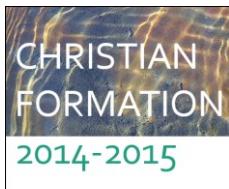


St Paul's Knightsbridge

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

2014-2015





Dear friends and members of the St Paul's community,

You remember the childhood fascination of casting stones into water – creating the splash, watching the ripples spread out, noticing the reflections, the refraction, the waves and eddies?

Water, of course, is where our Christian formation begins – at the font, in the waters of baptism, as God begins the work of shaping our lives in holiness. And if we use various fairly solid images for that process (we are, we sometimes say, being formed, being moulded, being sculpted) we might well find the idea of something more fluid helpful too. Hopefully that initial splash creates ripples across a lifetime of discipleship... eddies and waves, refraction of understanding and unexpected reflections.

This coming year at St Paul's we plan three 'splash' events, designed to stir things up and to create some waves in each of us. You can read details of them in the following pages. Because we know many of you are busy, we've designed these events to 'stand alone': so if you do nothing else to stir up your faith and discipleship in the coming year, come along to these three.

Others of you have time and inclination to follow interests in your own way – and so to support these three 'splash' events, we've planned a whole series of smaller 'ripple' events too which flow from them. You can sign up for these as the mood takes you and your availability permits.

This is the second annual **CHRISTIAN FORMATION PROGRAMME** we've published. I'm indebted to Fr Andrew Sloane and to my other clergy colleagues for the work they have put into designing it – and, of course, to the team of laity with whom they worked. Together they have been reflecting on what worked well, on building on the strengths of year one and – just as importantly – learning lessons from what didn't work so well. Please give this programme your consideration and your support so that we can truly be a people who are constantly learning, growing and developing together – and deepening our faith.

With my best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "alan gyle".

The Reverend Alan Gyle
Vicar of St Paul's Knightsbridge

LEARNING TOGETHER

2014-15

Fr Andrew Sloane writes:

"BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWAL OF YOUR MINDS" St. Paul urges in his letter to the Romans (12:2)

There are some important words here:

"Renewal". I wonder what is your immediate emotional response to that word? It might be a kind of "Oh Dear," as in the renewal of a license or a fee or a piece of machinery. It might be excitement: a new opportunity to be reinvigorated and refreshed. It might be self-satisfaction – I am fine just as I am, thank you. It might be laziness - can't really be bothered. Yet God's redeeming work is *always* at work in the world through the never-ceasing and creative movements of the Spirit within and around us as a community of faith and as individuals. So the possibilities for renewal in our Baptismal identity in Jesus are an ever present possibility. What we offer here is one way for such possibilities to be made concrete.

"Transformed". Again, what is one's reaction to that word and idea? Much the same as to "renewal," I suspect. "To grow is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often," John Henry Newman wrote. But change can be scary. We can become all too comfortable with how we are and with the known, not-so-brilliant becomes more attractive than unknown brilliances in the future. For the Christian, surely one of the goals our pilgrimage (last year's theme for our Formation offerings) of Faith in life and beyond is to be more and more transformed into the likeness of Christ himself. And as we allow God's Grace to effect that in our lives, so we are transformed in our own identities and in our relationships with God, self and others. All in the context of redeeming love – a love that "casts out fear."

"Minds." I have heard often from mature adults that they are approaching their lives of Faith simply grasping the now inadequate tool of formation provided at a teenage Confirmation class! Inevitably that proves insufficient or even embarrassing. Our programs here encourage not only "instruction" but also discussion and conversation where it is always possible to share knowledge and ignorance together in a 'safe place' as we seek to deepen our knowledge of God in Jesus Christ. Not all the answers will be given, but it is always good to ask lots of questions. Here are tools for a deeper understanding and articulation of our Faith or, if you will, a "Christian Proficiency."

I wish that St Paul here had used one more word, "hearts"- "by the renewal of your minds and hearts." There is a difference between information and formation; there is a difference between "education" and "formation." Formation, in our context, implies the reordering of our hearts as well as the renewal of our minds. St Augustine: "our hearts are restless until they rest in thee". Our programs seek to "tickle" that restlessness and to allow our hearts to be melted to the love of God. T

The programs you find here I hope offer many things for mind AND heart, intellect AND imagination, thinking AND feeling.

AUTUMN TERM 2014:

'WORD OF GOD' – an investigation of the Gospel according to St Matthew



To get us up to speed for this first term's work, on **Wednesdays 24th September and 1st October 2014**, Fr Nick Mercer leads us in two evening Bible Studies: **"Bible 101: The Bible Uncovered in Two Parts - The Curious Contents of the Best Selling Book in the World"**.

(The structure of Wednesday evening is a simple one: Mass at 6.45pm with organ music and a hymn. Simple refreshments (finger food only), 7:15-7:30pm. Then from 7:30 to 8:30pm, class in the choir vestry.)

SPLASH EVENT: On Friday 10th October we shall meet at the Church of St Martin's in the Fields for a viewing of the magnificent St. John's Bible. This will be followed by supper in the Cafe in the crypt and in turn followed by a talk, "An Introduction to St. Matthew's Gospel" by Sara Schumacher.

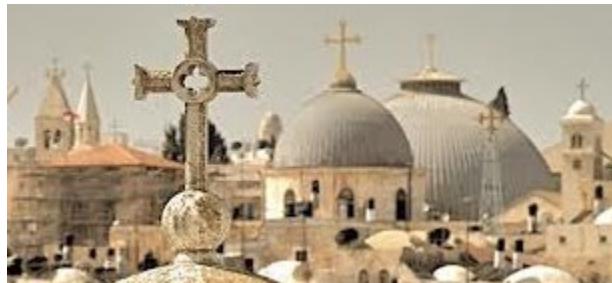
This is in preparation for a 7 week series of 'RIPPLE EVENTS' on Wednesday evenings starting on **15th October with Fr. Andrew Sloane, "Discovering St. Matthew's Gospel"**.

15 October	Daniel Goode reads the Sermon on the Mount (Chapters 5 – 7) Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount.	Matt. 5:1-30
22 October	Six Antitheses Three acts of Piety	Matt. 5:21-48 Matt. 6:1-18
29 October	Other teachings Warning about Judgment	Matt. 6:19 – 7:12 Matt. 7:13-29
5 November	Ben Fleetwood Smyth reads Chapters 10 and 13 Mission to Israel Future Sufferings Other Instructions	Matt. 10:5-15 Matt. 10:16-25 Matt. 10:26-42
12 November	Parables	Matt. 13: 1-52
19 November	"Little Ones" and a parable Brother who sins and a p[arable	Matt. 18:1-35 Matt.18: 15-35
26 November	The End	Matt. 24 & 25

The basis for the course is **Discovering Matthew by Ian Boxhall**. You may also like to read: **Matthew For Everyone by Tom Wright**. For further details, please speak directly to Fr Andrew Sloane – or register your interest at www.spkbinfo.org following the links to 'Christian Formation' or ring 020 7201 9999

SPRING TERM 2015:

‘HOLY LAND?’ – an exploration of the Middle East in history and the present day



The Bible tells a story of God’s people occupying God’s ‘Holy Land’ – and draws our attention to the most contested and fought-over region of the earth: the Middle East.

By the end of this (short) term participants in the programme will have a better sense of the history of the Holy Land (through an exploration of the story of travel, conquest and settlement in the Old Testament and an engagement with the later inter-testamental period which paints the backcloth to the coming of Jesus) – but perhaps more importantly we will engage with the later story too. What is going on now? What are the disputes between Jews and Arabs about and how do Christians fit into the story? What is happening to Islam in the 21st century? And what does this mean for the future shape of the Middle East?

Along the way we engage the help of:
David Hogan Hearn, recent graduate of the Royal College of Defence Studies in Belgrave Square and **Mark Scarlatta**, a London-based lecturer and theologian one of whose areas of expertise is ‘The Theology of the Land’.



SPLASH EVENT No. 1: Wednesday 28th January 2015 at 18:45 – a Holy Land Seminar

Ripple events: preceded by three Wednesday evening Bible Studies on 7th, 14th & 21st January, and followed

SPLASH EVENT No. 2: Saturday 31st January 2015 at 10:00 - a visit to see the Middle Eastern treasures in the British Museum with lunch in Bloomsbury afterwards.

LENT & PASSIONTIDE 2015: ‘MUSIC AND THE DIVINE’ – music and the mind of God



Part of our great cultural heritage as Christians is the wealth of musical composition inspired by Christian devotion and used in the service of the worship of God from the earliest days of the Church.

This Lent we will explore how music – and individual composers – have engaged the mystery of God and expressed their

engagement through composition. This Lenten period culminates in a **trip to Alkmaar and Amsterdam in Passiontide**, and then in both a performance (with reflections by Fr Andrew Sloane) of Haydn’s quartet ‘**The Seven Last Words**’, and then in a series of **reflections ‘at the foot of the cross’ on Good Friday** from noon till 2pm led by Fr Alan Gyle.

Before then, to stimulate our thinking, there will **be two Saturday morning Lenten led reflections** led by Fr Alan Gyle:

Saturday 21st February 2015 at 10:30am – ending with mass at noon

Saturday 14th March 2015 at 10:30am – ending with mass at noon

SUMMER TERM 2015:

‘AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH’ – the Christian call to go beyond

In the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, the Apostles are commissioned: “you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” If you think about it ‘spatially’, the commission describes a series of concentric circles of witness, each pushing further out from the centre.

That move from the centre out is – Christians have traditionally understood – part of the calling of God. It sits, though, uncomfortably, with our centripetal instinct to move anxiously from the outside back to the centre. One of the things that maddens many people about the Church is its parochialism and its obsession with its own life. God, by contrast, calls the Church away from self-obsession to healthy engagement with the world ‘out there’. This tension (‘outwards inwards / inwards outwards’) is one of the great dynamic forces with which we struggle in the Christian life.

This term we will be thinking about the move ‘from the centre’. This is a great time to do so as the Church celebrates (on 24th May) the Feast of Pentecost as a reminder of that first commissioning to be witnesses in the world. So, in a series of Wednesday evening sessions we will consider the dynamics of engagement – and the opportunities we have for mission... and at our **SPLASH EVENT – a festal Community lunch on Sunday 24th May the Feast of Pentecost** and day of commitment, we will commit ourselves anew to mission and outward connection.

Full programme for the third term will be launched in January 2015.



RETREATS, QUIET DAYS & PILGRIMAGES

2014-15

**A SILENT RETREAT AT WEST MALLING ABBEY, KENT
with Fr Andrew Norwood
15 – 19 October 2014**



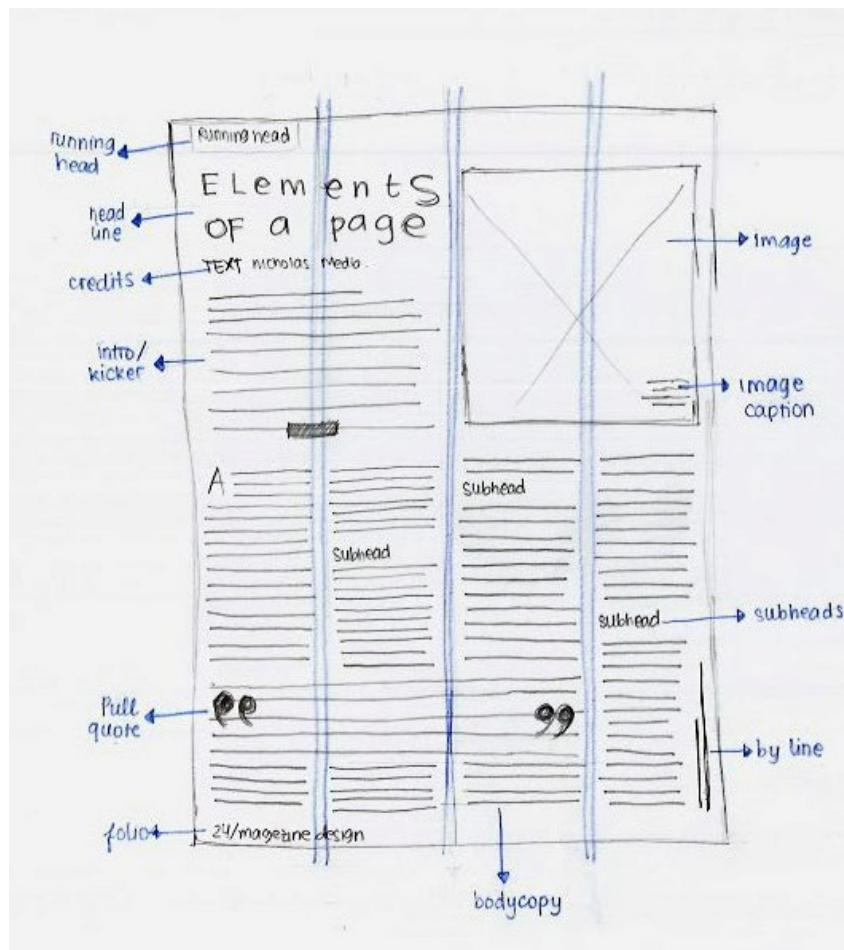
This is an opportunity to experience a silent weekend retreat, not alone, but in the company of others and with a community of Anglican Benedictine nuns. The Abbey was originally founded in 1090, but the present community has been here since 1916. Each day is structured in the monastic way where the community gathers around the Eucharist, times of community prayer and mealtimes.

We will stay in the 15th century guesthouse which has simple single room bedrooms and a sitting room and refectory. Meals are hearty and homemade! The grounds provide an atmosphere of quiet and spaciousness for prayer and reflection. We can also use the 14th century Pilgrim Chapel by the gatehouse and explore the local countryside. We arrive at 5.30pm on Friday night and leave at 2.30pm on Sunday afternoon. There are 5 places available. Transport from Victoria station by rail to Malling is easy and the Abbey is a five minute walk from the station.

For further details, please speak directly to Fr Andrew— or register your interest at www.spkbinfo.org following the links to 'Christian Formation' or ring 020 7201 9999

WHITE SPACE

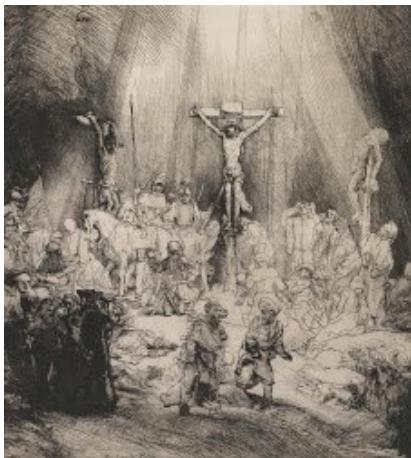
AN ADVENT QUIET DAY



- WHAT:** An Advent Quiet Day with input, challenge and time to reflect
- WHEN:** Saturday 13th December 2014 from 10:00 – 16:00
- WHO:** led by Fr Alan Gyle
- WHERE:** The Royal Foundation of St Katharine, London E14 8DS
- COST:** £45:00 including lunch, refreshments and materials

Booking for this event is essential as spaces are strictly limited. Please register your interest at www.spkbinfo.org following the links to 'Christian Formation' or ring 020 7201 9999

THE PASSIONTIDE PILGRIMAGE 2015: Amsterdam & Alkmaar with Fr Alan Gyle 20 – 22 March 2015



The rich cultural heritage of the Low Countries is exemplified in the world class art collection in Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum Museum and in the historic organs of the Laurenzkerk in nearby Alkmaar. This short weekend pilgrimage will pick up on the Lenten themes of Music and Art we've been exploring, and the days will have ample space both for learning, reflecting, silence and sight-seeing – and for time spent together.



As ever, we invite people to make their own travel arrangements and to book accommodation centrally in Amsterdam in a hotel or hostel that suits their own budget. We will meet daily together – and will (hopefully!) be joined by Stephen Farr, our Director of Music, who will give an exclusive recital in Alkmaar.

For further details, please speak directly to Fr Alan – or register your interest at www.spkbinfo.org following the links to 'Christian Formation' or ring 020 7201 9999

A DAY PILGRIMAGE TO CHICHESTER: with Fr Andrew Sloane on Saturday 13 June 2015



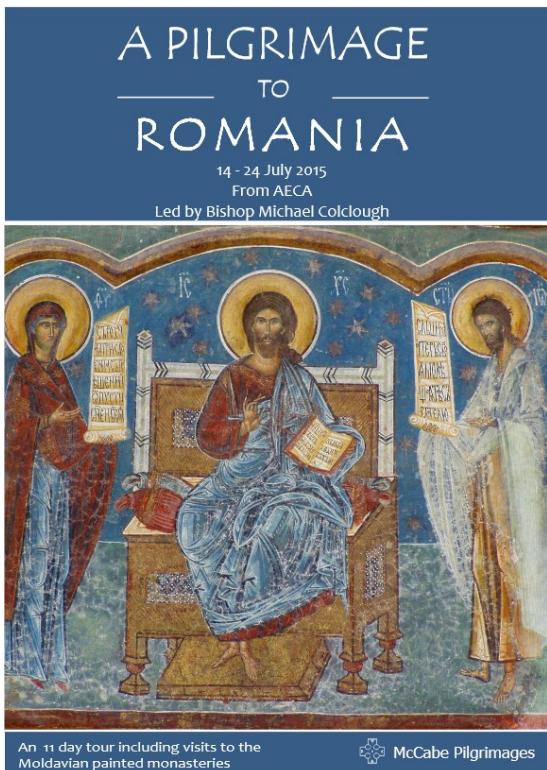
For over 900 years the Cathedral in Chichester has welcomed visitors and pilgrims through its doors, for many years (until the desecration of the Shrine in the reign of King Henry VIII) to the burial place of St Richard of Chichester. Not only is Chichester a lovely city, but the cathedral has – under the patronage of a succession of very enlightened Deans – enjoyed incredible vibrancy in the 20th century as a place for

patronage of the contemporary arts. So this is a day not only of history but of spectacle. Visit includes the Pallant House Museum, tea with Bishop Martin Warner at the Palace and Evensong in the Cathedral. To find out more about how you can join in this day visit, please speak directly to Fr Andrew Sloane – or register your interest at www.spkbinfo.org following the links to 'Christian Formation' or ring 020 7201 9999

A PILGRIMAGE TO ROMANIA

with Bishop Michael Colclough

14 - 24 July 2015



Romania is one of Europe's best kept secrets, an amazing and enchanting country rich with legends, traditions and old customs that still survive in rural villages today.

The country's traditions are as diverse as the empires that once surrounded it. We will travel through a rich tapestry, experiencing ancient ruins and feudal castles, spectacular monastic communities and colourful folklore.

Our journey begins in Bucharest, the capital, which was once known as "Little Paris" because of its stunning Belle Epoque buildings and tree lined wide streets. Buildings damaged in the 1989 revolution have been restored and the hotels are undergoing modernisation.

Unique to Romania, are the painted monasteries, which are protected by UNESCO as part of our world heritage. They are decorated on the outside with richly coloured frescoes which depict Biblical scenes. Some date back to the 15th century. In contrast we will also visit some robust Saxon fortress churches. We plan to engage with the local Christian community and learn about their way of life. Once one of the world's most repressed countries under communism, and with decades of neglect, Romania is rapidly regaining its identity and the cities are coming back to life.

This tour promises to be both an exciting as well as a spiritual and educational experience.

The cost of this 11-day tour is £1,370 per person sharing twin-bedded accommodation on a half board basis. For further information, please email: alistair@mccabe-travel.co.uk

A RETREAT ON IONA with Bishop Michael Colclough

7 - 11 September 2015



The Isle of Iona, home of St Columba and for centuries a centre for Gaelic Monasticism, is a luminous and ‘thin’ place where the gap between earth and heaven seems easy to traverse.

Situated on the West Coast of the Isle of Mull in the Inner Hebrides off Scotland’s West Coast, this short retreat led my Bishop Michael will give time and space to reflect on God’s calling to you – in good company and with wise counsel on hand.

The cost of this pilgrimage is £495 – including bed and breakfast. For further details, please speak directly to Bishop Michael – or register your interest at www.spkbinfo.org following the links to ‘Christian Formation’ or ring 020 7201 9999

THEOLOGY AFTER AUSCHWITZ: A VISIT TO KRAKÓW, POLAND with a day visit to AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU with Fr Alan Gyle, 17 - 20 September 2015



Krakow is one of Poland’s most ancient and most beautiful cities, and it makes a perfect base for us to enjoy its architecture and to consider its complex history – in good company with time for study, reflection, visiting, silence and for meals together in the evenings.

However, this Parish Pilgrimage has a sombre side to it: a day visit to the site of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp and to the memorial and visitor centre there. The name ‘Auschwitz’ has become synonymous with the genocidal programme of the Nazi regime in World War II – in the course of which we grasped, in a new and terrifying way, the capacity of humankind for collective folly and evil. The events of ‘Auschwitz’ changed the course of Western thought and this retreat will give us a chance to note its impact on the way Christians have thought about God and creation in the seventy or so years since them. Please register your interest directly with Fr Alan – or register your interest at www.spkbinfo.org following the links to ‘Christian Formation’ or ring 020 7201 9999

CREATIVITY



AN INVITATION TO SHARE IN A JOURNEY OF CREATION...



Now, here's something a little different! Would you like to be part of a journey of creativity? Not just to go to *watch* a performance, but to be part of the whole journey from the inception of the first idea to its final outworking and execution?

This coming Lent (which begins on 18th February) we have a plan to work with Clare McCaldin (of McCaldin Arts and member of St Paul's Choir), Thomas Hyde (composer and member of St Paul's congregation) and a choreographer (as yet to be located!) to 'create' – as from nothing – a composition that explores 'The Passion' in word, music and movement.

Should it have a text? Or not? How does a composer even begin to have ideas? How does a singer work with a composer and with a choreographer – and how do all three interact with a commissioning group?

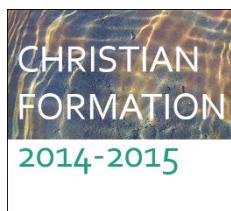
Will it work? Who knows. I think so! Will we learn a lot along the way? Certainly! Will it be a journey worth making? My instinct says, yes.



To make this work we need to find 25 'angels' who will embark on the project together – each making a financial donation to make the project possible. Fancy a creative journey into the unknown?

Please register your interest directly with Fr Alan, or speak to Tom or Clare – or register your interest at www.spkbinfo.org following the links to 'Christian Formation' or ring 020 7201 9999

MUSIC & THE SPIRIT



A SERIES OF EVENTS CELEBRATING THE
PLACE OF MUSIC AND THE CREATIVE ARTS
IN OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

MUSIC AND WORDS FOR REMEMBRANCETIDE



St Paul's and the Great War.

Between 1914 and 1918, the years of the Great War, the vicar of St Paul's kept a parish journal. Excerpts from those journals have been put together especially for this concert to help us tell a fascinating story. These excerpts will be read by the current Vicar of St Pauls, Fr Alan Gyle. The story we will tell is of life

in London, centred on St Paul's, set against the backdrop of the First World War. The BAM Consort and The BAM Ensemble, conducted by Hugh Brunt, will perform a range of British music, old and new, bringing to life our story as it unfolds.

Monday 10th November 2014 at 19:30 Tickets: £20 (To include a drinks reception after the concert) available on the door or to reserve please call 020 7201 9999 or email info@bamseries.com

THE ANNUAL MUSIC DINNER:



With grateful thanks to the Berkeley Hotel, this is our annual opportunity both to support our music programme and to hear the remarkable talent of our in-house musicians showcased as you never hear them on Sundays!

The Ballroom of the Berkeley Hotel

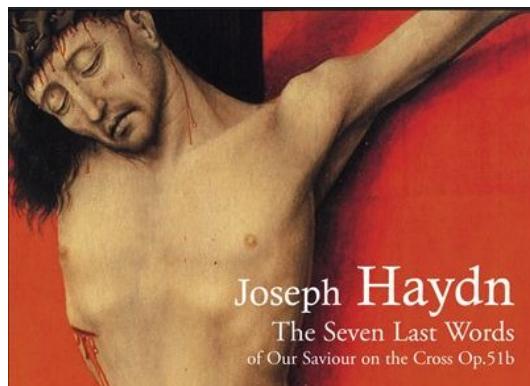
Monday 2nd February 2015.

Pre-dinner reception 19:00; dinner from 19:45

Tickets: £160 per person

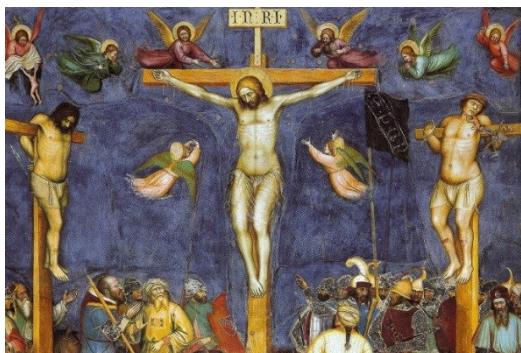
Tickets, though available, are strictly limited in number and sell out quickly: please speak to John Tweddle, Churchwarden – or ring 020 7201 9999

MUSIC IN HOLY WEEK: SEVEN LAST WORDS



Haydn's String Quartet: the Seven Last Words with reflections on the Passion of Christ between movements by Fr Andrew Sloane
Wednesday 1st April 2015 at 18:45

REFLECTIONS ON GOOD FRIDAY:



"Consonance, dissonance and divine harmony: musical reflections at the Foot of the Cross"
with Fr Alan Gyle
Good Friday, 3rd April 2015 from noon till 14:00

A BIRTHDAY CONCERT



Some people climb mountains...
...others buy motorbikes and travel the world...
but for *his* very significant birthday, John
Sunderland – member of the St Paul's
Congregation – will be performing a Mozart
Piano Concerto in Church with players from
Thames Chamber Orchestra. He will be joined
by singers from the St Paul's Choir – and the
whole event will be in support of the St Paul's
Knightsbridge Foundation Capital Appeal.
SAVE THE DATE: 25th April 2015 at 19:30

PRAYING

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO DEEPEN
YOUR LIFE OF PRAYER AND TO GROW IN FAITH



CENTERING PRAYER MEDITATION



Tuesdays 8am & Thursdays 5.30 pm

A simple, 20 minute led meditation, no experience needed.

Silence is a rare thing in a busy city, yet within it lies the ground of our thinking and being. Clearing some space - especially at the start of the day - really helps to return us to a place of stability and calm strength.

Meditation can only be inclusive, so whatever your experience or practice, you'll always be

welcome.

THE PRAYER BRANCH



**Meets on the Third Tuesday of the month.
19:00-20:00 at the home of a parishioner**

By coming together on a regular basis (monthly) basis as members of St. Paul's we aim to deepen our prayer lives, knowledge of the bible, and overall understanding of our Faith.

Through creating a sense of peace and quietness away from our normal pressures

we are able to feel at ease with each other and discuss and share thoughts on biblical passages and the complexities of trying in a meaningful way to live the Christian life, with time too for silence and reflection. Finally as members of the congregation we meet as a committed nucleus for specific and general intercessory prayers. **For details please contact Caroline Docker: 020 7384 1165 or Cecily Worrall on 020 7352 7844**



Daily Prayer

DAILY MORNING PRAYER

Daily Monday to Saturday at 09:00

The ‘Divine Office’ is the prayer of the Church, offered daily to God around the world in a million different places but ‘with one voice’.

At St Paul’s, Morning Prayer is said in the Chancel daily. It includes set prayers, some reading of the

Psalms and of other short passages from Scripture. There is time for intercession.

You will be welcome to join this daily offering; no experience necessary... and there is usually coffee afterwards for those who are free to stay.



THE DAILY MASS

Daily Monday to Friday at 18:00 (on Wednesdays at 18:45 followed by class); Saturday at noon

It is what Christians do whenever they come together: they take the bread and wine and, following the commandment of Jesus, bless, break and share them – and in so doing they are reassured of God’s grace and know Christ’s presence.

For over a century and a half, St Paul’s Knightsbridge has maintained the tradition of a daily offering of the mass – and though congregations on weekdays are seldom huge, for many Christians this is an non-negotiable part of their spiritual life.

You will be welcome to join us. If you are not yet confirmed and would like to learn more about that, please speak to us.



PRAYER, ANOINTING AND THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

At 18:00 on the first Monday of the month, and at the High Mass on the third Sunday of the month

We invite you to experience prayer of healing and anointing with the laying on of hands as part of the ancient practice of the Church. All welcome.

SUPPORT & NETWORKING



**NEWLY MARRIED, OR EMBARKING ON THE JOURNEY
TOWARDS A WEDDING OR BLESSING? THE 結婚地
KEKKONJI 'RECENTLY AND SOON-TO-BE' MARRIED'S
GROUP MAY BE FOR YOU...**

In Japanese, Kekkonji means 'the ground or basis of marriage' – and KEKKONJI is the name of a group of recently- or soon-to-be married members of the congregation who want, together, to meet, talk, socialise, share concerns and to explore issues that may help to sustain and strengthen their relationship.



This year we invite you to:

A RECEPTION at the Royal Thames Yacht Club
on Monday 29th September 2014

**A SUNDAY MORNING MASS OF
THANKSGIVING** on Sunday 18th January 2015 at
11:00

A SATURDAY WORKSHOP on 'Better
Conversations' 6th & 7th March 2015

A 'Kekkonji GARDEN PARTY' on Monday 20th
July 2015 from 18:30 – 20:30
