



ST CYPRIAN'S NEWSLETTER

April 2016

Services in April

Sunday 3rd April – Low Sunday

10.30am Mass Celebrant: Father Michael Fuller

Mass setting: Merbecke

Sunday 10th April – the 2nd Sunday after Easter

10.30am Mass Celebrant: Father Michael Fuller

Mass setting: Lasso - *Missa super "Osculetur me"*

Motet: Bairstow - *Let all mortal flesh keep silence*

Sunday 17th April – the 3rd Sunday after Easter

10.30am Mass Celebrant: Father Michael Fuller

Mass setting: Jackson - *Missa Brevis*

Motet: Howells - *The Lord is my shepherd*

Sunday 24th April – the 4th Sunday after Easter

10.30am Mass Celebrant: Father Gerald Beauchamp

Mass setting: Kodaly - *Missa Brevis*

Motet: Hadley - *My beloved spake*

Weekday Mass – Thursday, 1.10pm,

Morning Prayer – Tuesday – Friday, 8am



Sir Ninian Comper in his Rolls Royce – a quirky detail from the background of the wall painting of St Christopher in the church at Lound in Suffolk. Comper worked extensively at Lound between 1909 and 1914, designing the organ case, the font cover and restoring the screen. [photo: Dunstan Speight]

Letter from Father Gerald

It was on 29 March 1866 that Fr Gutch first celebrated the mass in the mission house that he had set up not far from where St Cyprian's now stands. It was Maundy Thursday. Last year I obtained a collection of Fr Gutch's sermons. Unfortunately they are undated and there isn't an Easter sermon in the collection. There is however a sermon that he preached in Passiontide during his time in the neighbourhood that well-illustrates his message, character and style.

The sermon is entitled 'The Profaneness of Pharaoh' and it takes a swipe at earthly rulers. When Fr Gutch was preaching the Industrial Revolution was in full swing with enormous implications for social change and for this area in particular. He angles his criticism at the powers that be for seeking to liberalise divorce law. At that time divorce was a matter for ecclesiastical lawyers not the civil courts but with some people becoming very wealthy and women

increasingly raising their voices for greater autonomy the stage was set for yet another battle between church and society.

From his preaching we can see that Fr Gutch was a high church Puritan. He wanted a church unsullied by the world: a beacon set on a hill. At the same time however he wasn't seeking an ivory tower. His 30 years ministering to build up this parish especially among poorer people and the casualties of social change demonstrate his pastoral heart and his love of people whoever they may be. His legacy is much to be cherished.

But there is a danger that if we are defined by standing against things then we turn in on ourselves. The catholic movement in the Church of England sometimes sees itself in martyr-mode. Many Anglo-Catholic churches consciously took martyrs as their patronal saints: St Alban's Holborn, St Peter's London Docks, St Cyprian's Clarence Gate. If we are persecuted then we must be right and the world naturally fears us.

It's a hard mind-set to escape but escape it we must. If we don't, we can find ourselves detached from the world around us in a way that ultimately denies the incarnation. Living out our Christian values fully aware that we often fall short of them ourselves is one thing. Taking the moral high ground and becoming lost above the clouds is another.

If Fr Gutch was grappling with the realities of social change then so must we. Currently, St Cyprian's has resolutions in place that inhibit the ministry of women priests and bishops in this parish. Under recent synodical decisions these resolutions will cease to have effect at the end of this year. In the autumn the Parochial Church Council will have to decide either to let them lapse or write new resolutions to put in their place.

The issues have been rehearsed many times before but we can't duck discussing them again. All of us have fairly strong opinions about this one way or the other but although many have stated their views we perhaps haven't been as good at saying why we think as we do. Especially when we hear strong opinions being expressed its natural to ask 'Where did that come from?'

So on Saturday 23 April we're going to have an extended lunch. There will be a parish day, 11.00am – 3.00pm to explore not so much the question of the ordination of women itself but the wider issues of gender and identity that inform our own thinking. Each of us has a gender and we all define ourselves in various ways. We have to because from time to time we are required to tick boxes on forms.

This may be a difficult conversation but the glory of a small congregation such as ours is that we have the opportunity to get to know each other very well. When we know people and know that they and we are more than the labels that are either assumed or imposed then love finds her home in the spaces both within us and between us. Community is realised. There's no Easter Day without Good Friday. There's no real church without people going through something together.

So please sign up on the sheet at the back of St Cyprian's. It shows the timing of the programme for the day. We start with coffee, lunch with wine is included (catered by Maroush) and we will end the day with a mass. The conversation will be for adults but I know that childcare for the time that we are in conversation is being organised.

Fr Gutch's legacy is 150 years old this year. May the best of it continue and may you have a glorious Easter.

Yours in Christ

Fr Gerald

Events

Sunday 10th April after Mass.

PCC Meeting to Adopt the 2015 Accounts

Wednesday 13th April

1.10pm Organ Recital.

Huw Morgan, St Laurence Catford.

Programme to be announced.

Retiring collection.

Saturday 23rd April

11.00am – 3.00pm

Parish Day on Gender and Identity

Sunday 24th April, after Mass

Farewell to Fr Simon and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Having announced Fr Simon's resignation last month it will be good to have the opportunity to say good-bye to him formally.

At the APCM we will be electing churchwardens and members of the Parochial Church Council so please think about who should be proposed for these important roles. In preparation for the APCM the parish Electoral Roll is being updated so please join if you are not on the roll. Forms are available at the back of church.

Sunday 15th May 2016

3 pm Concert by the Arcubus Ensemble, conducted by Julian Collings

at St Mary-le-Bow Church, Cheapside, London EC2V 6AU

Performing in the beautiful surroundings of St Mary-le-Bow (named St Mary de Arcubus in medieval times - the church from which we take our name), our spring/summer concert features a wonderfully dramatic setting of Psalm 104 by Jonathan Dove, three ethereal settings of W B Yeats texts by our composer-in-residence, Russell Hepplewhite and finally the haunting Requiem of Maurice Duruflé.

Jonathan Dove *Bless the Lord, O my soul*

Russell Hepplewhite *The everlasting voices*

Maurice Duruflé *Requiem*

Tickets £10 including wine available on the door or in advance from Julian Collings

www.arcubusensemble.com

