

**St Paul's Knightsbridge**

The Parish Office  
32a Wilton Place  
London SW1X 8SH  
Phone 020 7201 9999  
E-mail [info@spkb.org](mailto:info@spkb.org)  
Website [www.spkb.org](http://www.spkb.org)

**DAILY SERVICES**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July:**

**Fourth Sunday after Trinity**  
**Family Mass** at 09:00 (AG)  
**Solemn Eucharist** at 11:00 (AG)  
*Preacher: Fr Victor Stock*

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup>:** Swithun  
*No services*

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>:** Osmund  
**Low Mass** at 18:00

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>:** Feria  
**Morning Prayer** at 09:00  
**The Wednesday Evening Service**  
at 19:00 *Preacher: Fr Victor Stock*

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>:** Elizabeth Ferard  
**Morning Prayer** at 09:00

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup>:** Gregory & Macrina  
**Morning Prayer** at 09:00

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>:**  
Margaret of Antioch  
**Morning Prayer** at 09:00

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July:**  
**Fifth Sunday after Trinity**  
**Family Mass** at 09:00 (VS)  
**Solemn Eucharist** at 11:00 (MC)  
*Preacher: Bp Michael Colclough*



**PARKING!**

Do you need a parking space in Belgravia, or know of someone who might?! We have a parking space available in the churchyard for weekday parking at a very competitive rate. *Further details from Claire in the parish office – [claire@spkb.org](mailto:claire@spkb.org).*

**THE FIGURATIVE TRUTH**



Like all pedants, I want to start by saying I'm not pedantic at all, but... 'Literally.' One of the most infuriating common slips in contemporary spoken English is the misuse of the word 'literally.' For example, "Wow, the food was so spicy: it literally blew my head off!" No. You mean "figuratively speaking, it blew my head off," unless your head really is lying somewhere in the corner of a restaurant, detached from your body! "It was so hot I was literally melting." Unlikely! In fact, in such examples of spoken English, neither 'literally' nor 'figuratively' adds anything to such exclamations – it has simply become (like 'innit?' or 'kind of thing') just a widely adopted way of giving a statement rhetorical emphasis. But when you start to listen, the misuse of 'literally' is at epidemic levels.

So this week my heart sank and my senses began to bristle as my eye lighted on a short news piece on the BBC website which was headed, "My dad literally loved me to the moon and back." But I was in for a pleasant surprise – because in this case the statement was literally true! The piece (which I commend to you) is a short, very affecting little video interview in which the wife and daughter of Alan Bean, Apollo 12 astronaut and the fourth person to set foot on the surface of the moon, reminisce about their experience of being on the sidelines as family members in the late sixties as NASA achieved what seemed impossible in space exploration. In the interview, Amy Bean, the astronaut's daughter, says, "not many people can say 'I loved you to the moon and back' and literally mean it!"

In most spheres of life, the confusion of what is 'literal' and what is 'figurative' matters – actually – very little: it is just

annoying! But in the language we use of God (which is to say, 'theological' language) the confusing of the two modes of speaking matters very much indeed. Christians, if they are to make sense in the world, and if they are to dare to make ultimate truth claims about how life is, need to be clear and accurate in their use of language. Much of the language we use in theology is 'figurative' – because it is seeking to express what is, ultimately, beyond the reach of language. God and the things of God are essentially mysterious. We cause problems for ourselves when we carelessly imagine that things said to help us shape our sense of the divine are 'literally' true – to say nothing of the problems we create for others. This is true of theological language and it is also (particularly) true of the language of religious story (as, for example in the Bible).

Is what is 'literally true' more solid and reliable than what is 'figuratively true'? Not at all: the language of metaphor and analogy is essential if our thought is ever going to 'take off' and enable us to fly! We do, though, need to clean up our use of language if we are to be credible in an age of significant misunderstanding and miscommunication.

By the way, God loves us much further than 'to the moon and back' – we say he loves us 'from eternity,' whatever that means!

*Fr Alan Gyle*

**MICHAEL PAPADOPOULOS**

It is with real gratitude for his four years with us (but with not a little sadness at the prospect of his leaving) that we announced, a few weeks ago, that Michael Papadopoulos, our Assistant Director of Music, will be moving to Glasgow in September to take up the role of Emerging Artist Repetiteur with Scottish Opera. His last Sunday will be the last Sunday of July – at which time we'll look forward to thanking him properly for all that he has brought – so energetically – to the music-making at St Paul's. **The Churchwardens will be making the customary appeal for donations to a small leaving gift for him – and you can contribute in person or online at [www.spkb.org](http://www.spkb.org).** AGG

## UPCOMING EVENTS...

### DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY TEA CONCERT

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm



A 45 minute Dementia-Friendly concert followed by afternoon tea with soprano **Jenny Stafford**, mezzo-soprano **Vivien Conacher**, and pianist **Chad Vindin** who will perform favourite melodies from the operatic stage, tunes from the classic musicals, and well-loved songs from the past. Tickets are free, but please reserve your place at [www.spkb.org](http://www.spkb.org).

*If you're interested in helping with welcoming or serving tea, contact Caroline Docker via the parish office.*

### FOR YOUR DIARY

**The Parish Garden Party in the vicarage garden: 5<sup>th</sup> September 6:30pm-8:30pm**

### AUTUMN RETREAT TO INGOLSTADT AND AUGSBURG 11-13 October 2019



Join us for the second of two foreign retreats to sites of some of the most distinguished stained glass in Europe, led by Roland Brunner and Fr Alan Gyle. This trip will focus on the late 11th century glass in Augsburg, together with an introduction to the Lutheran tradition in nearby Ingolstadt. Each day (starting with welcome drinks on Friday at lunchtime) will include a time of prayer, some study and learning together, a visit to the Augsburg Cathedral to see the oldest stained glass in Germany, and time for self-guided exploration, rest or leisure activities. Each evening we will eat together. Full details and sign-up information on the website at [www.spkb.org/bavaria](http://www.spkb.org/bavaria).

## Who is doing what this Sunday?

### The Family Mass at 09:00

Celebrant & Preacher: *Fr Alan Gyle*  
Server: *Robert Thomas*

### The Solemn Eucharist at 11:00

Celebrant: *Fr Alan Gyle*  
Deacon: *Roland Brunner*  
Subdeacon: *Robert Thomas*  
Preacher: *Fr Victor Stock*  
Reader: *Susie Thornton*  
Intercessor: *Molly Bartle*  
Hospitality: *Jeremy Orlebar*

## For your prayers

### We pray this week for:

Sarah, Bishop of London; Lorna Gradden and Rob Clouston, our Churchwardens; our staff team; our Sister and Partner Parishes, St Paul's K-Street in Washington DC and All Saints, Nhamavilah, Mozambique;

The recently ordained as they embark upon their new ministries;

Those who lead the church that they may do so with integrity, and we pray for the constant renewal of the church.

### Among the sick and those in need:

Victoria Jones; Maya Habboush; Sall Allen; David Eckland; Nicky Lindsay; Penny Higgs; Tessa Murphy; Reg Francis; Philippe Romano; Paule Bedford; Nicole Lejeune.

### All the recently departed:

William Macauley; Humberto Mafra.

### And we pray for those whose year's mind falls during the month of July:

Colin Marshall	5 <sup>th</sup>
Archibald Bertram Cooke	6 <sup>th</sup>
Peter Moore	6 <sup>th</sup>
Simon Constable	8 <sup>th</sup>
George Quayle	9 <sup>th</sup>
Georgie Quayle	10 <sup>th</sup>
Jasmine Lydia Bligh	10 <sup>th</sup>
Kenneth James	19 <sup>th</sup>
Robert Freestone	19 <sup>th</sup>
Peter Adcock	21 <sup>st</sup>
Roseleen Conlon	21 <sup>st</sup>
Leslie Truman	24 <sup>th</sup>
Walter Hussey, priest	25 <sup>th</sup>
Gail Clymer	25 <sup>th</sup>
Patrick Allen	27 <sup>th</sup>
Ian Davies	28 <sup>th</sup>
Selwyn Powell	28 <sup>th</sup>
Keith Turbayne	28 <sup>th</sup>
David Jordan	29 <sup>th</sup>
Celia Ball	31 <sup>st</sup>

## WHO'S WHO at ST PAUL'S?

### THE CLERGY



(l-r) **The Vicar** Fr Alan Gyle ([alan@spkb.org](mailto:alan@spkb.org));  
**Honorary Assistant Clergy**  
Bishop Michael Colclough;  
Fr Victor Stock.

### LICENSED LAY MINISTER



Roland Brunner.

*A priest is available before or after services for confession and spiritual guidance, and also by appointment. A member of the parish clergy is always available in pastoral emergencies and we will be glad to be contacted at whatever hour, seven days a week; however, as a general rule, Fr Alan is unavailable on Mondays.*

### LAY OFFICERS



(l-r) **Churchwardens:** Lorna Gradden & Robert Clouston ([wardens@spkb.org](mailto:wardens@spkb.org))  
**Treasurer:** Noel Craven  
**Safeguarding officer:** Margaret Gadow

### The Deputy Churchwardens & their responsibilities:

Caroline Docker (Hospitality); Gardenia Griffith (Welcoming); Roland Brunner (Volunteering); Serena Butt (Incorporation) Margaret Gadow (Safeguarding); Virginia Craven (Children's Advocacy); Susie Thornton (Communication & brand); Sarah Tytherleigh (Vestments, fabric & plate); Tom Tull (Wednesday evenings); Aidan Linton-Smith (Family Mass); Jeremy Orlebar (Building maintenance)

### THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



(l-r) **Director of Music** Dr Stephen Farr ([sforganist@gmail.com](mailto:sforganist@gmail.com))  
**Assistant Director of Music** Michael Papadopoulos ([michael.pap514@gmail.com](mailto:michael.pap514@gmail.com))  
**Music Scholars** Benjamin Newlove (organ) & Findlay Spence ('cello and composition)

### IN THE PARISH OFFICE



(l-r) **Vicar's PA:** Felicity Cranfield ([felicity@spkb.org](mailto:felicity@spkb.org)), Claire Pilton ([claire@spkb.org](mailto:claire@spkb.org));  
**Head of Future Programmes:** Phil Davies ([phil@spkb.org](mailto:phil@spkb.org)); **Caretaker:** Adam Modzelewski