



*Streatham Choral perform Brahms' Requiem - November 2022*

## In this Advent & Christmas 2022 *St Peter's Review* ...

Page	Story	Page	Story
3-5	News from the Pews	12	Remembrance - Photos from Jo H and Sheila
4	Christmas Services and Events	14	Gabriel's Message - A short story for Christmas
6	What am I Living for: The Search for Meaning	18	Durham and Dulwich
9	Tributes to Cynthia	20	Dates for your Diary

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	<p><b>James Furniss-Roe</b></p> <p>Telephone: 07545 120378 Email: <a href="mailto:music@stpeters-streatham.org">music@stpeters-streatham.org</a></p>	<p><b>Disabled Access and Hearing</b></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>
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# News from the Pews



## MIDWEEK MASS, ST MARGARET THE QUEEN:

A Said Mass is being offered at St Margaret the Queen Church (Barcombe Avenue, SW2 3BH) at 7.30am on Tuesdays from now on. Any who wish to attend are very welcome to do so (entry via main door on Barcombe Avenue, turn immediately right into the small chapel).

## St Peter's Christmas Party: 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. 6pm until late

Running from early evening for children and families, and with food, drink, & a quiz for adults (and any children still there!) at 7.30pm.

Please feel free to invite friends or neighbours.

If you can indicate attendance to Fr Steffan, it will help with catering.



## Warm Space Lunch Club



Due to an emerging situation, we have become aware of, St Peter's is looking, in the very immediate future, to hosting a weekly lunch club particularly aimed at asylum seeker housing on Leigham Court Road. If you would be interested in cooking/giving some time/being there to chat to people, please let Fr Steffan or Fr Ben know.

## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR:

This year, instead of a commercial Advent calendar which contains chocolate, tea or toys, how about trying out a 'Reverse Advent Calendar'? Instead of receiving a gift, you place something in a box to collect for a local food bank. This can be done by individuals or in churches and schools. Full instructions are included, and if you have any questions please contact [Nicola Thomas](#). You can find the advent calendar [here](#). Advent may have started - but it is not too late!





# Merry Christmas

## St Peter's, Streatham

December 18

Nine Lessons & Carols

6.30pm

Christmas Carols followed by  
Mulled Wine and Raffle Draw

Christmas Eve

Children's Christmas Service

3-4.30pm

With Activities 3-4pm and  
Crib service at 4pm.

Midnight Mass

11.00pm

Come and join us as we celebrate  
Jesus' Birth

Christmas Day

Mass of Christmas

10.30am

Family Service with Carols  
& Crib Scene



For more info, contact Father Steffan on 020  
8769 2922 or [frsteffan@stpeters-streatham.org](mailto:frsteffan@stpeters-streatham.org)

[www.stpeters-streatham.org](http://www.stpeters-streatham.org)



# News from the Pews Continued



## EVENSONG AT ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

Our Youth and Adult Choirs will be singing Choral Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral on Monday 13th February 2023 at 5pm.

Please come and support them.



## Streaming

Since the pandemic we have been continuing to stream the 10.30am Mass. Despite restrictions easing, this continues to be a vital way of connecting with those unable to be with us physically, and has been an important way of people 'trying out' St Peter's before they attend in person. We have purchased a modest laptop, specifically for streaming. If you are able to make a contribution towards this, then please make contact.

We are also looking for assistance with Streaming – would you, or your child or grandchild – like to have a go?

Speak to Fr Steffan or Fr Ben.



## Thank you

Thank you to all those that helped with the All-Age Gardening event in October. It was a great success not only for the amount of tidying work done in the garden but also for the fun enjoyed by young people making craft items.

Thank you also to Fr Ben and the team who organised the day.





# What am I Living for: The Search for Meaning

by Louise Sugden



*Reverend Sam Wells*



*Reverend Lucy Winkett*



*Mishal Hussain*



*Aleem Maqbool*

It's not often we are invited to attend such a high standard of lectures as in the 2022 Autumn lecture series 'What am I Living For: The Search For Meaning' from St Martin in the Fields (SMITF) on the edge of Trafalgar square. The eight lectures were given by a diverse range of people, many of whom are broadcasters, journalists, authors, priests, human rights activists and artists, notably Bryan Stevenson, an American human rights lawyer, and Grayson Perry, the Turner prize winner and presenter of Art Club on Channel 4.

The lectures started on 26<sup>th</sup> September with the subject What am I living for: God.

Sam Wells, vicar of SMITF and Lucy Winkett, rector of St James Church, Piccadilly shared their personal experiences of loss and near tragedy making them realise how important family and friends are. Sam stressed that gratitude and wonder at God's world is one of the best ways to live.

The second lecture on 3<sup>rd</sup> October was What am I Living for: the Search for Light, Shade and Truth.

In this lecture, four leading journalists came together to discuss their search for meaning in journalism.

Searching for light was Mishal Hussain, Muslim presenter of BBC4 Today news. She goes to work at 4am for the Today program and never knows who she'll meet, but always looks for the best in people.

Searching for shade: Aleem Maqbool, also a Muslim, and BBC's religion editor since 2021 and previously BBC News North America correspondent, said we can't view stories through the eyes of our critics, we must tell it as it is.

Finally, Jon Snow, son of a Bishop, who was the face of channel 4 news from 1989, stressed the importance of telling the truth in the stories he tells. In this way he had been able to help people where others had failed. He believes love is at the core of humanity.

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October What am I Living for: Human rights, brought together three people who have confronted prejudice and oppression and spent their lives speaking out with tremendous courage.

First to speak was Peter Tatchell who has been badly beaten as a result of his human rights activism, notably by President Mugabe's bodyguards in 2001 in London. Peter works in solidarity with human rights activists in many countries, including Iran, Syria, Ukraine, Russia and West Papua. The



next speaker, Canon Rachel Mann, wanted people to understand her trans condition. Thirdly, Bernard Lynch, an Irish Roman Catholic priest, author and activist talked about his support for AIDs sufferers in 1980's in New York when no one else seemed to care.



*Jon Snow*



*Peter Tatchell*



*Canon Rachel Mann*

He was the first Catholic priest in the world to have a civil partnership and he married in 2017.

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October What am I Living for: Telling Our Story, were four novelists who shared the importance of the novel and the power of the story in our search for meaning, understanding and identity. James Runcie, son of Rt Hon Rev Robert Runcie, and author of the Granchester novels spoke openly of the grief he felt recently when his wife died of motor neurone disease. He has been working on a book about the best parts of their lives together which has helped him come to terms with her death.

Chubundu Onuzo, born in Lagos Nigeria, award winning author and storyteller began by telling us her story about her move as a child to UK where people couldn't pronounce her name. She surprised us all by singing

the hymn, Jerusalem at the start of the story and likes to incorporate singing into her storytelling. She stressed that Jesus was the first reason for her for living.

On Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October we were treated to a humorous but serious reflection on, What am I Living For: the meaning of life, death and friendship, by Dominican friar Timothy Radcliffe. He is a man of deep faith and spiritual insight and he told us of his own recent brush with death when he had major surgery to remove a mouth cancer and his face was remodelled with bone from his leg. From a position of total weakness and helplessness he couldn't recite the 'Our Father' after the operation, he was now standing at the front of St Martin's you couldn't tell any of this as his speech was perfect. Friar Timothy

*(Continued on page 8)*



*Bernard Lynch*



*James Runcie*



*Chubundu Onuzo*



*Timothy Radcliffe*





*Bryan Stevenson*



*Rowan Williams*



*Grayson Perry*



(Continued from page 7)

said that friendship is the most important thing in life and that everlasting life begins here on earth.

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November What am I Living for? Equal Justice was a lecture given by Bryan Stevenson, a human rights lawyer from USA whose great grandfather had been a slave. Bryan is constantly challenging inequality in America and helps the poorest in society. In Alabama where the death penalty is still enforced, Bryan has exonerated over 135 wrongly condemned prisoners on death row. He has confronted abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill and aided children prosecuted as adults. His take home message was that proximity is important. Get physically close to the oppressed, the poor, to find out how they live and then you can help make change happen.

This was a hard act to follow but Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury did just that on November 14 on the subject, What am I Living for: A New Heaven and a New Earth.

What matters most he said was not being a stranger in this world. Part of the adventure of a new faith should be in reconciling boundaries that are not quite clear. In a new heaven we are free from our trauma's problems and liberated from greed. Christian wor-

ship should be a bit of heaven on earth, where tomorrow's worries are tomorrow's business.

The final lecture in the series on November 21 What am I Living for: Art and was given by cross dressing artist, Grayson Perry, wearing a pink smock; inspired by his first pretty art teacher in primary school who always wore a plastic pink smock. Humorously he said that if enough people think something is art it will be called such. Grayson won the Turner prize in 2003 for his ceramic pots. His book 'Playing to the Gallery' is based on the BBC Reith lectures which he gave in 2013. He is currently writing a musical and treated us to a song at the end of his talk 'He did it all for Art!'.

The lecture series was a great success, on average, Sam Wells said, over 1000 people watched each lecture, a third of which were watching on livestream. Six of the eight lectures given will soon be available to watch on the St Martins portal for any who would like to see them.

[www.smitf.org](http://www.smitf.org)

An important message was that friends and family are essential to having a meaningful life. Let us continue to share Christ's message of love and peace this Christmas.



*St Martins-in-the-Fields*





# Tribute to Cynthia

## by Vilma Maduro and Jo Hutton

On Tuesday 15th November the funeral was conducted at St Peter's by Fr Steffan and Fr Ben for Cynthia Greenwood (14th February 1935 to 27th September 2022). There were many tributes paid during the service for Cynthia - Vilma and Jo were amongst those paying tribute and their words, repeated here, capture some of the love that many at St Peter's shared for Cynthia. On page 11 you can read an edition of "Caught by the Holy Water Stoop" from this magazine published in 2010, featuring Cynthia.



*Cynthia Greenwood*

Vilma: Jo and I would like to recall some of the memories we have of our dear sister and friend Cynthia

Vilma: Cynthia and I started attending this church roughly about the same time in the early seventies. My first memory, is of Cynthia arranging the flowers in church. Her arrangements always looked beautiful and well-co-ordinated. Cynthia was very committed to the task, she was known to travel to the flower market as early as 4am, to get the best flowers, and after weekday mass she could be seen walking around the church, with her watering can and secateurs, tending to the displays.

Jo: I met Cynthia in the 1970s when I came to St Peter's and also saw her at Sunnyhill School where Colin and Craig were pupils along with my children. One Sunday during the family service, a boy in the congregation became unwell and vomited on the floor. Cynthia quietly got up from her seat, fetched a bucket and cloth and cleaned up the mess. She earned my admiration, and I am sure the gratitude of the congregation for dealing with something so unpleasant, while

not disturbing the continuation of the service.

Vilma: Cynthia was blessed with a good memory into her senior years and had the ability to remember names and faces of new comers when many of her peers had forgotten.

Jo: Cynthia always asked how family were, and what they were doing, and this was especially appreciated when my husband was diagnosed with a life changing illness. Her nursing skills came to the fore when my husband, in earlier times, had a fractured collar bone. Cynthia spotting his arm in a sling, replaced the sling in a better position with instructions to keep it higher to aid recovery.

Vilma: Cynthia loved St Peter's Church and had a deep spiritual connection. She loved the style of worship, the music and people, she used every opportunity to gain deeper understanding of her religion and could be seen supporting Lent groups, Stations of the Cross, Study groups and other activities.

Jo: Cynthia served St Peter's as Church Warden in the 1990's. She was dedicated and efficient and Lesley Turner, who was her fellow Church Warden, said how she felt supported and encouraged in this role

*(Continued on page 10)*



(Continued from page 9)

and friendly partnership. Lesley now lives in Suffolk and is sorry that she can't join us today, but she will be lighting a candle and praying at this time, in her church in Hadleigh.

Vilma: Cynthia was a unique person and was never afraid to take on new challenges. In her late seventies she started learning to read music and to play the piano. She began taking lessons with one of our friends, Ian who was a music teacher at a local school. At the end of term Ian organised a concert so that students could demonstrate what they had learnt. Despite being the most senior student and feeling very nervous Cynthia stepped up to play her piece. When she sat down at the piano, she started playing with one finger. I think we all thought "it's going to be a long night", but as she started to relax, her speed and her playing improved and she completed her piece to rapturous applause.

Imagine our surprise, when Cynthia told us, she had forgotten to take her glasses with her! And had played the whole piece from memory. We all had a good laugh including Cynthia, but was in full admiration of her achievement. Cynthia loved music and enjoyed the choral concerts in church.

Jo: In the 1980's a group was formed in church named, 'The 39 group'. The title was chosen as most probably all the ladies involved had passed the big 40 birthday and found our nests were emptying as children went off to college, work, partnership and left home. We supported one another and enjoyed together, talks, outings and meals out. Cynthia, Vilma and I were amongst the first members of this group. Something else we three shared was a pilgrimage to Bec, in Normandy. We had lovely weather and shared a deepening friendship and spirituality.

Vilma: Cynthia supported, Lambeth Welcare, the Diocesan Social Outreach and was a trustee for many years. She would also, kindly transport the Harvest gifts and Christ-

mas presents donated by the congregation to the office in Kennington. She would also spend a few days helping us to select and wrap age-appropriate toys for the children that would attend the Christmas party. Cynthia also transported Harvest gifts from here to the Spire Centre in Streatham, a difficult journey with limited parking. We were all grateful for Cynthia for taking on this task.

Jo: We have given a few examples of Cynthia's involvement and voluntary giving to the Church and charities. Cynthia was a supporter of the Children's Society, recognising their work with families under stress and child runaways.

One of my last happy memories of Cynthia is sitting next to her as we had lunch in the Surrey Hills. An outing organised, by Streatham Senior Connections. It was a lovely day and we were able to sit outside and reminisce about old friends and shared experiences and I am pleased to have this happy memory of Cynthia.

Vilma & Jo: Rest in Peace our gentle and generous friend and sister. In the arms of the Lord, you loved and served so well.



*Cynthia (on the left) makes a pastoral visit to housebound congregation member Mollie Rackham in the 1990s.*





# Caught by the Holy Water Stoop!

**REPRODUCED FROM THE 140th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION OF THE ST PETER'S REVIEW IN 2010**

*In this edition we catch Cynthia Greenwood  
by the Holy Water Stoop.*



***Q. How long have you been coming to St Peter's?***

A. I first came to St. Peter's in 1968 for the christening of our baby son, afterwards I paid occasional visits. However, with the spiritual guidance and support of the vicar - Fr. Michael Woodgate and encouragement from, my neighbour, I became a regular worshiper in 1971.

***Q. What do you like most about the services, music and people?***

A. I like the warmth, the friendship. St Peter's feels like an extension of my own family. I have seen a lot of changes. I love the services and I love the music. I like the fact that the services are not low.

***Q. What do you dislike about St Peter's or what would you change?***

A. It irritates me when people don't show reverence in church. I get cross when they don't show respect - not switching their mobile phones off and so on.

***Q. How do you get to St Peter's?***

A. I drive - I can walk, but usually drive.

***Q. Have you always lived in this part of South London, and if not, where else have you lived?***

A. I originally lived in Sidcup in Kent. I moved in 1958, was married in London and practiced midwifery at King's. I lived in Herne Hill and then moved to Knollys Road in 1964. I moved more recently to the Knights Hill area in West Norwood.

***Q. What do you do when you are not at St Peter's?***

A. I work in the garden, do housework and I enjoy music. My husband bought me a piano before he died. I have restarted piano lessons recently and love to play - I am not

very good - but I enjoy it - the regular practice.

***Q. What is your favourite TV programme?***

A. I like soaps: Eastenders and Coronation Street. I enjoy the 5pm TV - Anne Robinson on The Weakest Link and Egg Heads. I also like documentaries and political things.

***Q. What sort of music do you like?***

A. I just love classical and jazz music. Also, at times I quite like listening to some pop and old time Music Hall tunes.

I like going to the Theatre and to Concerts. I go with Irene, and Margaret Francke organises trips which I enjoy a great deal.

***Q. What is your least favourite chore?***

A. Ironing - I convince myself that I am becoming poorly whilst doing it - all blocked up - so I do it as little as possible.

***Q. If you were given £1000 what would you do with it?***

A. I would get myself a modern TV and music centre.

***Q. How much is a pint of milk?***

A. I buy 2 litre packs - believing it to be cheaper, but the other day in a shop, a lady asked me to help her lift down some milk - and I was surprised to discover that a pint was only 45p. I thought it was more.

\* \* \* \* \*





# The larks, still bravely singing

Contributions from Jo Hutton and Sheila Launchbury

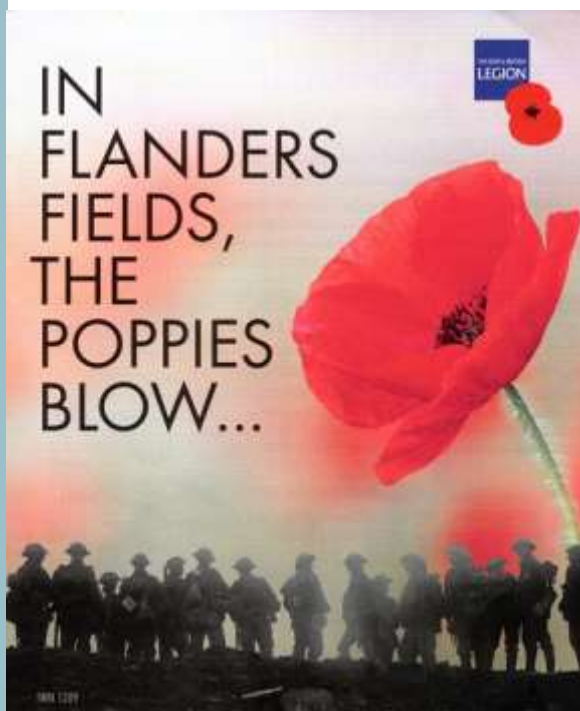


On the 13th November, Remembrance Sunday, 11 children came to Children's Church. There they made poppies from red tissue paper and learnt about the British Legion and the significance of the poppy emblem. They were particularly intrigued by the leaflets and photos that I showed them. Left is a photo of my 4 great uncles, brothers of my Nan, who all served and came back from World War I.

*In the photo: Jo Hutton's Great Uncles: the Bramble brothers:*

William  
Arthur

Charles  
Walter



## IN FLANDERS FIELDS

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt down, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD,  
Canadian Army (1872-1918)







Sheila Launchbury submitted this fine picture, she explains:

On the left: David Murray Kerr

On the right: James Dunn Macdonald (Sheila's dad)

David Murray Kerr was my uncle-by-marriage (the husband of my father's older sister). He was four years older than my dad, and it looks from the photo, somewhat senior to him. I haven't pursued his military career, but David certainly survived the war, finally dying of cancer in 1961. I just remember him, though he was probably quite ill by the time I can recall.

My father, James Dunn Macdonald, was born in 1896. Both men served in the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). My father had been in the RAMC reserves before the war and got his call-up papers the day after war broke out! I don't have full details of his service (as a stretcher-bearer, I think), but he was sent to the Balkans in 1915 and was eventually invalided out of Gallipoli, suffering from dysentery. Nasty for him, but good news for me! He apparently suffered from a 'gypsy tummy' for the rest of his life, though I have no recollection of this, and only heard about it from my sister. My dad survived to the age of 78, and died of emphysema (a lifetime smoker!).



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# Gabriel's Message

by David Chapman



*Detail of Archangel Gabriel  
from Pinturicchio's The  
Annunciation (1501)*

The Archangel Gabriel had been to God's office many times before to receive a contract, but never before had he seen such a panoply of Saints in attendance in the corridors and antechambers leading to the tiny office on the 1000<sup>th</sup> cloud of heaven. The Angel Transport, which had bought him up between the clouds, had been exceptionally smooth and everywhere enroute was radiant with fresh sweet-smelling aromas

and bright light.

Gabriel knocked and entered the office. God was contemplating a list on his desk. He did not ask Gabriel to sit down, and no heavenly treats were on offer for this visit. Gabriel straightened his wings and concentrated on keeping his halo bright.

God wasted no time to say "My dearest and most steadfast Archangel Gabriel, you have completed many assignments for me. Today I have the most important of all messages for you to deliver. I am to have a son on earth. You are to find my chosen mother, tell her what I ask of her and gain her acceptance. Her name is Mary and she lives in Nazareth."

Gabriel replied, "Lord, is this not similar to my recent assignment when

I visited Zechariah and Elizabeth". God replied "Yes Gabriel it is similar, but this time the chosen lady is to bear my son – she is a virgin. She is to be very highly favoured."

Gabriel was not familiar with this turn of phrase "highly favoured", but he committed it to memory, it might help with his sales pitch. When he visited Elizabeth six months before, she had been very difficult to convince that she would bear a child at her age, and God had not given any background information regarding Mary.

But Gabriel knew that the Lord's time was eternal, but nonetheless precious. Arrangements would have been made for his Angel Transport to Nazareth. He responded, "It shall be done Lord" and left the office closing the door carefully as he left. Gabriel recalled the words "Today I have the most important of all messages for you to deliver." and he felt a little queasy. Perhaps that Angel Transport on the way up hadn't been as smooth as he had thought.

When Gabriel reached the Angel Transport on the 1000<sup>th</sup> cloud, the Angel on reception looked at his ticket and said "Archangel, sir, we have instructions to take you beyond heaven to earth. Your Earth Transport will be here in a short while. Please take a seat. There are copies of *Heaven and Earth Quarterly* on the side table.

Gabriel knew from his many





assignments that the Earth Transport would be a tiring journey. He would also need all of his energy to inwardly stow his halo. He didn't want to scare the people on earth. Halos were more powerful than any lantern, candle or bonfire on earth, so some care was needed not to arouse suspicion. He sat down and read the article he had penned himself in the magazine about his previous visit to Zechariah and Elizabeth.

On arrival in Nazareth, it was just after dawn. Gabriel headed straight for Mary's house. On arrival at the humble dwelling he found that the lady of the house, presumably Mary's mother, was already up and busy at her housework. Gabriel praised the lady for being so busy so early in the day and introduced himself as having come with an important message for her daughter Mary.

The lady was rightly suspicious, but could tell from Gabriel's flowing robes and presence that he was obviously someone who could be trusted. The lady responded to say that Mary wasn't at home and had already gone to the synagogue for her morning devotions. Gabriel was impressed. He asked for directions to the synagogue and headed off in search.

On arriving at the synagogue, Gabriel introduced himself to one of the elders explaining that he had to speak with Mary. Again, his natural authority and bearing meant that there was no query from the elder with whom he spoke. The elder said that Mary had already left the synagogue and had gone to the market place.

Gabriel, now a little worried at what had seemed to be a simple task, was turning into something of an undignified hunt for this young lady all across Nazareth. How would he



find her in the market place?

On arriving at the market, the trading day was well underway. Gabriel made an assumption that an obvious daily purchase would be bread or flour, so he headed to the bread stall. He addressed a lady behind the stall saying that he was looking for a young girl, a devout girl, called Mary, who had come to the market after being at the synagogue this morning.

The stallholder replied "I'm sorry guvnor, but Mary was 'ere. She bought some flour, but left about an hour ago. "I 'spect she's gone 'ome, guvnor." She added. "You're looking a bit pasty guvnor. Would you like some bread? All freshly baked?" Gabriel declined the offer and thanked the lady for her assistance. He headed back in the direction of Mary's house. Gabriel was now getting a very strange feeling in the pit of his stomach and it wasn't hunger.

Gabriel arrived at Mary's house and was again greeted by Mary's mother. He explained his travels around Nazareth. Mary's mother had bad news for Gabriel. She said "I so sorry

*(Continued on page 16)*





*Archangel Michael*

*(Continued from page 15)*

for your trouble, but Mary did come home, and has now headed back to the synagogue for her midday devotions. Gabriel made his apologies for disturbing the household and returned to the street.

It was at this moment that Gabriel remembered that God had had a list on his desk. Gabriel, knowing that things were often ordained to work in a certain way thought that perhaps if Mary is being so elusive, perhaps it wasn't ordained for her to be the "highly favoured" after all. He needed to go back to see God and check where there was someone-else on that list. After all, it would be a disaster if he, Gabriel, the messenger of some not inconsiderable legend, had given the message to the wrong person.

Whilst sheltering in an alleyway, and with a new confidence, Gabriel allowed his halo to glow about him to summon the earth-to-heaven transport.



When Gabriel arrived in heaven, he went straightaway to the Angel Transport that would take him up the 1000 clouds to God's office. He was slightly annoyed to find a large group of people waiting for the Angel Transport. They explained that they were heading for a place of relaxation and enjoyment. This sounded very inviting to Gabriel, but he knew that he needed to see God without delay. The revellers alighted at Cloud 9, and Gabriel was relieved to have the Angel Transport largely to himself for the rest of the journey. However, his anxiety grew as at level 500, his Archangel colleague, Michael, boarded the Angel Transport. They exchanged pleasant greetings, but Gabriel could tell there was some tension. Gabriel asked Michael where he was going. He replied almost casually, but with a knowing look, "Oh I am going to cloud 1000. I think I need to get you there in one piece!" At this moment there was a clap of thunder. Lightning could be seen streaking through the clouds. That tight feeling in the pit of Gabriel's stomach returned. They journeyed on in silence.

Gabriel took the direct route to God's office, with the Archangel Michael one step behind. Gabriel knocked, and went in. Michael stayed outside.

God was sitting, as he had before, with a list in front of him. Gabriel focused on remaining calm and keeping his halo shining. He began "Lord, I did as you requested and searched for Mary in Nazareth. However, she proved to be so elusive that I trusted my instinct and returned to see if perhaps you had someone else on your list that might be easier to find and more highly favoured."

God said nothing, but he slowly turned his parchment sheet around for



Gabriel to see. Gabriel could now see the name “Mary” clearly at the top, and underneath a list of qualities: meek, mild, devout, gracious, God fearing, strong of mind, caring. There was a ring around “God fearing”. Gabriel gulped. He must return to Nazareth immediately. He simply said “Lord, it shall be done” and left the room.

The Archangel Michael was standing ready, waiting for Gabriel and wasted no time in summoning Angels to escort Gabriel to the Earth Transport.

Gabriel arrived in the early evening and was admitted into the house to speak with Mary. We can allow St Luke to continue the story:

Gabriel said to Mary “Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.”

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary;

*you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”*

*“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”*

*The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.”*

*“I am the Lord's servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her. Luke 1:28-38*



A friend of St Peter's, Ruth Sharville, has recently upgraded and relaunched her website dedicated to the work of architect George Fellowes Prynne (GFP). GFP took over, in the 1880s, our church building plans from the first architect Richard Drew. GFP was to complete our church by adding the west end with its rose window and gothic details, the wider plan for the nave aisles which we enjoy today, the Lady Chapel and the vestries which replaced original

ones built in 1870 to Richard Drew's more modest specification.

If you would like to know more about this architect who worked on, it is said over 200 church projects, and also to learn about Ruth's journey to discover more about George Fellowes Prynne and his fascinating life then here is the website link:

<https://www.georgefellowesprynne.org.uk/>



# Durham and Dulwich

by Hilary Gaster

## Durham – the place to go

As someone who has just returned from two days in Durham, I feel extremely cheerful for the choir and their camp followers/supporters next August when they go to sing in the Cathedral. The Norman cathedral is truly one of the most magnificent and beautiful in the UK - the seat of the prince-bishops. This visit, coming up to Halloween, my granddaughter made a paper bat in the cloisters after hunting for teddy bears dressed as monks all round the cathedral. We all admired from above, the new M&S

sponsored window depicting The Last Supper. After seeing a much older version behind the main altar.

Thoroughly recommended also is a tour of the castle (conducted by students) which needs to be booked in advance. It includes the Tunstall Chapel (breathtakingly beautiful), the Undercroft, where you have to spot the mermaid on a Norman pillar, the Norman doorway and the Harry Potteresque Great Hall.

Finally, you can visit “the worst night club in Europe” which is actually most enjoyable.



### *The Christ figure from the Last Supper*

*You can read more about the remarkable discovery of the Last Supper tableau dating from 1850 hidden high up in the Triforium of the Cathedral [here](#).*





## Dulwich Picture Gallery - the current hang

I am delighted to report that the Dulwich Picture Gallery is currently showing many more Christian paintings than usual. After entering, turn right for *Samson and Delilah*, *St Barbara fleeing from her father*, *St Peter in Penitence* and *St Mary Magdalene in Penitence*, or go straight for *Jacob's Dream* originally thought to be a Rembrandt. If you turn left, enjoy *The Holy Family* by Vasari, the head of *St Catherine of Siena*, two small saintly Rachael's from an altarpiece from Perugia, the *Petrobelli Altarpiece with St Gerome*, *St Sebastian* being shot by arrows

(most atmospheric), *The Woman taken in Adultery* with Jesus (looking very kind), the *Fall of the Rebel Angels*, *Joseph receiving Pharoah's Ring*, a wonderful *Resurrection* by Ricci, a *St Cecilia* playing a portable organ (not a William Hill then), and then look for *The Triumph of David*, *The Translation of St Rita of Cascia*, *Jacob and Laban with Rachel and Leah* (one of my favourite pictures), *The Return of the Holy Family from Egypt* and, saving one of the best and most seasonal to last *The Madonna of the Rosary*!

I hope you get there if you'd like to but don't forget – it is shut on Mondays!



*Jacob and Laban their daughters Rachel and Leah* by Claude Lorrain (c1600-1682) -  
on display at the Dulwich Picture Gallery

## Dates for your diary

### COMMITTEE DATES

Day	Date	Time	Meeting Group	Venue
Sunday	December 11th	After Parish Mass	MAP Group - Welcome, Hospitality and Inclusion	Church
Thursday	December 15th	From 7pm	PCC Christmas Party	By invitation



Copy deadline for Spring *St Peter's Review* :  
Sunday 19th February 2023

### FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Thursday 15th December

Parish Christmas Party from 6pm 'til late - Quiz for adults and children still there at 7.30pm

See page 3 for details.

#### Sunday 18th December

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6.30pm

#### Saturday 24th December - Christmas Eve

Christmas Activities for Children & Crib Service:

3pm-4pm Crafts activities in church

4pm-4.30pm Children's Christmas Crib service

11pm Midnight Mass (Note time)

#### Sunday 25th December - Christmas Day

10.30am Christmas Day Mass

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For more info, contact Father Steffan  
on 020 8769 2922

or [frsteffan@stpeters-streatham.org](mailto: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](https://www.facebook.com/StPetersSW16)



[www.stpeters-streatham.org](http://www.stpeters-streatham.org)