations working in the City of Westminster:

Woman's Trust

Groundswell UK

London Music Masters

Age UK Westminster

Family Lives

Police Community Clubs of Great Britain

St Vincent's Family Project

Revitalise

University of Westminster - Regent Street Cinema

London Firebird Orchestra

Crisis at Christmas 2018

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 5th June (deadline: Monday 20th May).

ECCLESIASTICAL TRUSTEES

A total of £53,325 was awarded in grants at the Ecclesiastical Trustees' meeting held on Thursday 29th November 2018, 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 May/June 2019.

Shirley Vaughan

Clerk to the Trustees

PARISH OF ST GEORGE, HANOVER SQUARE

Charity No: 1134811

Rector: The Revd Roderick Leece

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St George's Hanover Square Foundation

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Hyde Park Place Estate Charity

Charity No 212439

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