

Winter 2010/11

InSpire



'Cherub Offering a Shell' – Eunice Goodman, 2010.

The Magazine of St Luke's Church, Maidenhead

The Cracking Tale of Tom Smith
Richard's Leaving Party and Installation
Life in Russia in Winter
Trip to Whitechapel Bell Foundry
Review of the Year



St Luke's Church, Maidenhead

InSpire

Produced three times a year

Editor: Andrew Burdett

Front cover: 'Cherub Offering a Shell' by Eunice Goodman, 2010.

Many thanks to all the contributors to this issue.

Next issue: Easter 2011

Regular Services at St Luke's

Sundays

8:00am: Eucharist (said) – Second and Fifth Sundays only

10:00am: Sung Eucharist

(First Sunday in the month – All-age worship)

6:00pm: Evening Worship at either St Luke's, All Saints, or Cox Green. (Further details on separate 'Sundays at Six' leaflet)

Tuesdays

7:15pm: Eucharist or Evening Prayer

Wednesdays

10:00am: Eucharist or Morning Prayer

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Schoolboy of 14 edits church's magazine

North Town: Pupil produces InSpire after vicar departs



HEADLINE NEWS: Editor Andrew Burdett gets to work. Ref:108968-2

Speed Read
SCHOOLBOY Andrew Burdett, 14, is the new chief editor of InSpire, the colour magazine of St Luke's Church, Norfolk Road, Maidenhead. He has taken over from vicar Richard Holroyd, who has moved to Bristol.

A TALENTED teenager has stepped up to become chief editor of his church magazine. Fourteen-year-old Andrew Burdett, of Mallow Park, took over the role after vicar Richard Holroyd left St Luke's Church in Norfolk Road to move to Bristol.

By Amanda Hall
amanda@baylismedia

During the interregnum, we've all had to take on jobs (big and small) that were previously done by Richard (the vicar). I agreed to edit *InSpire*, just one of the many tasks that he used to look after. Richard's departure really makes you appreciate everything he did, but we are doing well to support each other as we prepare for the busiest time of the Church year.

You may have seen me in the *Maidenhead Advertiser* (9 December 2010), putting the finishing touches to this issue.

I was a little anxious when, one week before the deadline, I'd received just a couple of articles, but it's all come together, so thank you to all who contributed.

Whilst, naturally, you'd expect the odd

one or two changes due to a change of editor, lots of the work that has gone on in updating *InSpire* has been behind-the-scenes. More prominently, I've written a style-guide to make the content consistent in formatting and punctuation, and I've introduced new 'mastheads' for each lead article, mainly for easier editing work.

I'd love to hear your suggestions. Please send your comments and content for Easter's edition to this address:
InSpire@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk.

Andrew Burdett
December 2010
Acting editor of *InSpire*

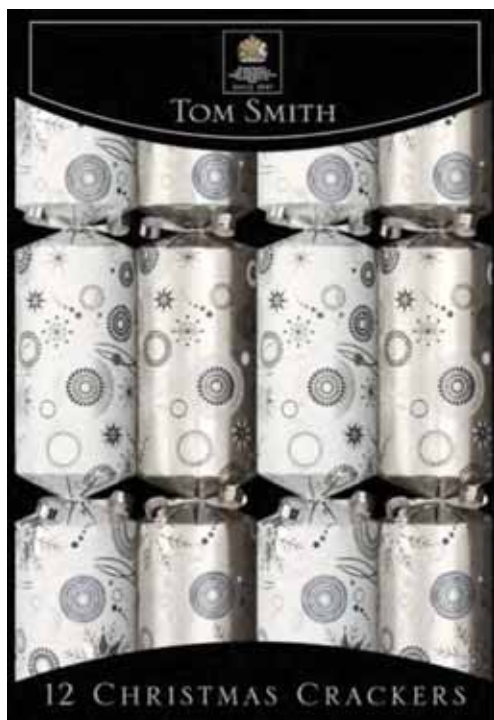
The Cracking Tale of Tom Smith

At lunchtime on Christmas Day, families across the UK and the Commonwealth will pull crackers – but few people know quite how this odd tradition originated.

Submitted by: Tony and Enid Barber

It was on a trip to Paris in 1840, that an adventurous and forward-thinking Tom Smith discovered the 'bon bon' sugared almond, wrapped in a twist of tissue paper. Seven years later this simple idea evolved into the Christmas Cracker.

By placing a small love motto in the tissue paper, he created enormous interest in this product especially at Christmas, and it was during a search for inspiration to achieve even greater sales that he casually threw a log on the fire. The crackle sound, made by the burning log, gave him the idea that would eventually lead to the crackers that we know and love today. After a great deal of hard work and experimentation, he came up with a cracking mechanism that created a 'pop' as the 'bon bon' wrapping was broken. This eventually became the snap, and the cracker was born.



Over the next few years, his idea evolved and grew, and he moved from his original premises in Clerkenwell, East London, to Finsbury Square in the City. His sons, Tom, Walter, and Henry, took over the business when he died, and Walter later erected a drinking fountain in Finsbury Square in memory of his mother and to commemorate the life of the man who invented the Christmas Cracker – his father.

It was Walter too who introduced the paper hats, and he toured the world to find new and unusual gifts.

The company was very aware of current affairs, and crackers were created for the suffragettes, war heroes, Charlie Chaplin, the Coronation, and many other great occasions. Exclusive crackers were (and still are) made for the Royal Family, earning them their first Royal Warrant in 1906. ■



A Fond Farewell to Richard

After 14 years at St Luke's, Richard decided to "move on" to become priest-in-charge of two parishes in Bristol. To wish him the best, we arranged a send-off party on 17 October.

Words: John Sheppard

Photography: Andrew Burdett, Sonya Clarke

Religious leaders come and go.
 It's not easy praising God, so here's a message on our Vicar.
 He's a wizard at his job.
 He'll encourage you, not ram religion down your throat.
 He loves the sacred centre and the power it invokes.
 He had plans for the worn-out pews and *Son et Lumiere*,
 And his open garden fetes were renowned everywhere.
 He takes a regular part in swim and cycle rides
 For charity and ye olde church funds.
 Then there's outreach, in-reach, shake-it-all-about-reach
 To make St Luke's church hum.
 He loves his Taizé chanting and escaping to retreat
 Children's corner, small faces, and candles lit – a treat,
 Holding babies while he sluices water round the font.
 Flicking dripping finger at anyone he wants.



He's a real life born and bred Geoffrey Boycott man
 Dogged and determined but as honest as they come.
 He wears his emotions on his sleeve, as only carers can
 With an infectious laugh, Tommy Cooper Fez
 And Noel Coward gown, he looks so twee.

He's mothered by the ladies who love
 him like a son, with his Ronnie Corbett dimples
 and favoured Sally Lunn bun.
 They don't make them any more.

It would be nice to replicate him and keep him evermore.
 But he's off to foreign lands where they speak a different tongue.
 So watch out Bristol: wind him up and let him come.
 With many thanks for 14 years; didn't he do well?
 Let's raise a toast to his ship shape future
 and the passing of the bell.
 An oxen in the lowing stall will be heard by one and all
 And we shall wait his coming when the Vicar comes to call.



Richard, above, receives gifts of a memorial book of St Luke's, and artwork purchased at Taizé in the summer.

The above poem was written by the late John Sheppard, for the last of his wife Ruth's recitals which Richard accompanied.

Ruth and John, right, at the recital on 31 October 2010.



Bristol Welcomes Revd. Holroyd

On the evening of Wednesday 3 November, a 53-seater coach was booked to take members of the congregation to St Paul's, Clifton to watch the licensing of Richard at his new parishes in Bristol.

Words and photography: Andrew Burdett

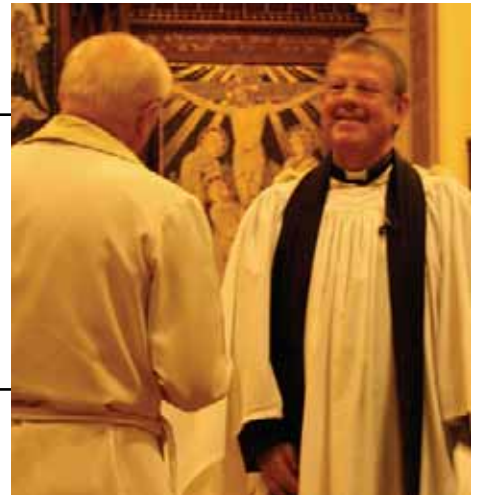


If the size of the contingent which made its way from Maidenhead to Bristol was anything to go by, the congregation and community at St Paul's, Clifton, and St Mary's, Cotham would be left in no doubt that their new priest would be well worth the two and a half years of interregnum they would be leaving.

The grand organ piped up the first few bars of All My Hope on God is Founded, followed by the wonderful acoustic of St Paul's resonating the sound of the choir and 200-strong congregation. The sermon was given by a familiar face to many of us: Lee Rayfield, former vicar at St Peter's, Furze Platt. He's now the Bishop of Swindon and he made a very interesting point:

"If anyone had spoken to Richard or me ten years ago, vicars of two humble neighbouring parishes in sunny Maidenhead, and told us that I would be his bishop and licensing him here in Bristol today, neither of us would have believed them."

– Lee Rayfield, 3 November 2010



The penultimate hymn was the wonderful 'Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You', which has many touching and appropriate lines. I find myself belting out "When you laugh I'll laugh with you; I will share my joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through." Despite really being about God, I let my mind wander to the moments of joy, sorrow, and laughter that we have all shared with Richard, and the years of similar moments that Bristol's communities will also experience with their new priest. His unique brand of 'service with a smile' will be well-received by the community there, but dearly missed by us back home at St Luke's.

As the procession made their way to the back of the church on the last hymn, I realised that this was it. It was truly the end of an era. Following refreshments which were of surplus-demand, we bid our last goodbyes. "C'mon, the coach is waiting," someone said, and that was the cue to leave. And so as one parish's long interregnum finishes, another's is just beginning. ■

Ministry, Music, and Mirth

Jilly Bevitt gives us a personal insight into the years she shared with Richard Holroyd.

Words: Jilly Bevitt Photography: Andrew Burdett

For our sins, Roger and I are the longest serving regular members of St Luke's congregation. My family connections go back to 1866 as my maternal great-grandfather helped build the church. It was also the spiritual home of my father's family for generations.

In 1993, I started a series of short articles for the Parish Magazine titled 'Vicars I Have Known'. In hindsight it was a rather dubious choice of title, as a year later (and just one month before their wedding), Martin and Bee walked into church to find that there was no-one to conduct the wedding service. Martin reassured Bee by telling her, "Never mind. My mum has known lots of vicars. She'll find someone."

Anyhow, I wrote cameo articles about all seven vicars, including Richard's predecessor who could be a formidable individual at times. Luckily he took it all in good part. Now it is the turn of Richard to undergo my scrutiny. I probably find this one of the harder tasks because I never knew Richard as well as many of the earlier vicars, perhaps because we are both relatively shy people and didn't communicate very well together.

Richard was inducted as Priest-in-Charge of our parish on 31 May 1996 and was later to be made our vicar. He came into a 'wounded' parish (we had suffered a pastoral breakdown), but soon succeeded in the healing process. He was to become our longest-serving vicar since Canon Fry (my first vicar) at 14 years.

In my opinion, Richard's greatest attribute as a priest was his humility. I think he was the most self-effacing priest we have ever had. He always talked of "us" and never just "I" or "you" when mentioning both failings and strivings. It was also comforting to know that like many of us he had his own doubts on the validity of some of the biblical teachings. He was a jolly fellow, bouncing along and never afraid to get his hands dirty:

tidying up the church building and moving his beloved piano. Music played an important part in Richard's ministry. He employed both a director-of-music and an organist – both excellent – to lead the choir. At the time, I was sorry to see Wendy Watson go as she had musically educated many young people and I had known her best at the peak of her career (before deafness affected her abilities and sometimes made her difficult to communicate with).

Richard was extremely kind and caring to Wendy during her terminal illness even if he had found her trying at times during earlier years. Many people were to find Richard most caring in times of crisis. I remember one year, when he found time on Christmas Eve (the busiest time of the year) to visit a close member of the congregation when he heard that she had suddenly lost her brother. He was also extremely caring for the elderly, and was a friendly face at the Thursday Teas and various nursing homes and hospitals.

Richard had a great sense of fun. He was a giggler.

We all enjoyed sessions around his piano at various social events and his house was an open invitation. He was also an excellent cook and laid on very tasty refreshments on these occasions. Helen Poynter had mooted the idea of a pantomime theme for the January Social Evening in 2011 but Helen fell poorly and sadly the idea was dropped. Even still, Roger and I had already cast Richard as the Dame and the two Lay Readers as... you can work that out for yourself!



Ministry, Music, and Mirth (continued)



The classical concerts which were occasionally held on Sunday afternoons boosted our fundraising coffers, but I do wish that there had been occasions when lighter music was on the programme to bring in a wider audience from the parish. The summer arts festivals, which were held biennially, were very good at presenting religious ideas through art, and Richard also encouraged children to join in.



Richard had a good rapport with children both in the school and church services. Personally, I would have liked the family service on the first Sunday of the month to be more child-orientated in its liturgy and hymns.

He took part in various outings (including the young people's trips), was a valiant swimmer in the annual Swimathon, and took part in a 'fund-run' on one occasion.

I'm sure some of the friends he made in the parish could relate further stories of both the hilarious and more serious side of our spiritual director. Our prayers and good wishes go with him as he undertakes new challenges in Bristol. ■

CHURCH FIREWORK PARTY

Words: Andrew Burdett

As in previous years, Eileen and Peter Goford very kindly hosted the Junior Church's Bonfire Party. The event was well-attended, with many young excitable Sunday Clubbers enjoying the rockets – set off by Brian Darracott and Peter.

The annual bonfire party, which has been held at the Gofords' for many years, lasted for a good few hours and saw several hundred pounds' worth of explosives (brought along by attendees) launched from the Laxton Green back garden.

Thanks to everyone who made it so successful. ■

Sparklers with sparklers

After handing out the handheld fireworks to the children at the bonfire party, someone said, "When you're finished with the dead sparklers, put them in the bucket."

Thinking they meant the 'Sparklers' youth church discussion groups, someone then asked "What are they going to do with the Sunday Club?"

Reordering St Luke's: Winter 2010 Update

The team who are dreaming up a reordering of the church sent us an update of their progress.

Words: Kevin Baughan (on behalf of the reordering group)

Thank you! Thank you for all the ideas and feedback that you gave to the reordering group during our sermon slot on 7 November. Not only did we manage to collect the input from everyone

in the four "birthday" groups but as you can see, we also received some inspirational drawings and thoughts from the children and parents in the Sunday Club. What colour and imagination – I'm seriously thinking about engaging the Sunday Club as our architects should the need arise.

The reordering group met later in the month to reflect on everything that was submitted and to also recognise that there were people who might not have felt able to express their views – particularly if they were of the opinion that the church should not be altered. So the group wanted me to reassure everyone that we are not seeking change for change's sake and that at each step

of this journey we will consult the community as widely as possible, and not presume that silence necessarily means consent.



In considering all of the feedback received, the group identified a number of dominant themes and then chose three of these to act as the focal point for our initial discussions. The first of these focal points was St Luke's as a House of God. Many of the comments we received wanted to

I'm seriously thinking about engaging the Sunday Club as our architects.

make sure that we didn't lose sight of the fact that, first and foremost, St Luke's is a House of God. Indeed, we only have to look up from the pews to

remind ourselves of this. One of my most vivid recollections from the visit to Taizé this summer is

Reordering St Luke's: Winter 2010 Update (continued)

of Brother John's challenging suggestion that we should be thinking not about what God is asking us to do, but rather thinking about what God is calling us to be. In a similar vein we can challenge ourselves collectively as to what God is calling St Luke's to be and in turn how reordering the church could facilitate that calling. Terrie, Shula, and I will be taking the lead on this aspect of our discussions and so please feel free to come and share your thoughts on this with us.

The second focal point is our wonderful choir, so Clare, Sue, and Serena will be leading our discussions in this area. They'll also be linking up with John and the rest of the choir to consider the many ideas that we received, and in particular whether the choir should be brought out of the Chancel and closer to the rest of the congregation.

The third and final focal point for our initial discussions is the Office. Currently, it is located in the vicarage and a number of people are concerned that this might not be appropriate in the future – particularly if our new vicar has a family. Leading the discussions in this area are Don, Barbara, and Richard.

If you would like to find out more about these areas, or share more ideas of your own, please feel free to talk to the relevant members of the reordering group (or whoever from the reordering group is nearest to hand).

From the feedback we received after the service, there was also a strong sense that people were understandably nervous of large scale change and that they were much more comfortable with gradual change or even experimental changes that could easily be reversed. This makes a lot of sense and so the group will certainly think carefully about how we might be able to do this as we start to explore more specific proposals. In the meantime we have a lot more thinking, discussing, and reflecting still to do. We look forward to coming back in the New Year to update you on our progress. ■

NO EXCUSE SUNDAY

New ways of solving falling church attendance figures.

Submitted by: Ralph and Sue Hinchliffe

In order to make it possible for everyone to attend church in the future, we are planning a special 'No Excuse Sunday'.

1. Camp-beds will be placed in the Vestibule for those who say, "Sunday is my only day for sleeping in".
2. Eye drops will be available for those whose eyes are tired from watching TV too late on Saturday night.
3. Steel helmets will be issued to those who are worried that the roof will cave in if ever they show up for church.
4. Blankets will be furnished for those who feel that the church is too cold. (Handheld fans will be made available for those who consider it too hot.)
5. Hearing aids will be provided for anyone who thinks the vicar is speaking too softly. (Earplugs will be available for those who thinks that he speaks too loudly.)
6. We will provide TV dinners for those who claim that they can't go to church and cook dinner too.
7. The Sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies to create a familiar environment for those who have never seen the church without them.



And then **no-one** would have **any** excuse not to come! ■

Ringling Out Loud and Clear

In November, a party from St Luke's visited the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London, the birthplace of our own church's bells.

Words: Eileen Goford Photography: Ann Burdett

Such is the demand for tours of Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London that Ann Burdett had to book the date a full year in advance.

streets of Whitechapel. The buildings that house the foundry date from 1670 and are Grade II listed so cannot be altered in any way.

At 11:30am on 13 November, some of the 22 members of St Luke's who had signed up for the trip met at Maidenhead railway station to travel together to Whitechapel Road. We arrived in time to have a picnic lunch and a warming drink in Starbuck's, before we arrived at the Bell Foundry at 1:45pm to meet the rest of the group.



Whitechapel Bell Foundry made the Liberty Bell in 1752 and Big Ben (weighing 13.5 tons) in 1858. A model of the pattern used to make the mould for Big Ben completely frames the entrance, giving a sense of scale.

We climbed up steep ladders to the very top and saw the carpenter's shop with memorial tablets commemorating former workers dating back to the 1700s.

Our tour was led by one of the owners and he gave a terrific insight into the history of the place. In the foyer we saw pictures of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip who had recently visited.

There is no room for any more.

The factory can boast an unbroken line of founders in Aldgate and Whitechapel dating back to the year 1420, which was before Columbus sailed for America. The current firm was established in 1570 during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and has been in continuous business since then. A North American myself, I found these facts amazing.



From bells 13.5 tons to hand bells, Whitechapel has produced and is producing them all. The only way you can learn to be a founder is by being an apprentice. Making bells has been in the tour guide's family for centuries.

It was a great trip and a wonderful history lesson and if you are ever given the chance to go, seize it with both hands.

There is even a gift shop where you can buy the best brass cleaning polish in Christendom. Thank you Ann for arranging such a great trip. ■

Whitechapel Bell Foundry moved to its present site in 1888 when Jack the Ripper stalked the

Hail to the Lord's Anointed: a Hymn for Epiphany

Words: Roger Bevitt

This hymn is a paraphrase of Psalm 72 which foresees the coming of a messiah king who, in many ways, is Christlike. You may wish to compare the words of psalm and hymn to more fully understand the imagery and its appropriateness to Epiphany. The author of the hymn added his own idea to the psalm in the last two lines 'His name shall stand forever; That name to us is Love.' The hymn book editors have changed these words slightly, and if you think that parts of the psalm are missing from the hymn, you're right; the editors have also left out two of the verses of the original. The missing third verse read:

By such shall he be fear-ed While sun and moon endure;
Beloved, obeyed, rever-ed; For he shall judge the poor
Through changing generations, With justice, mercy, truth,
While stars maintain their stations, Or moons renew their youth.

Our present fifth verse comprises halves of two of the original verses. The first half was followed by:

For he shall have dominion O'er river, sea and shore,
Far as the eagle's pinion Or dove's light wing can soar.

and the second half was followed by:

The mountain dews shall nourish A seed in weakness sown,
Whose fruit shall spread and flourish, And shake like Lebanon.

“Members of the congregation got the hymn book banned in the Church courts under an ancient law, because the words were not all taken directly from the Bible.”

On the whole I'm with the editors – but who was the author? James Montgomery (1771-1854) was brought up in the Moravian sect. His parents went as missionaries to the slaves on the West Indian sugar plantations and died there while James was still a young child. He grew up with the idea of becoming a Pastor but started work as a shopkeeper, soon to go into printing and (at the age of 23) became the editor of a radical periodical in Sheffield, where he could publicise his then-controversial views. He opposed slavery and child chimney sweeps; liked the idea of

teaching Sunday School children to write; and liked certain aspects of the French Revolution (this resulted in the first of two spells in prison). His religious practice changed over the years, becoming a Wesleyan and ending as an Anglican. He helped pioneer the writing and production of the first Anglican hymn book, but members of the congregation got it banned in the Church courts under an ancient law, because the words were not all taken directly from the Bible. However the law was repealed in 1821 and Anglicans could again sing hymns. In the same year, our hymn was published, one of 12 of Montgomery's hymns still in our hymn book (and one of more than 400 that he wrote altogether).

The tune we use (called Cruger) was adapted by W H Monk, the first musical editor of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, from a chorale written in 1640 by Johann Cruger, a cantor at the cathedral of St Nicholas in Berlin. ■

Hail to the Lord's Anointed
(Hymn Number 87 in *Common Praise*)

The Sparklers' Grand Day Out

The first Saturday of December saw the Sparklers travel to London to see the real versions of the images they'd studied during their 'Christianity Through Art' season of discussions.

Words: Gill Curry Photography: Andrew Burdett



In early December, Zoe, Matthew, Rachel, and Andrew from the Sparklers, and their leaders Johanna, Bridget, Serena, and Gill, set off for a day in London. It was a cold and dreary Saturday morning, and the information input started straight away on Maidenhead Station. The newly installed seated statue of Sir Nicholas Winton was unknown to some of the group, so that was a lesson on the evacuation of Jewish children from Czechoslovakia prior to September 1939. Once at Paddington, we took the bus to Trafalgar Square, where there were more explanations about the Battle of Trafalgar, and Admiral Nelson on his column. The reasoning behind the annual gift of a Christmas tree (started in 1947) from Norway was told by Johanna and the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square and its regularly changing displays also took some explaining.

By then we had reached the top of the steps outside the National Gallery, and were admiring the view down Whitehall when we noticed something going on by the Christmas tree. A group of about thirty young men were stripping off their clothes and donning Father Christmas hats. They proceeded to put on a dance around the paved area on public display. Apparently it was to raise funds for research into testicular cancer, but we were all amazed and amused by their antics. Meanwhile, Bridget took photos of our expressions and their well rehearsed display. It just goes to show, in London you never know what you will see.

Then we all went to have a hot chocolate drink in the National Gallery, before tackling our project. We have been studying a great variety of

examples of the Christian religion, as depicted in the art of different cultures and times. Some of them are displayed in this major London Gallery, as well as many other works based on stories from the Old and New Testaments.



We saw works by Rembrandt and Pierra della Francesca, as well as being introduced to less well-known artists from the fourteenth to nineteenth centuries. The main galleries, and particularly the Sainsbury's Wing, have an amazing collection of the very best examples. The rooms in the Gallery were not crowded, so we were able to have group discussions about many individual works. The atmosphere was very relaxed, with some amusement by the security guards about our antics. The figures in the large altarpiece paintings, which are covered with gold leaf and bright colours are best viewed from below (as they would have been in the candlelit churches for which they were designed), so we all lay on the floor to view them!

We looked at the Wilton Diptych which was made as a portable altarpiece for the young Richard II, and various triptychs which were probably only

The Sparklers' Grand Day Out (continued)

fully opened up on special days in the church's calendar. Somebody said, "I bet that would bring in the crowds" – nothing really changes. One room had many panels, designed for a mainly non-literate society, which are storyboards of whichever part of the Bible they are relating to. There was one set of a series of fourteenth-century paintings, which showed incidents in the life of Jesus as clearly as the pictures in an illustrated bible of our century. The gift of patronage of an artist (where the family members of the commissioner are painted as observers in a scene) was explained as a more genteel form of the Indulgences of the pre-Reformation period.

We also had the time and mental energy to look at some fine examples of other work in the gallery, such as the one of the two young Ambassadors to the Court of St James, wearing splendid clothes and surrounded by items illustrating how educated and successful they were. The Sparklers had their own favourites among the works we saw, and confidently expressed their opinions.

But after an hour and a half, we had all reached cultural saturation point, so strolled down to the Pizza Express near Charing Cross. We found a table for eight, and Andrew showed us the photos he'd taken during the morning on his laptop – which he just happened to have in his rucksack! Matthew, Zoe, and Rachel all connected themselves to their various technological gadgets, before they came dangerously close to suffering withdrawal symptoms.

By the time we emerged, the lights on the Norwegian Christmas tree were twinkling away. After a great time, we took the bus back to Paddington and the train home. The aim of the day was to see some priceless and beautiful works of art, but it yielded so much more. As an ex-Londoner, I am always pleased to visit my old haunts, but I think that everyone gained in confidence and knowledge – as well as having a really good time. ■

Watch a video of the trip on the website:
www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

Guest Column

**Words: Revd Kelvin Inglis,
 vicar, All Hallows' Church
 in Whitchurch, Hampshire**

Just filling in a few entries in my 2011 diary and I see that Easter Day next year will fall on April 24. A late Easter, you may think, but not so very unusual. Well, I would be very interested to meet you if you can remember the last time that Easter fell on April 24, for it was the same year that *The Origin of Species* was published and that Big Ben started to chime. In reality, I think we can be certain that no-one is left who has memories of Easter Day 1859.



One day Easter will fall on April 24 again but not many of us will be around to see this as it will be in the year 2095. So why does Easter Day drift so much in the months of March and April? Because, as the *Book of Common Prayer* tells us, it is "always the First Sunday after the Full Moon which happens upon, or next after the Twenty-first Day of March; and if the Full Moon happens on a Sunday, Easter Day is the Sunday after." It is no wonder that many local authorities occasionally detach the Easter holidays from Easter.

Thinking about such things, I do find something a little humbling about the sweep of history. Just as the (mutton-chop whiskered) gentlemen and (splendidly bloomed) ladies of 1859 would be astonished at the way we live now, so we would, I am sure, be amazed to see the progress and regress of humanity over the next 85 years.

I am convinced that one constant in a changing world is that people will still be searching for truth and meaning. And the God who creates us and yearns for us to bear lasting fruit will still draw people into Christian discipleship. The tide of suffering inflicted, inexcusably, in the name of religion over those 150 years is negligible in comparison to the horrors that have been directed by atheistic and nationalistic tyrants. Easter will always speak of the victory of the God of Love, on whatever date it falls. ■

MOSCOU: RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW

From a biting cold Russia, former St Luke's parishioner Luke Darracott sent us this special report.

Words and photography: Luke Darracott

As I write this my toes are numb, I am wrapped up in my duvet, and the thermometers outside are showing -22°C . It's Russia, it's Moscow, and it's the winter. I can safely say that it is the coldest December I have ever experienced. Despite Mother Nature trying to give the UK a hard time with snow and minus numbers, it's not so cold in Blighty that it hurts.

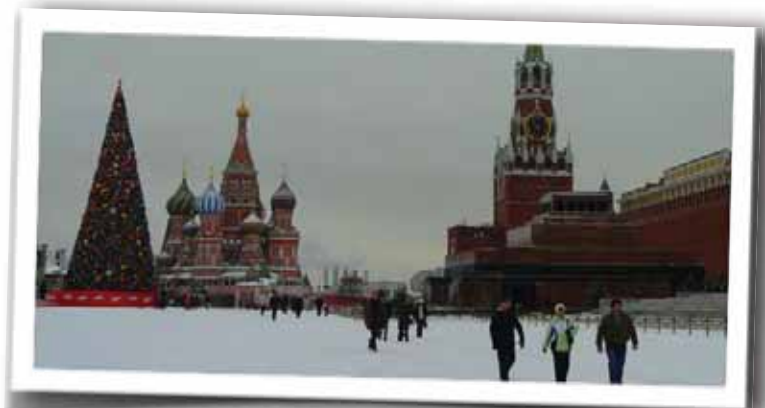
I was asked to write something for *InSpire* magazine, but was having trouble thinking of a topic. Obviously it was going to be centred on Russia but I couldn't easily cover 'religion' as I don't really know anything about it. I also can't really cover 'a Russian Christmas' as I have yet to experience it – they celebrate New Year before enjoying Christmas on 7 January. I could do a piece of the various architectural delights that sport a religious front; the constant barrage of decorative, coloured churches; gleaming, golden onion domes; the romantic, fairytale style monasteries; or the large, boxy cathedrals; but that wouldn't be overly interesting without a slideshow. What I can offer is a slice of the period I am in now. Like some two-bit foreign correspondent: "And now we join Luke in Moscow..."

Today is 1 December and I am attempting to – despite the lack of enthusiasm for my current teaching job and stinging, cold-splintered extremities – get into the mood for Christmas. It has yet to snow. It recently fell overnight from -9° to -16° and then to -22°C . The reflective, glassy offices where I go to teach tired businesspeople have grand tree/snow/sled/tinsel set pieces to welcome the workforce in the mornings and to bid them good tidings as they leave. The private academies where I sometimes teach children have paper snowflakes and festive decorations, presumably made by the kids, hanging up everywhere. They should enjoy it while they

can. If it gets to -30° , they are not allowed to go to school... apparently. As I walk, quickly mind, down the broad, traffic-filled, streets, I see that the coffee shops and restaurants have seasonal adornments stuck to the windows, often with the words 'S Noviy Godom' (meaning 'Happy New Year'), wafting about in different colours.

A toasty -4° has been forecast in the next few days, along with snow. Then it'll start to feel like Christmas is coming. Ded Moroz and Snegoruchka (Father Frost and Snow Maiden) will make their entrance and delight the children with showers of gifts and treats; fireworks will lift superheated explosions of rainbow up into the freezing heavens; mulled wine will slosh, steaming, into cups (with vodka taking a temporary backseat); and ski-rinks will be erected to provide entertainment to the skate-clad masses of Moscow's 15 million-strong population.

As you may see, this has been a somewhat chilly waffle about Moscow. I find that with Russia one can only waffle, such is the paradoxical nature of the place. The process for this period here is all fairly reminiscent of the UK but just a little bit different. A little bit Russian. Like the famous line from *Star Trek* goes 'It's life, Jim, but not as we know it'. ■



Red Square in snow (taken 4 December 2010).

A Different Christmas Poem

This thought-provoking poem reminds us that, on Christmas Day, our troops are still fighting for us on foreign shores.



Words: Michael Marks

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,
I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,
My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.
Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,
Transforming the garden to a winter delight.

The sparkling lights in the tree I believe,
Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.
My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,
Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep.
In perfect contentment, or so it would seem,
So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.

The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,
But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know,
Then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.

My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,
And I crept to the door just to see who was near.

Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,
A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.
A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old.
Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.
Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,
Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.

"What are you doing?" I asked without fear,
"Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!
Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve,
You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"
For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,
Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts.

To the window that danced with a warm fire's light
Then he sighed and he said "Its really all right,
I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night."
"It's my duty to stand at the front of the line,
That separates you from the darkest of times.

No one had to ask or beg or implore me,
My Grandfather died in France "on a day in
December",
The he sighed, "That's a Christmas Gran always
remembers."

My dad stood his watch in the jungles of 'Nam
And now it is my turn and so, here I am.

I've not seen my own son in more than a while,
But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her
smile.

The he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag,
The red, white, and blue... a Union flag.
I live through the cold and the being alone,
Away from my family, my house and my home.

I can stand at my post through the rain and the
sleet,

I can sleep in a trench with little to eat.
I can carry the weight of killing another,
Or lay down my life with my sister and brother
Who stand at the front against any and all,
To ensure for all time that this flag will not fall."

"So go back inside," he said, "harbour no fright,
Your family is waiting and I'll be alright."

"But isn't there something I can do, at the least,
"Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast?
It seems all too little for all that you've done,
For being away from your wife and your son."

Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,
"Just tell us you love us, and never forget.
To fight for our rights back at home while we're
gone,

To stand your own watch, no matter how long.
For when we come home, either standing or dead,
To know you remember we fought and we bled.
Is payment enough, and with that we will trust,
That we mattered to you as you mattered to us."

These Boots Were Made for Walking

St Luke's has a keen community of walkers. Here they give us round-ups of their recent rambles.

An Ipswich Interlude

**Words and photography:
Roger Clarke**

This year, our annual social/walking weekend was planned as a three-day break in the Suffolk county town of Ipswich. Consequently, over the course of Friday 8 October, a group of 16 of us made our way to the Ramada Hotel in Ipswich (on the banks of the River Orwell). Interestingly, when the Orwell goes above the tidal limit, its name changes to the River Gipping.

You will note that I have now categorised this event as a social/walking weekend. This is purely because Old Father Time is gradually taking its toll on us all and consequently, some come to walk; some to bird watch; and some just to tour, stroll, or relax. However, I hope that we all enjoy the 'craic'.

Saturday morning dawned quite pleasantly and, after a leisurely breakfast, a group of us made our way to Shingle Street, a tiny hamlet on the Suffolk Heritage Coast. Walking generally south along the coast, we made our way to the prominent feature of a Martello tower. This was apparently built in the early 1800s as a defensive position against a possible invasion by Napoleon. After the invasion threat receded, the tower known as 'AA' or 'A2' was utilised by the coastguards for housing, and continued to do so until around 1880 when purpose-built two-storey coastguard cottages were constructed. On reaching the tower, we turned northwest, leaving the coast and following a fascinating line of dykes through the Oxley Marshes where the more eagle-eyed of us spotted an interesting selection

of birdlife. At one point, we all got excellent views of a pair of curlew nonchalantly feeding on the marshland grasses. Just after this we turned southeastwards making our way along the quiet road which services Shingle Street and back to the cars, having enjoyed a walk of about 2.5 miles. Here, some left to make their way to other things and a smaller group continued a 'there and back' stroll along the shingle following the Suffolk Coast Path. Here, more birdlife was spotted, but the dominant feature was the fascinating sight of watching the River Ore force its way into the sea as it exited Orford Haven. We had all enjoyed our first excursion of the weekend and the weather



had been quite kind although, as we neared the cars for the second time, the temperature had dropped and drizzle was in the air.

Sunday dawned clear and bright, and after breakfast we made our way by various means to the

church of St Mary-le-Tower in Ipswich Town Centre. St Mary's is not only a parish church, but also the Civic Church for the town of Ipswich. We were all made very welcome and indeed were introduced as "the walking group from St Luke's, Maidenhead". As I am sure is the case with other dominations of the Christian church, it is both reassuring and uplifting to feel so at home as a member of the Anglican Communion, whichever church we choose to visit. After the service, a walk had been planned in 'Constable Country' and therefore those of us making our way on foot set off for East Bergholt, birthplace of John Constable and a place familiar, I'm sure, to many *InSpire* readers. Our walk, in lovely sunshine, started due west and passing Constable's studio. Continuing on, we reached the strangely named Dead Lane, an ancient sunken footpath. Here we turned first south and then southeast past Fishpond Wood and down to Dedham Vale and the River Stour at Fen Bridge. Shortly afterwards,

These Boots Were Made for Walking (continued)

we stopped for lunch on the riverbank and watched the many other people enjoying the autumn sunshine.

These included other ramblers; dog walkers; and those rowing (or otherwise) on various small river craft – not at all as it would have been in Constable's time! Continuing along the riverbank we arrived at Flatford Mill and the Visitor Centre where we had arranged to



meet Jan and Dick. They in turn had very kindly agreed to meet us and ferry back those who did not want to walk any further. Wonderfully, it all worked with military precision and we were able to spend some time together exploring the small museum and shop before a now-smaller group continued on back to the cars at East Bergholt. On departing again, we first walked a short distance on the south side of the river in order that we could see Flatford Mill and Willy Lott's house from the bank. We then returned to the visitor centre and then along the road for the more traditional views. Strangely, as we looked across the water with Willy Lott's house on the left and the mill on the right, imagining the 'haywain' midstream, we were surprised to realise we were viewing it all alone. Everything was hustling and bustling in the centre and on the river, but here we almost seemed to be transported back in time. Having taken our fill of what must be one of the most famous views in England, we climbed uphill out of Dedham Vale and back to East Bergholt. Lovely surroundings, great views, interesting history, and a gentle walk of just under four miles.

On Monday, we awoke to another lovely sunny morning. After yet another leisurely breakfast we all checked out of the hotel in order to make our way home. Some of us would be walking, but most were travelling back either directly or with another itinerary en route. Those who were walking made their way to the Suffolk hamlet of Thorington Street. Close by is Thorington Hall, a National Trust property and said to be one of the finest timber framed houses in Suffolk. Parking near to the main road, we started by walking north along the 'main street' with its mixture of

housing styles. Soon we branched left and at times followed the tiny River Box. On meeting the

Stour Valley Path at Valley Farm we turned just north of east and followed a lovely undulating path with fine views. Meeting another long distance path the St Edmund's way we turned southeast and then south before taking our lunch break. On the move again, we followed

along the romantically named Snow Hill before turning eastwards to pass Thorington Hall and a lovely wider stretch of the River Box, seemingly reserved for trout fishing. From here it was only a short distance back to our cars after another lovely walk of just under four miles. Then we said our goodbyes and made our way back to Maidenhead.

We had been blessed with lovely weather, great company, and more than adequate hotel accommodation. Thanks to all of you who came and made it such a happy occasion; please God we can plan another excursion in 2011. ■

Local Walks

Words: Roger Bevitt

The moon, having been totally absent on the September night originally scheduled for the annual moonlit walk, was fully out when we tried again in October. There was great visibility for the duration of the walk (over the hills from Aston to Remenham and back along the Thames towpath), but a little chilly: the blazing wood-fire at the Flower Pot was very welcome.

The next walk will be Roger Clarke's post-Christmas stroll (27 December) and we hope to arrange a winter wildfowl walk not too far into the new year. Check the news sheet for details.

Roger and Jilly Bevitt
(Telephone 01628 633464) ■

Thursday Group

Thursday Group leader Sonya Clarke updates us on their latest and forthcoming meetings.

Words: Sonya Clarke

For whatever reason, somehow or other the article for Thursday Group intended for the Autumn edition of *InSpire* was omitted, so I've had to include some old news in this Winter write-up.

The summer seems some time ago now, but we at Thursday Group enjoyed a wonderful Summer Party held at Julienne Grobler's home (for which we thank her) and – from memory – the weather wasn't too bad.

Our 2009/10 year concluded with the AGM at which we handed over two cheques to the value of £400.00 each: one to the Air Ambulance, and one to RNLI. Both charities sent a representative to receive these donations who expressed their gratitude and explained how the money would be spent. Our new charity for the coming year will be Sebastian's Action Trust. It was decided to support just one charity this year, enabling us to donate a larger sum of money.

We started our new year on 23 September with our enrolling evening (at which the new programme was issued), and our

guest speaker was a representative from Sebastian's Action Trust. She explained how the Trust came about, what its function will be, and how our donation will make a difference.

In October, we hosted a highly successful *Question Time*-themed evening, where attendees had the opportunity to forward a topical question to our panel, made up of Phyllis Sigsworth, Shula Tajima, Ralph Hinchliffe, and Richard Holroyd. Questions ranged from thoughts on empty churches and government cuts, to the use of frozen embryos and how the press cover their stories. Did you know that churchwarden Shula

enjoys to snuggle up in bed with George on a Saturday night to watch *Match of the Day*? You can imagine the laughter and consternation between those who weren't aware that George is her beloved dachshund.

At our November meeting, our guest speaker was Angela McNab who gave us a fascinating talk and demonstration of her wax artworks – so much so, in fact, that even I had a dabble at creating a picture made of molten wax! All who were there attempted one, and some of the creations were really very good!

As I write this, we have already enjoyed one foray around the Parish bringing the spirit of Christmas to the streets. On 13 December, we enjoyed singing at Southgate House and then along Fairford Road, part of Norfolk Road, the upper end of Cordwallis Road, before returning to church via Risborough Road. There were only ten of us, but I have to say we made a goodly sound

– even without a musical instrument to keep us together! We were welcomed back at church with hot mince pies and warm mulled wine, for which we thank Phyllis and her little faithful band of helpers. Ben kindly

came down to count the takings, which amounted to £63.00 for the Children's Society. Not bad for a cold, frosty evening.

So what have we to look forward to? In January, Iris Brown will be coming to talk to us about the history of St Luke's Hospital, Maidenhead. For those who enjoy local history, this should be a gem of an evening. February finds us being entertained by Johanna Raffin, who will be giving us a talk on art, a subject that is a passion for her (and I am certain will make for a very interesting evening for us). Just to take us to March, Maidenhead Heritage Centre will be coming

Did you know that churchwarden Shula enjoys to snuggle up in bed with George on a Saturday night to watch *Match of the Day*?

Thursday Group (continued)

along to talk to us about the River Thames from the Cotswolds to the Sea. Again I envisage this evening as being one not to miss.

I'll try to arrange something for you. In the meantime, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Committee for all they do and for their constant support.

If you are not a member of Thursday Group, that doesn't stop you from attending any of the meetings. Non-members are always made very welcome (at a cost of £2.00 which includes refreshments). We meet on the third Thursday of the month (except December) from about 8.00pm in the Parish Centre.

Further information regarding Thursday Group can be obtained from me.

If transport is a problem, then do contact me and

Thursday Group

£2 per meeting for non-members
 £1 for members (£5 annual fee)
 8:00pm, third Thursday of every month,
 in the Parish Centre
 More information available from Sonya
 (leader) on 01628 632626.

I hope you are looking forward to the new year as much as me. As we approach Christmas and 2011, I wish you all the very best of times, and pray that peace and joy will remain with you all.

In case we think that time really does rattle past, just think, that the next edition of

InSpire will probably be out for Easter, so maybe it is appropriate to not only think about Christmas and the New Year now, but the coming of Lent, Holy Week and Easter. ■

Prayer Group



Our Prayer Group continues to meet on the first Wednesday of every month in church from 3:00pm. All are very welcome to come along and share quiet time in the presence of our Lord.

It is an opportunity for us to make time for ourselves, as well as coming to God. It's a very informal group where we share a scripture reading, a time of quiet and space, and a time of prayer.

Sonya Clarke
 (Telephone 01628 632626)

St Luke's Review of the Year

As 2010 draws to a close, we look back at the year of the Rio Evening, the Yorkshire weekend, and Richard's departure from St Luke's.

Words and photography: Andrew Burdett

2010 — What a year! Back in January, Haiti was rocked by a 7.0-magnitude earthquake killing at least 230,000 people. In April, Icelandic volcanic ash disrupted hundreds of thousands of Easter holiday-makers, as planes were grounded over fears of engine damage. There was also the Gulf of Mexico oil disaster (which was only resolved in September). In May, David Cameron came to power in the UK, after one of the most exciting elections in history. Spain won the 2010 FIFA World Cup in July, after the event (held in South Africa) 'kicked off' in June. In October, 33 Chilean miners – trapped 700 metres underground – were freed after a 69-day ordeal.

But what about St Luke's? In January, we once again entered teams for the Lions' Club's annual 'swimathon', raising a notable amount for good local causes. Also at the Magnet, the Sunday Club and Sparklers held their annual post-Christmas party which was well-attended.



In the same month, the fundraising committee organised the church's annual social evening. This year took on a colourful (in multiple senses) theme, as all enjoyed 'A Night in Rio'.



On Good Friday, the



creative juices among our community came together to organise this year's Easter Activity Morning. The end product was a series of hanging displays, featuring nails, thorns, and doves. These looked really excellent!



Over the first May Bank Holiday, St Luke's Parish Tours organised a trip to Yorkshire. Although the weather wasn't always brilliant, there were still enjoyable visits to Chatsworth House, Castle Howarth, Fountains Abbey (pictured), and York itself.



The first three weekends of June were busy. On Saturday 3, a small number travelled to Surrey for an open-air day-long production of The Life of Christ at the Wintershall Estate. Everyone who went agreed that it was excellent. The next Saturday (10 July), the

St Luke's Review of the Year continued



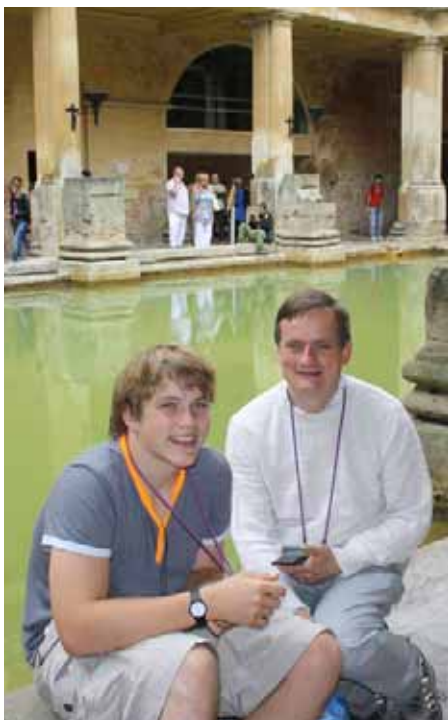
church's annual Summer Fair was held in the vicarage garden. Organised by the fundraising committee, and opened by Wyn Reynolds, the event raised £1460. St Luke's school choir

provided musical entertainment, and the Monica Larose dance groups pleased crowds during lunch. The weather was gorgeous all day!



This year's parish outing was to Bath, where the Abbey and the Baths were popular stopping-off points. Following a traditional packed tea, it was back home to Maidenhead, after a brilliant day.

Harriet Burdett held a concert in



church the following day, raising funds for the Wye Valley School's 'garden project' which aims to create a safe environment for the school's more vulnerable students – a cause near her heart, having worked there as a teaching assistant for children with learning disabilities during her gap year.



Throughout June and July, planning meetings were secretly underway for the biennial Summer Arts Project. The big week finally arrived in August, where – over a few short days alone – members of the congregation came together to make 4 triangular prisms with highly decorated sides, a 'Sound and Light Show', and a brand-new alter-cloth. To celebrate the week, the church's ordinary floodlighting was vibrantly coloured in

the shades of the 'Living Faith for the Future' circle.



On 11 September, the annual CRoW (now Ride and Stride) sponsored bike ride saw Peter Goford lead a small team on a Tour de églises around Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.

In mid-October, Richard Holroyd conducted his last service. To thank him for the 14 years we had with him, we organised a send-off party. Between leaving and being inducted, he drove back especially to accompany Ruth Sheppard in the last of the Richard and Ruth Sunday afternoon concert series.

St Luke's Review of the Year continued

On 3 November, a 53-seater coach was booked to drive to Bristol to see Richard inducted at his new parishes there. Despite being a joyous evening, all of us were sad to see him go!



In keeping with tradition from previous years, the church bonfire party was held at the Gofords' house on the Friday after Guy Fawke's night. With food aplenty and fireworks galore, the night went off with a bang!

On 13 November, the long-awaited trip to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry took place. Offering a

fascinating insight to the workings of the bell foundry that made Big Ben and even our own church bell, the party had a brilliant day.

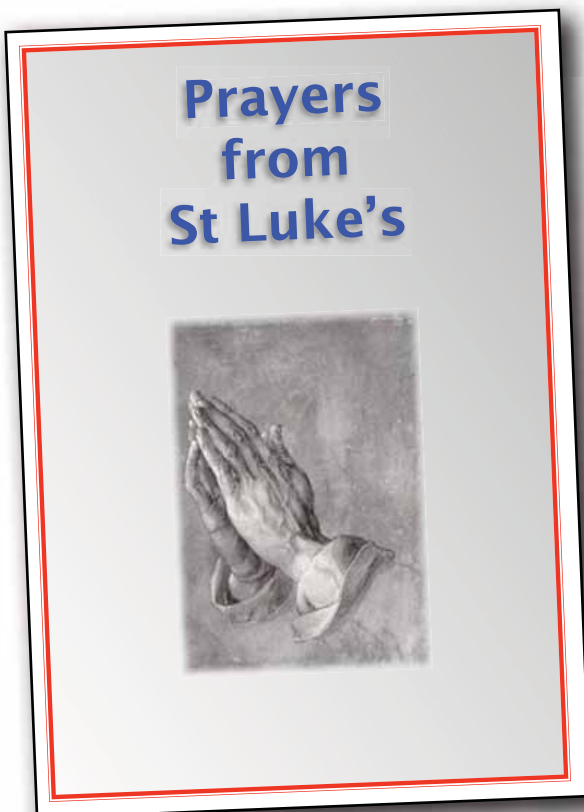
As Christmas approached, the Sparklers enjoyed a day in London to see Christianity-based images at the National Gallery. The day was rounded off by a delicious meal at Pizza Express!

There was a Voices Anon concert in church in December, and as the festive period drew on, the usual blend for this time of year of Christmas services and carol concerts.

Over 2010 we've welcomed new members to our church family, and said a sad goodbye to those who now (to quote A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols) "rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light".

We've laughed, we've cried, we've clapped, we've danced; but one thing has remained constant. We did it all with God by our side. ■

Prayers from St Luke's



A collection of prayers and original artwork, handpicked and created by members of the St Luke's congregation.

Available from Jean TD for a suggested donation of £5.

One More Step...

Words: Sonya Clarke

Here we go then, one more step along the road we go. As I write this, it's only been a month since Richard moved away, and yet – in some respects – it feels like longer to me.

This time of year is always busy, with the extra services to prepare for both ourselves and the schools and other organisations that use St Luke's at Christmas. It is now that I am more involved with service planning that I truly give thanks for the privilege of having been under Richard's tuition for as long as I was, thus giving me a good grounding in what to do and how to do it.

As this goes to press, we can look forward to so many things happening within our church: our Carol Services and all of the Christmas Services, and then – taking us into another New Year – our January Social Evening.

As we progress along, it is with one more step, and each step will take us further along our pathway of spiritual life. Richard's moving on has really shown how we (as a congregation and church family) have pulled together to keep things going, and in my humble opinion we have done so with good humour and encouragement for each other.

Each step we take, we take in our journey to and for God. Each step we take allows us to reveal the love of God in our daily lives to all whom we meet. Each step we take allows us to bear

witness of our Christian Faith, not just now as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord, but for all time, in all seasons, and with all people.

As we step into a new era of our Church life, may we always be prepared to meet God in the stranger, trust unfailingly in God's guidance, and have courage and self-belief when we feel things are getting too much for us.

God knows where we are going and how we are to get there, all we need to do is to trust that with each step we are fulfilling his will for us and serving him as he calls us to do. And when the time comes that we are blest with a new Vicar, our journey will continue one step at a time; a new journey and a new path to follow. But the new path will lead us to the same goal, that of being at one with our Lord. In the meantime, we journey together, laughing together, supporting each other, and sharing the goodness that can only come from God and being his people in his world.

One more step along the road we go
From the old things to the new
Keep us travelling along with You.

My prayer is that the God of Love who gave to us the Prince of Peace be with us all, not just as we celebrate the birth of our Lord, but for all time and in all places. May Christmas bring peace and happiness, and the Christ Child live in our hearts forever. ■

From the Registers:

at St Luke's	at Slough Crematorium	Burial of Ashes
9 August: Alan Stirrup	4 October: Michael Brafield	30 July: Kirsty Smith
12 November: Derek Gill	8 October: Arthur Appleton	19 August: Maurice White
17 December: John Sheppard	16 November: Irene Hinckly	4 November: Annie Roberts
	18 November: Wilfred Turner	
	21 December: Donald Brown	
	21 December: Pamela Roberts	
	29 December: Norah Speakman	



Vicar:
Vacancy



Associate Priest:
The Revd Dick Cheek



Associate Priest:
The Revd Terrie Robinson



Licensed Lay Minister:
Sonya Clarke



Licensed Lay Minister:
Noëlina Page

Who's Who at St Luke's?

Church Wardens

Shula Tajima 546889
Barbara Essam 782894

PCC Secretary

Ralph Hinchliffe 784724

Parish Administrator

Sue Brett 783033

Electoral Roll Officer

Jill Bevitt 633464

Stewardship Recorder

Jean T-D 626671

Director of Music

John Cotterill 636514

Publicity Officer

Phyllis Sigsworth 778656

Honorary Vergers

Rita Buckland 671531
Enid Barber 628195

Asst. Church Wardens

Peter Goford 638238
Don Luff 630833

PCC Treasurer

Richard Burdett 631486

Asst. Treasurer

Ben Darracott 620280

Pastoral Roll Officer

Serena Tajima

Gift Aid Secretary

Ann Cooke 472147

Sacristan

Helen Petter 631896

Flower Organiser

Joan Harnby 622140

Head Servers

Ralph Hinchliffe 784724
Roger Clarke 671795
Ben Darracott 620280
Serena Tajima

THE CHURCH WEBSITE

Welcome to St Luke's Church Maidenhead

http://stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk/

Welcome to St Luke's Church Mail

In Faith Out There
St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead
Norfolk Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, UK SL6 7AX
Tel: 01628 783033
Diocese of Oxford - Church of England

Search site

- Home
- News
- Events
- Prayer
- Children
- Choir & Music
- Groups
- InSpire Magazines
- History
- Photo Gallery
- Video Gallery
- Church & Parish Centre Lettings
- St Luke's Community

In Faith Out There

St. Luke's Church community worships in an attractive, mid-Victorian building which is near the centre of Maidenhead. We are an inclusive, broad church community. Our worship is varied and interesting in style, ranging from specially devised service around themes such as 'Global Warming' and 'Conversations with God', to set liturgies from Common Worship and the Book of Common Prayer. Our Sunday Eucharist is the focus at 10am each week, using selected material from Common Worship, and, on the first Sunday of each month, including baptisms and involving children and young people.

Our choir and musicians enrich our worship with motets and anthems, and offer a full Choral Evensong each term.

We seek to serve our diverse parish in many ways, offering a venue for community events, and providing a Toddler Group and monthly Teas for the elderly.

We also promote and host many concerts and recitals which attract good audiences.

Our aim is to 'Explore Faith Together', with a spirit of adventure and risk, sometimes pushing the boundaries, and bringing issues of faith and belief to bear on our daily lives.

Many who come find our church a place of comfort, resource and challenge for their lives. We offer a welcome to all who wish to share this journey of faith with us.

Latest News
New church office e-mail address

find us online at

<http://www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk/>