

St Peter's Review

Easter Edition 2021



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		<p>Using your talents and time</p> <p>There are always lots of activities and jobs at St Peter's where members of the congregation are encouraged to help: e.g. Flower Arranging, Sidespersons, DIY, Cleaning, Copying, Administration and more. If you would like to help, please make contact with a churchwarden.</p>
		<p>Disabled Access and Hearing</p> <p>St Peter's has permanent wheelchair access from the front of the building. An induction loop is provided for those with hearing aids. If you have any special access requirements, do not hesitate to contact us in person, via telephone or e-mail. All enquiries will be in confidence.</p>
		<p>The Sick and Housebound</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to advise a churchwardens of any cases of sickness, so that they may be added to the intercessions and also of people who are house-bound and wish to receive the Blessed Sacrament at home.</p>
		<p>Items for the Weekly Bulletin</p> <p>By email to: bulletin@stpeters-streatham.org before Thursday.</p>
		<p>Items for the next <i>St Peter's Review</i> to</p> <p>David Chapman by Sunday 6th June 2021</p>
		<p>To advertise in the <i>St Peter's Review</i></p> <p>Contact David Chapman magazine@stpeters-streatham.org</p>



Next Steps

by Fr Steffan



"We'll ask those questions about what we cherish and love about St Peter's that we want to grow and expand."

After a year, it seems like some sort of end is in sight. We all know by now there will be no more return to normal: our economy, our lives, our emotions have been changed by this past year. But, like spring dawning, it feels like the shoots of new life are emerging. The vaccine rollout, greater scientific understanding, increased testing, even herd immunity seems to be offering a return to some sort of normal life.

In each of our lives we will have a period of discerning what stays the same, what will never go back, how we might do things differently. Work patterns will shift, hobbies have changed, and of course, for many of us, Covid has meant the loss of loved ones and permanent ruptures in our lives that we will never 'recover' from, but instead learn to live alongside.

All this raises the question as a church community, what are our next steps? Writing this in Holy Week, there are some obvious next steps: at some point, we can sing again; we will bring our Sunday School back; eventually the masks will come off; hopefully before long we will be at a capacity where Evensong and other services can return to pre-covid patterns.

But the 'return to normal' raises two additional questions: what we have learnt that we might want to do differently, and what does our future

look like that was different than before. There are some obvious answers. Continuing to stream online at least our 10.30am Sunday service will mean being able to reach out to those who are housebound and connect with friends of St Peter's who live a distance away. There will be more difficult conversations about how our finances will change due to the impact the last year has had on St Peter's (and most churches, organisations, peoples) finances.



But there is also the big picture stuff. And this is where I think the really exciting thing is. I believe St Peter's is a church that can grow, in our numbers of people, in our spiritual depth, and in our outreach and service to the community. And so as we are able to gather together, talk, dream, share, we will start a process, hopefully before the end of this year,

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(Continued from page 3)

where we think about our medium and long term vision. We'll ask those questions about what we cherish and love about St Peter's that we want to grow and expand. We'll think about what we might want to do to build up our life as a church community. And we'll share our knowledge about how we as a community can make an impact for the common good in our neighbourhood.

And this isn't a priest job. It's not a PCC job. It's about all of us together, finding out how God is calling us, as individuals and as a church. Maybe there are particular strengths you have you think could contribute to

our life here. Maybe there are areas you are passionate about developing and growing. Maybe you know you can commit to praying for our church, our community, our life.

So, what are the next steps for St Peter's? Some, short term, we know. Starting things back up, continuing some things we do, getting to spend time together Covid has taken away. But in the medium, the long term? I don't know. I have some ideas, but I don't know. Because where God is calling us isn't one person, or even a group of people's job, but is something we will discover together over the next months, to the praise and glory of God.



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Find us on Facebook and Twitter

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Church Garden

Are you interested in joining a group to meet up once a month to maintain our church garden.

If so, please speak to Angela Newby or ask the churchwardens and Fr Steffan.



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Peter's or have a question,
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Catherine Chapman

via email:

giving@stpeters-streatham.org



The Lord's Prayer

by Louise Sugden

Bible Study Group Reflection.
Monday evenings 6.30pm to 7.30 pm
January and February 2021

Have you ever written the Lord's Prayer in your own words? We were challenged to do this by Fr Steffan as part of the Lord's Prayer Bible study course on zoom which took place in January and February 2021.

To many of us who have been fortunate to learn the words of The Lord's Prayer off by heart at school or in Sunday school or church we say the Lord's Prayer as a kind of mantra rather like the Hail Mary is with rosary beads. We may repeat it over and over again

to calm us down in times of stress e.g., as our plane takes off or just before we go to sleep to induce a calm state of mind. The Bible studies that Fr Steffan has chosen are called Pilgrim courses and are published by Church House. They are helping us turn to Christ and to find Christ in

one another as we explore the Bible and our understanding of it. Some of the questions we explored in The Lord's Prayer study group are given below:

Do we mind calling God our Father? Maybe our own father is very unlike our image of God and some of us may never have had or met our

earthly father. Do we look out for the poor and underfed even if we are well provided for? How easy is it to forgive those who trespass against us? Does it include those people who tread on our toes or also those who cause us more serious bodily or mental injuries? Does God forgive our sins even if we have not forgiven others of theirs?

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
the power and the glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Would God ever lead us into temptation?

Opposite are mine and Anthea and Duncan's versions of the Lord's Prayer as we took up the challenge.



**The Lord's Prayer in my own words
- by Louise Sugden**

Dear God, our Father in heaven, you are the most holy and pure being.

Help us to be more like you so that the goodness of your kingdom in heaven may be seen here on earth and that your holy embrace may be felt by all people.

Help us to accept and do your will on earth.

Give us enough food to sustain us and forgive us our wrongdoings, misguided actions and negligence and we shall forgive all those who have hurt or upset us.

Please guide us in a truly forgiving way to live our lives with love in our hearts, and not be tempted to do wrong.

Strengthen us so we do not fall into evil ways and give us resilience to follow your way.

For you have the power to look after us and keep us safe forever.

For the glory is yours and the kingdom of heaven is yours now and always.

Amen

**LORD'S PRAYER REIMAGINED
– by Anthea Eastoe**

Father, your name is holy,
Nourish us, protect us, guide us, forgive us.
Help us to forgive others when it is hard and we are in pain.
We will be tempted to move from your will;
hold our hands in those moments
and light the way to your glorious kingdom.
Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER REIMAGINED
– by Duncan Eastoe**

O blessed Lord, who gave his only Son that I may be free from sin,
I pray that you may guide and sustain me to lead a life in your image.
I know that if I reject evil and commit my life to you,
you will feed and clothe me.
Make me always forgive those who sin against me
and forgive me for my sins.
I shall serve you as the one true God on earth
and in Heaven for all eternity.
Amen.

The Bible study group has between 7 and 10 regular attendees and we would welcome more people to join in on zoom. There is always an opening prayer and then a Bible reading followed by reflections from

senior clergy and other theologians. And then our own questions, reflections and discussions on the passage of study and what has stood out to us.



Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation

by Nicola Thomas



Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation

Nicola is a practising Roman Catholic. She has been a member of the choir at St Peter's since 2000 and will be known to members of the Evensong congregation. She took up her post as head of JPIC in the Diocese of Southwark in January.

There is a joke in the part of Ireland where I grew up about a motorist stopping in a country lane to ask a farmer for directions. 'Well, I wouldn't start from here,' comes the answer.

This is not so very different from my experience of starting work at the Diocese of Southwark during lockdown. I applied for my new role as Head of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) back in the heady days of late summer, as the schools were returning and life felt relatively normal. In late September I was able to attend an in-person interview in Trinity House, and go to meet Bishop Christopher for a pre-appointment chat. But by the time I had worked out my notice and was ready to start on 11 January, everything had changed. We were back in lockdown and I was faced with starting a new role from home, with no prospect of meeting my new colleagues in person, and while home-schooling three children. I wouldn't start from here.

But this is definitely a journey that I want to be on. The job title is a bit of a mouthful, but what it comes down to is a mission for social and environmental justice.

The small JPIC team sits in the Mission Team. The word 'mission' often calls to mind various overseas efforts to evangelise, and of course evangelisation, preaching the Gospel, is an important element of mission. But it is also about living out our faith in a very real way on a day-to-day basis: in the words of the [Southwark Vision](#), being 'Christ-centred and outward-focused'.

There is a huge variety of social and environmental action that can be taken, and one of the joys of taking on this role has been starting to find out about all the different activities across the Diocese. I am particularly keen to identify where the Church is uniquely well-placed to provide support that other community groups and charities cannot or do not provide as well. Following on from the many examples of Jesus, the church actively values individuals and communities, even – especially – those who are not valued by society ('but when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind' Luke 14:13). As Christians, we are called to do the right thing even when it's difficult or unpopular. This is part of what it means to follow Jesus ('But if you endure when

you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.' 1 Peter 2:20-21].

This means, in terms of social action, there are projects and areas of work that fit naturally with our Christian calling, such as working with the most vulnerable and excluded – asylum seekers, refugees, and victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. Making the right choice even when it's difficult can mean choosing to invest in green energy and being outspoken on climate change which has the biggest effect on the poorest people, whether they are suffering the effects of air pollution in our own communities, food insecurity in Zimbabwe, or flooding in Bangladesh.

It can be hard to know where to start. St Peter's is already doing great work supporting the Norwood and Brixton Food Bank, and the Spires Centre. My colleague Nelly is running an event on 27 April about setting up a [Food Co-op](#) (see also below) which can be a complementary project to a Food Bank. Anthony Garner wrote

movingly in the last issue of the Review about providing opportunities for young people at risk of being drawn into serious violence. Another step to consider would be registering as an [Eco Church](#) and following the Church of England's [Practical Path to Net Zero](#). There are lots of ideas on our [Environment page](#). Not all of them are expensive or time-consuming and our Environment Co-ordinator, [Laura](#), is always happy to provide more information and runs monthly [Eco Church webinars](#). You could consider signing up as an [Acts 435 Advocate](#), joining St Peter's to a national network of churches providing specific items to those in acute need – for example a parent unable to purchase new school shoes for a child. Or let us know if you'd be interested in running a Fair Energy Switch Day, where individuals and churches can get money off their heating bills by switching to renewable energy (contact [Nelly](#) for more details).

There are many opportunities to live out our faith in action, and I am grateful for the opportunity to walk alongside parishes in South London and East Surrey on this journey.



If any of these themes have led to questions or ideas, Nicola is very happy to be contacted. Her email address is [here](#)

Tackling Food Poverty Through Community Food Co-ops

by Diocese of Southwark

Tuesday 27th April 2021

10:30 - 12:00

Register via Eventbrite for this online event:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tackling-food-poverty-through-community-food-co-ops-tickets->



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with a Vision for growth

Walking with Jesus and getting to know Jesus better as we journey on

Welcoming all, embracing our diversity and seeking new ways of being church

Growing in numbers, generosity, faith and discipleship as we grow God's Kingdom

The Diocese
of Southwark
serves...

2.8
million
people

through
356 places
of worship -
a Church of England
presence in every
community

In the
16 Local
Authorities
of South London
and
East Surrey

and
106 church
schools
educating over
37,000 young
people



Loving God
Walking with Jesus
Led by the Spirit

Luke 24:12-35



The Diocese of
Southwark

Easter 2021



Easter Vigil:

Fr Steffan cuts a cross into the Paschal Candle with a stylus. *"Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all the ages; to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever. Amen."*



Easter Day:

A socially distanced congregation for Easter Day Parish Mass.

GIVING TO ST PETER'S

There is a grave impact on the income of St Peter's caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please help by giving regularly to St Peter's by standing order, or you can make a one-off donation to St Peter's via bank transfer via text or cheque. All of the details are on the St Peter's website.

Click on the Giving and Donations button below to find out more.

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Copy deadline for the Summer

St Peter's Review

Sunday 6th June 2021

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We are reviewing our worship pattern with the changing guidance and will release more information shortly about the Sunday 8am Mass and Choral Evensong and Benediction.

The usual pattern for now is:

Sunday Parish Mass 10.30am

Wednesday Mass 12noon

7.30pm Wednesday 7th April

PCC Meeting (Zoom)

Sunday 18th April

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (after Parish Mass ~ 12noon)

7.45pm Thursday 17th May

Mass for Ascension Day

For more info, contact Father Steffan

on 020 8769 2922

or frsteffan@stpeters-streatham.org

For access to the services on Facebook, you don't need a Facebook account - they are public.

The address is: www.facebook.com/StPetersSW16

Sunday services are also published onto our public Youtube channel within 24 hours of the service.

Our Youtube Channel address is: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS95nQFHGXGfhCX-LBo1n-Qw>



www.stpeters-streatham.org