

St Peter's Review

Summer Edition 2022



James Furniss-Roe rehearses the "Come and Sing" volunteers for a performance of The Crucifixion by John Stainer on Saturday 9th April.

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	<p>Winston Trotman</p> <p>Email: winstontrotman@hotmail.co.uk</p>	<p>Servers</p> <p>To enquire about joining, come along to the Parish Mass on Sunday at 10.30am and speak to a churchwarden.</p>
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	<p>Magazine and Web Master</p> <p>David Chapman</p> <p>Telephone: 07483 270 254 Email: magazine@stpeters-streatham.org</p>	<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 churchwarden 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 25th September, 2022</p>
		<p>To advertise in the <i>St Peter's Review</i></p> <p>Contact David Chapman magazine@stpeters-streatham.org</p>



What is a deacon?

by Fr Steffan



Our new curate, Fr Ben, was ordained recently in Southwark Cathedral by our Bishop, Christopher. But where we normally think of clergy as priests, Fr Ben was ordained as a deacon. Ben will remain a deacon for his first year with us, and a year in when he will be ordained as a priest.

So what is a deacon?

In the church there are three orders, Deacon, Priest, and Bishop. They are marked out, or called, for particular roles in the church. But there is no spiritual status or hierarchy involved – we are all children of God, and our calling comes from our baptism. All God's people have a role to play, and are all equal before God – it's definitely not that clergy are any holier, but that they have a particular role among the people of God.

If we look at the New Testament, a deacon is first and foremost a servant or minister. The Greek, *diákonos* (διάκονος), used through the New Testament, means servant, minister, assistant. We read about deacons first in the book of Acts, Ch 6. Seven men are chosen to help the apostles with serving the poor of the community, including St Stephen, who is also the first to be martyred, or killed for his faith. But women are also deacons, including Phoebe, mentioned in Romans 16. So, we have a hint from this first passage,

that deacons are to assist the church in serving those that they are called to minister among. St Paul in the letter to Timothy (Ch 3) says Deacons must be “serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; they must hold fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.”

The role of a Deacon is distinct from the two other orders in the church, a Priest or Bishop. But it is also at the bedrock of all three. In order to be ordained a priest, you must spend some time as a deacon sharing in the servant heart of Jesus. To put it another way – all priests and bishops must first show themselves to be deacons with servant hearts before they are to become priests (or bishops).

Deacons are to serve both in church, and in the community. To mark them out, they were slightly different robes, wearing the long stole over their shoulders, and a robe called a Dalmatic, a bit like the big garment, a chasuble, the priest wears, but also with two lines across it. Within church, they assist the priest, read the gospel, preach, lead people in prayers, set up the altar, assist with communion, dismiss the people of God to ‘Go in the Peace of Christ’. They can lead services apart from

(Continued on page 4)

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Fr Peter Andrews (previous vicar of St Peter's) on 23rd May 2022.

A Requiem Mass was held at St Peter's on 11th June.

May he rest in peace.



(Continued from page 3)

Mass, they can baptise and take funerals. But they do not preside at mass, give blessings, or hear confessions, until they are ordained priest.

But being a deacon is not just about being in church. A deacon in their servant role is to go out into the community. They are to visit and take communion to the sick and housebound. They are to seek out the poor and those in need to serve them, particularly those forgotten by society. The words used at the ordination are particularly beautiful, and they speak of sharing their role with the whole people of God:

They are to work with their fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world, so that the love of God may be made visible.

The church understands the Deacon as having three ministries:

- ⇒ *The Ministry of Charity – serving the poor and those forgotten, building up the community in which the church serves and bringing the church to the community*
- ⇒ *The Ministry of the Word – reading the gospel, leading services such as morning and evening prayer, preaching, ministering the word of God in funerals*
- ⇒ *The Ministry of the Altar – assisting the priest, distributing communion at home, preparing and baptising people.*

*A deacon in a stole.
Image attributed to Tom
Lemmens.*

[https://
commons.wikimedia.org/
wiki/
File:Roman_Rite_Mass_St
ole_and_Maniple_-_
Deacon.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Roman_Rite_Mass_Stole_and_Maniple_-_Deacon.svg)



Then, God willing, after his first year Fr Ben will be ordained a priest next July. But not all deacons become priests. Some people feel called to be what is known as a permanent or ‘distinctive’ deacon – to live a life of service within and without church, and the Church of England is increasingly encouraging men and women to consider this.

Included below are some of the words which are read at the ordination of a deacon, and capture an essence of what a deacon is. They might be something that interests you – if so, please come and speak to Fr Steffan or Fr Ben about it.

From the Ordination for Deacons:

“Deacons are called to work with the Bishop and the priests with whom they serve as heralds of Christ’s kingdom. They are to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, as agents of God’s purposes of love. They are to serve the community in which they are set, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people. They are to work with their fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world, that the love of God may be made visible.

Deacons share in the pastoral ministry of the Church and in leading God’s people in worship. They preach the word and bring the needs of the world before the Church in intercession. They accompany those searching for faith and bring them to baptism. They assist in administering the sacraments; they distribute communion and minister to the sick and housebound.

Deacons are to seek nourishment from the Scriptures; they are to study them with God’s people, that the whole Church may be equipped to live out the gospel in the world. They are to be faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God’s presence, as he reveals his kingdom among us.”



Mission Action Plan Sundays in July

Last March, at our away day, we came up with three areas we would like to work on as a parish.

Through July, we are going to be doing things slightly differently. We will have a much shorter 10.30am mass, around 40 minutes, followed by a short break and three sessions looking at our key priorities going forward, which will last for 30 minutes.

These sessions will be:

10th July: Children, Families and Young People

17th July: Understanding Our Community

24th July: Welcome, Inclusion and Hospitality

We’ll reflect on some bible passages and why and how we might go about these three areas.

The 10.30am mass will be quite different than normal, with less readings, shorter sermons and intercessions, and less music. This might feel strange - however, we believe these three sessions will be really important to take our vision forward.

Things will return to the normal pattern on 31st July.

You are warmly invited to stay after mass for these three sessions, if you are able.

Fr Steffan



An introduction

by Fr Ben Vertannes

*Leavers from Westcott House - June 2022
Fr Ben is front row on the left.*



With one week to go before he joins us at St Peter's...our new curate, Fr Ben, talks to us about his experience of training for ordained ministry:

I started training at Westcott House in Cambridge in 2019 and I almost cannot believe where the time has gone. We are delighted to have moved back to south London and have been settling into our new house over the last week. We have been adjusting to having our own front door again! Westcott is a residential training college and we lived on-site in one of the flats provided. Doing so really allowed us to immerse ourselves in the life of the community - praying, studying and eating together - and to make friendships which we hope will continue for a very long time. It was wonderful for our children, Theia (3) and Callie (9 months), to have that support and attention.

My days during training involved a real mixture of things. Each ordinand is on one of several academic pathways, usually involving study for a degree or diploma in Theology. I had lectures, classes and (lots of) essays to write. We all had attachments to local parish churches or chaplaincies, as well as a range of context-based placements during the year. Earlier this year I completed a week shadowing chaplains in a local prison, which provided me with plenty to think and reflect on. In Westcott, there are programs specifically geared towards ministry training, dealing with questions such as, 'What is a priest?', 'What is the

best way to hold a baby over a font?' and everything in between! Our community life in Westcott means that we all take it in turns to lead worship, to clean/tidy, to help with hospitality and even to serve on the bar.

I have loved the opportunity to study theology. Over the three years, I have studied scripture, church history, doctrine and spent some time learning to read New Testament Greek. But the paper I most enjoyed was one I surprised myself by picking. It looked at the role of the Holy Spirit in Christian experience. The paper asked a number of fascinating questions: 'What do our feelings and emotions have to do with our faith?' 'What gets our bodies moving, and what is the Spirit's role in that?' I found these classes really made me think about the different ways in which we use our bodies during our worship as Christians. I have long had an interest in people and how they learn and develop. I was a secondary school Maths teacher for six years before starting my training.

I was particularly involved in staff coaching and mentoring, especially of new or recently qualified teachers.

Now, with just a week to go until my ordination, I'm starting to turn my attention forwards to joining you all at St Peter's. In a couple of days, I begin my pre-ordination retreat with those others being made deacons and beginning curacies in the diocese. The retreat is an opportunity to step away from the business of the last few weeks and to focus on the calling I have been seeking to live out. It is a time and space for prayer, preparation and guided reflection.

I would be so grateful for your prayers as I prepare to join you for my first Sunday in the parish. It is a privilege to be invited into your community, to hear your stories, to discover where God is at work and to journey with you all through life in this part of south London.

God bless,

Fr Ben.



Daniel Shao (flute) performs a recital in aid of the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal on Sunday 22nd May. The event raised over £330.

The Stainer Crucifixion Come and Sing concert on 9th April raised £218.10 for the Organ Fund.

The organ recital by Luke Saint on 24th April raised £82.50 for the Organ Fund.

Thank you for your generosity of time and donations in supporting concerts at St Peter's.



Love will be the anchor

by James Macintyre

James gives us his third reflection on his time spent in retreat living with the Iona Community.



"Iona... ...a 'thin place' between heaven and earth."

There's a line in the chorus of a beautiful song called 'The Promise' by the American gospel group The Martins which goes: 'You know I made a promise that I intend to keep / My grace will be sufficient in every time of need.' I've written here about the grace that abounds on the remote Scottish island of Iona, and now, in the last of my articles on my time at the cradle of Celtic Christianity, I hope you'll allow me to share my final and most personal experience of that grace in what The Iona Community's founder George MacLeod called a 'thin place' between heaven and earth.

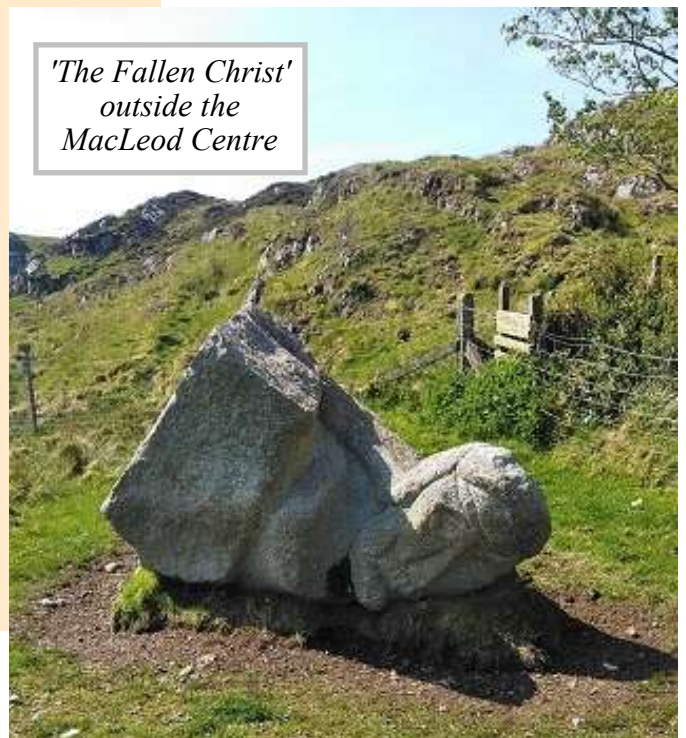
It certainly felt like an hour of need. In fact, it was the day before I decided to leave the island, a Tuesday, which is when the weekly pilgrimage walk takes place.

The day before, I had fallen over in my room and bruised my spine at the top and bottom. However, because it had been a testing time for reasons external to Iona, it was felt, very much including by me, that going on the long walk

was a good idea - and it was.

But by the time the party reached Iona's Machair, the point after St Columba's Bay where the community, in one of its touches of luxury, sends out tea and flapjacks to the guests and folk are given the choice of peeling off from the group, I decided to do so. I'd had a word with a fellow pilgrim, a guest at the abbey, who was a medic, and she had offered to give me the remnants of some Tiger Balm she had back at the abbey. We walked back with another guest and it was suggested that I wait in the common room.

'The Fallen Christ' outside the MacLeod Centre



*A picture taken
during a morning
walk.*



Now the common room is largely a guest-only area, somewhere those paying to stay at the abbey can rest, so it was with some trepidation that I softly knocked on the door and entered.

There were perhaps seven guests in the room. All was very quiet. I virtually whispered my apology for the intrusion and my explanation for being there. Immediately, perhaps out of pity as I must have cut a fairly sorry figure with two walking sticks I'd somehow acquired along the way, all gently said I was welcome.

I sat down and after a bit of hushed conversation, I noticed a woman was reclining gracefully on a sofa. I had mentioned why I was there - waiting for the balm, for the back - and she told me that she too had back trouble, hence her physical position.

I asked how she had come to be in pain. Her barely audible response - that she had got it from pushing her late husband's wheelchair - literally took my breath away for a second. What service.

The quiet dignity of this woman is hard to put into words of plain English. There was something about this moment that began to take me

outside time, which seemed to have stopped. All was silent.

Then I asked her name. She said 'Maggie'. That is what I called my late grandmother Margaret. Up to now I had a kind of sense that there was something sacred about the encounter, so my head had been bowed and I'd been looking down, but I allowed myself a fleeting glance at her face and there I saw the very real face of my own Maggie looking back at me with an indescribably deep compassion.

It was too much, so I looked away, and soon after the balm arrived and I got up, said my goodbyes and left.

Now, please don't get me wrong as they say: On the one hand, I'm acutely aware that this woman was not literally Margaret Macintyre. I know that if I phoned up my old colleagues at the abbey and double checked, they would confirm there was a guest there that week called Maggie, with a surname - and indeed a whole story - of her own.

But on the other hand, I had absolutely no doubt from that moment on that my grandmother is my guardian angel.

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I do not deserve this grace. When she was alive, I neglected this amazing woman who served as a decoder at Bletchley Park during World War Two, converted from Judaism to Christianity and passed on the faith, taught Latin and Ancient Greek for

50 years and won countless cryptic crossword competitions. For years after her death, at which I was absent, I felt that I had alienated Maggie.

This experience led to a sense that something I had struggled with was reconciled.

Here are the first two verses and the chorus of the lyric of that special song, 'The Promise,' which is on YouTube and which I recommend:

'I never said that I would give you silver or gold
Or that you would never feel the fire or shiver in the cold
But I did say you'd never walk through this world alone
And I did say, don't make this world your home
I never said that fear wouldn't find you in the night
Or that loneliness was something you'd never have to fight
But I did say I'd be right there by your side
And I did say I'll always help you fight
'Cause you know I made a promise that I intend to keep
My grace will be sufficient in every time of need
My love will be the anchor that you can hold onto
This is the promise, this is the promise I made to you.'

Link to the *The Promise* by The Martins:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeiPSHEd2Zc>



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Church Lighting Update Phase 2

by David Chapman



The first 5 lighting units can be seen in operation after installation in May at the church main entrance in the south aisle.

Work on the church lighting started in May. It is quite possible that you haven't noticed any difference so far - if so - that is a good thing!

One of our objectives in installing new lighting is not to upset the spiritual ambience of the church as we change from the old electricity-gobbling 1980s halogen lights to new LED lighting units.

The first new lights have been installed by the main entrance (just in front of the Lady Chapel - see photo) and are working very well. On June 27th, the next phase will start to replace all of the lights in the South and North aisles of the church.

This may mean that those aisles will be temporarily brighter than we want, but all of the lights can be dimmed individually, so when the whole replacement is complete, we can set them to a blended setting to ensure our church feels like a church and not a supermarket!

It is a once in a generation upgrade that we need to make - so we hope you will be patient and careful during the works.

The installation is being done in three phases:

PHASE 2 - June 27th to July 8th 2022

South and North Aisles.

PLEASE BE CAREFUL WHEN WALKING NEAR THE
SCAFFOLDING TOWER AND IF THERE ARE WORKS GOING ON
WHEN YOU ARE IN THE BUILDING

PHASE 3 - September/October 2022

Installation of the lights in the high altar, nave and choir areas.

For this phase there will be a considerable amount of scaffolding. We will do what we can to minimise the impact on church services and events.

During the erection and dismantling of scaffolding there will be some days when the church will not be accessible for safety reasons. We will keep you informed of this nearer the time.



*One of the new LED
Lighting Units*



Choir Tour August 2022 - Lincoln Cathedral



The tea shop at the top of Steep Hill

We have all been affected in many ways by the Covid Pandemic. You may have read about the Choir's improvised tour to York last August. York Minster were not ready to take visiting choirs again given uncertainty about pandemic infection rates and so we found some churches in York that were happy for us to sing some services over the space of a week in August 2021. The choir were due to sing in Durham Cathedral in 2020, and of course that wasn't possible either.

So we are very pleased to be going to sing in Lincoln Cathedral at the end of August this year. We have assembled a large choir for the visit

from existing choir members, former choir members and friends of the choir who regularly sing for our services at St Peter's or have joined us for Choir tours over the years. It is necessary for us to enlarge the choir for our Cathedral visits for a number of reasons: To ensure we can do justice to the size of the building's worship space, to allow us the flexibility to sing a wider range of music that might include 8 or more voice parts – typically arranged in two choirs made up of soprano, alto, tenor and bass, to fill gaps – since not everyone who sings in the regular choir is able to make the trip, or may not be able to sing everyday – due to child care or work pressures.



This will be Director of Music - James Furniss-Roe's first choir tour with us. We hope he knows what he is letting himself in for! The week is always busy with rehearsals, services, and making the week enjoyable for all. Looking back at the photos from our last tour to Lincoln Cathedral in 2015, I can see that we engaged in:

Visiting the charming tea shop at the top of Steep Hill (which by the way is very steep!).

Playing cricket on the beach

Playing crazy golf

Playing Rounders

Watching the donkeys – donkeys are always a staple of a choir tour.



Cricket on the beach



Crazy Golf



Donkeys!



Rounders

Participating in discussions about subjects of which you know very little!

Enjoying a meal together.

Playing some silly games.

Sampling the local waters.

And maybe a little time to relax at the end of the day!



Deep discussion



Enjoying a meal



Sampling the local waters



Fun and games



*"Steam Punk"
folk mingle in
the town*



*Relaxing
(with "Steam
Punk" goggles
and waistcoat!)*

As in 2015, we will be joined by hundreds of people in the city, at the end of our tour week as the “Steam Punk” festival takes place. A rather strange thing – but a group of people that celebrate an idea that electricity was never invented. It gives the opportunity for the participants to dress up on Victorian style clothes – very gothic, very fanciful and very OTT. It provides a huge buzz in the city, and ensures that we have very strong congregations in the cathedral.

We are very often joined by Choir Groupies during the week to come and listen to us sing and join in our activities. If you would like to come up to Lincoln, then we are there from Monday 22nd to Sunday 28th August 2022. We will sing evensong at 5.30m Monday to Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. We will sing Eucharist at 10am and Sunday evensong at 3.45pm. We take a day off on Thursday, when we will probably go to the beach and visit a local attraction or two.

Because of the steam punk festival, competition for rooms to stay in Lincoln is tricky. If you contact me (David Chapman), I may be able to arrange for you to stay with the choir



Choir Photo from 2015 at Lincoln Cathedral

in Bishop Grosseteste University if they have rooms free. [They are chargeable of course with a need for a deposit and then payment in advance.]

For the first time in our 40 years of going on choir tour, the daily services are likely to be live streamed. Perhaps adding some pressure for our musical contribution



Dates of Upcoming Choir Tours and Cathedral Visits:

2022	Mon 22 to Sun 28 Aug	Tour to Lincoln Cathedral
2023	Sat 4 Feb	Evensong at Southwark Cathedral
	Mon 13 Feb	Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral
	Mon 21 to Sun 27 Aug	Tour to Durham Cathedral
2024	Mon 19 Aug to Sun 25 Aug	Tour to York Minster

Dates for your diary

COMMITTEE DATES

Day	Date	Time	Meeting Group	Venue
Monday	June 27	7.30pm	Standing Committee	By Zoom
Monday	July 18	7.30pm	PCC	Parish Room

FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 26th June

Patronal Festival with cheese and wine after
10.30am Parish Mass

Welcome for Fr Ben

Thursday 30th June

STREATHAM SENIOR CONNECTION:

We're hosting a quiz at the Vale for "seniors" from
10.30am. Speak to Jo Hutton for more information.

Saturday 2nd July

7.30pm Streatham Choral Centenary Concert
at St Peter's.

Sunday 3rd July

Feast of Dedication - celebrating our churches
152nd anniversary. Services at the usual times.

Sunday 10th July

The last evensong of this term. Choral Evensong &
Benediction will resume in September after the
choir break.

Sundays 10th, 17th and 24th July

Shorter 10.30am Parish Mass with opportunity for
ideas for our Mission Action Plans. See page 5.

August 22nd to 28th

Choir tour to Lincoln Cathedral. See page 12

For more info, contact Father Steffan
on 020 8769 2922
or frsteffan@stpeters-streatham.org

Online Services:

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

The address is: www.facebook.com/StPetersSW16

Copy deadline for the Easter *St Peter's Review*

Sunday 25th September 2022

Pass items to David Chapman

