

ST MARGARET'S PAGE

5th Sunday of Easter — 28 April 2024 - Year B



In Peter writes:

Standing at the cusp of May and despite the cold, intimations of spring are in the air, the wisteria is about come out in full bloom, other plants around the garden are showing signs of life, the rediscovered magnolia tree is sprouting leaves. Buddleia, the plant that marked the former bomb sites of London are sprouting furiously. Colour and the sound of the occasional bird not yet captured by local cats fills the air with birdsong. A surprisingly rural sound for such a built-up area. Last week was 'world earth day', and here in St Margaret's though the wind and rain might have put us of walking, the floral fecundity of creation is apparent everywhere. Western Europe possess landscapes that have been moulded by human cultivation and habitation for over ten-thousand years. These, for me, provide greater beauty than just so-called 'unchanging nature'. No one could not be awed by seeing the Grand Canyon, the Matterhorn, and other natural wonders, but the quiet of a cultivated garden expresses our human condition to me, dependent and creative simultaneously.

Dependence and creativity give the exercise of freedom its proper context. Exalting freedom, a contemporary obsession can often give the impression that the consequences of free actions are likewise themselves free. This cannot be true. Everyone is notionally free to drink to excess, take drugs, waste their income or eat obsessively but to think that somehow the consequences are also free too is woefully inadequate. Such consequences are virtually pre-determined through the action decided. Freedom bring responsibility in its wake. Defects of character might predispose someone to go in those directions so blame could be mitigated, and assistance offered, but to say that the effects were free, as the action, would not be true.

Such asymmetry between free actions and their consequence is not all bad news. The matter may be turned around through Jesus' conquest over sin and death, and his donation of the Holy Spirit. These divine actions pre-determine the spiritual environment in which the free decisions of life are undertaken. This Sunday's Gospel explains this reality. Jesus calls Himself the true vine. Vine describes the entirety of the plant, made up of branches that will produce the grape. Being 'in Christ' in this way therefore pre-

disposes the Christian to produce fruit. Participation in the life of the vine will bring forth fruit from the most unprepossessing individuals because the fruit is already determined by being within the vine. It requires a definite strategy to produce no fruit at all, of being completely anti-life, an almost non-human understanding of the gift of life.

To the Christian, participation in the life of the vine ensures that no-one can be seen as completely useless, nor beyond redemption. Key to the moral life then in participation in the life of the vine, or in the words of St John, of remaining within the vine. Taken by itself, 'remaining' hardly seems cutting-edge mission focused religion. It sounds 'middle of the road', yet be remaining, dull as it may sound, the Christian is able to bear fruit from within the church of which he or she are members.

Like the exuberant nature all around us at the moment, bursting forth with life at the beginning of spring, so the Christian life can burst forth and produce the rich grapes of the vine. The branches from which the bunch of grapes hand is vitiated by the sap of grace, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and in a way pre-determine the consequences of free choices. This weekend seventeen teenagers of the parish will receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit at their Confirmation which reminds us of our own reception of these gifts. May these gifts mark their and our lives.

Extending these parables too far makes them lose their sense but membership of the vine demonstrates the responsibility that life brings, of being orientated towards bearing fruit. Bearing fruit can be seen as the elusive purpose of life, a purpose that requires being part of the vine. Being a member of the church, a living branch of the vine, makes sense of our lives, both in their individuality, the fruit that one might bear, and in its communal nature, no one person is ever the full vine, only a branch.

Participation in the life of faith through the sacraments, prayer and community life locates the branch that is my life within the vine of the Church. Participation cannot guarantee a trouble-free or stress-free life but it can guarantee that our lives can bear fruit by remaining within the vine. Good news for a world that has lost its sense of individual worth and community expressions.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

• E-mail: stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk • Website: www.stmargaretsrcchurch.co.uk • Phone - 020 8892 3902
Parish Priest: Canon Peter Newby. Deacon Joseph Estorninho; Parish Administrator: Cynthia Souza; Bookkeeper: Ann Edes
Office Hours: Monday to Friday (9.30 am - 12.30 pm) Emails are not checked out of office hours.

Mass Intentions: 27/04 - 15/05

27/04	Sat	10.00am	Souls in purgatory	
		6.30 pm	CONFIRMATION MASS: Young people being confirmed	
28/04	Sun	8.30 am	Emily Hooper RIP	Maz & Bernard Winter
		10.30 am	John Drumm RIP	Catherine Sugrue
		6.30 pm	Claire Hughes RIP	Margot Watkins
29/04	Mon	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
30/04	Tue	10.00am	Recovery of St Margaret's parishioners undergoing surgery	
01/05	Wed	11.00 am	Funeral Mass of Catherine Philomena Poynter RIP	
02/05	Thu	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
03/05	Fri	10.00am	Missionary spirit of the Parish and the Church	
04/05	Sat	10.00am	Souls in purgatory	
		6.00 pm	The families of St Margarets Parish	
05/05	Sun	8.30 am	For you the people	
		10.30 am	In thanksgiving: Golden wedding anniversary of Geoffrey & Allison Drew	
		6.30 pm	Agnes Preston RIP	Una Byrne

Entrance Antiphon

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

Response to the Psalm

You Lord are my praise in the great assembly

HOLY HOUR

Fridays at 8 pm — Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Should you wish to have your child baptised in this parish, please either speak to Fr Peter after Mass or contact the parish office. The next Baptism course will be held on July 23rd & 30th (online 8 pm—9 pm)



Sunday May 5th

**Will be the Golden Wedding Anniversary
Of Geoffrey and Allison Drew**

To celebrate, and to thank St Margaret' community for all the support we have received, in bad times as well as good, Allison & Geoffrey would like to invite all parishioners to share a glass of fizz and a piece of cake with them after the 10.30 Mass, which will be offered In thanksgiving for 50 years of marriage

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Cynthia Souza, Jimmy Green, Maz Winter, Natalie Shaw and Larry Fogg, Maria Antonia Orta, Cathy Howard, John Forsyth, Rose Blackman, Rachel Rose, Arthur Mathewson, Pat Friel, Mary Regan, Pauline Slawson, Ben, Carol Samba, Colin Bartram, Gerry McEntee, Rose Williams, Hilary Sudell, Rose Lorden, William Hamilton, Mary Arnold, Cesar Juan Urrutigoity, Mary Ethel Arnolda, Sydney Parkes, Christopher Browne, Antonella Sesta, Margaret Masterson, Carmen Ruibal, Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga), Tony Tucker, Dr Christopher Khoo, John Wood-Collins, Jim Polland, Theresa Bulpitt, Sue Rolph & Dick Cotter

Anniversaries - Mary Otterway, Arnold Hill, William Gauci, Jim Doyle, Thomas Ford Millar, Rose Mitchell, Kathleen Bannister, Ignatius Ashton, Charles Rowe, Ann Osborne, Dorota Leszczynska, George Hamilton

Recently deceased - Catherine Philomena Poynter RIP *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in eternal peace. Amen*

April Prayer Intentions - For the role of women - Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.



TWICKENHAM CHRISTIAN Men's Breakfast

How can we help Christians to stay in the Holy Land?

Sir Vincent Fean was Britain's Consul-General, Jerusalem (2010-14), talking to Palestinians.

Ten years after, retired in Whitton, he is a trustee of the Balfour Project (www.balfourproject.org), a charity looking back at Britain's responsibilities in what today is Israel/Palestine, and exploring what Britain should do now for the best.

His theme is the dwindling Christian Palestinian presence in the Holy Land - and how we here can help to sustain it.



Saturday
4th May
8:15 - 10:00AM

Enjoy a delicious healthy
breakfast

Suggested donation. £10

VENUE: **St Margaret's Church,**
130 St Margaret's Road, East Twickenham TW1 1RL

To buy tickets e.mail:
info@twickenhamrepaircafe.org

*Enjoy warmth and good company here at
St Margaret's at our much loved*

*"Tea & Chat"
every alternate
Wednesday from
1:45 pm - 3:15 pm*



*Dates for your diary.
May 1st, 15th & 29th*

*All are welcome.
Please feel free to bring along a friend or a neighbour.*

Annual Priest Training Fund Collection

This weekend there will be second collection in support of the Priest Training Fund. This fund pays for the training and education of seminarians at our seminary, Allen Hall. Donation envelopes are available at the back of church. Thank you for your generosity.



Diocese of Westminster
PRIEST TRAINING FUND

Registered charity no. 233699

Life in the Spirit course 2024

Starting on Tuesday 23rd April we will be running a series of talks to help deepen our understanding of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The course is a lead up to Pentecost.



Each evening will begin at 7:15 in the church hall with a meal.

The dates and topics, dates and speakers are:

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|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------|
| • Tuesday 23 April | GOD'S LOVE | Speaker: |
| Joan Fernandes | | |
| • Tuesday 30 April | SALVATION | Speaker: |
| er: Canon Gerard Bradley | | |
| • Tuesday 7 May | NEW LIFE | Speaker: |
| er: Janet Iannicelli | | |
| • Saturday 18 May | Day retreat at St Georges Cathedral 11-5 | |
| • Thursday 23 May | GROWTH | Speaker: |
| er: Allegra Mutanda | | |
| • Tuesday 28 May | TRANSFORMATION | Speaker: |
| Gary Steven | | |

So what are the Life in the Spirit seminars?

Life in the Spirit Seminars grew out of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and since 2019, Pope Francis has been asking CHARIS International - the Catholic Church body which serves the worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal - to make the Baptism in the Spirit available around the world, to everyone in the Church.

To this end we are running Life in the Spirit Seminars. They include the opportunity for you to receive the "Baptism in the Spirit", a fuller release of the Holy Spirit as described by Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa (Spiritual guide to Pope Francis) as "a renewal of our Baptism [that allows] the Spirit to flow like a fragrance in the Christian life".

Life in the Spirit is free (in more senses than one!)

There is no charge for taking part in Life in the Spirit, but you will be given the opportunity to make a donation to help cover the costs of the course.

Why come?

To enter a deeper relationship with the Lord, to get deeper into the community and to have a personal Pentecost in Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Further questions?

You will be sent more details after you register at [Life in the Spirit 2024 - Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis \(rcaos.org.uk\)](http://Life in the Spirit 2024 - Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis (rcaos.org.uk)) which can be found on the Southwark diocese website. Or speak to one of us after mass or come along on 23rd April. If you have any questions we would be happy to answer them - email us at keane_pat@hotmail.com

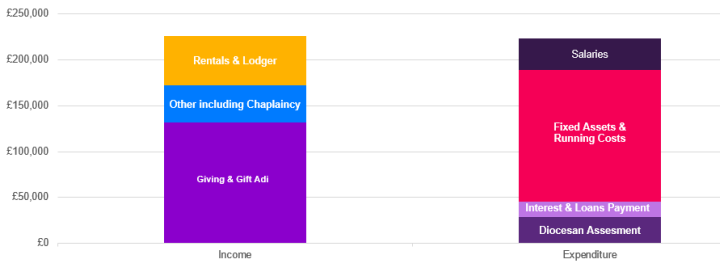
Financial Report to the Parish Overview of Parish Finances

Thank you for your continued support on the financial front, it is very much appreciated. It is worth highlighting that the Offertory income, together with gift aid recovered, is the biggest contributor to parish income. It could be more at no additional cost to you, if you are a UK tax payer please gift aid your donation which increases the amount the parish receives by 25%. In addition, the contributions to the Building Fund continue to meet the monthly repayments & interest on the loan account following the refurbishment of the Hall etc. The remedial works to the roof continue to receive our attention and hopefully we should have more information for you on the costs etc. to repair in due course.

A more detailed view of St Margaret's Parish 2023 income & expenditure is available on the notice board. However, you are welcome to discuss any aspect of the financial accounts with me or any member of the Finance Committee.

Peter Slattery
Chair of the Finance Committee

2023 Accounts showed a small net surplus of £2575, however this masks the fact that the parish relies on outside income to cover some day to day expenses

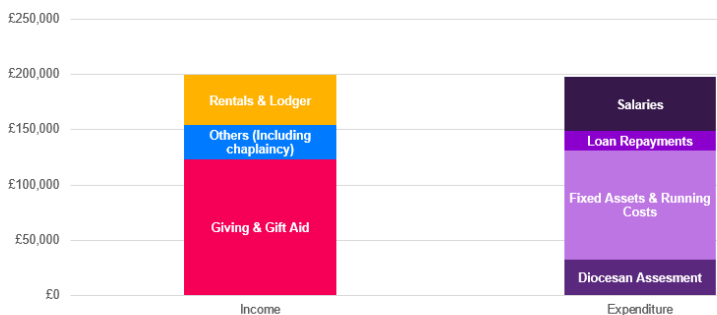


Offertory, along with the gift aid recovered, remains by far the biggest contributor to parish income, amounting to 44% of the total. This Parish needs your continued support!

However, it is not enough to cover the full running costs/repairs of the Church, and we are reliant on "business" income; hall, library and car park rentals, lodgers in the Presbytery.

The loan outstanding to the Diocese stands at £77k. Donations to the building fund, and associated gift aid, cover the cost of the loan repayments and interest

2024 Budget is forecast to roughly break even, excluding the impact of work on the roof



25% of offertory giving is based on loose plate and contactless donations; much of this does not attract gift aid; moving towards standing orders or payroll giving allows more certainty of income and allows us to reclaim a higher percentage of gift aid

Rental income from the hall and car park provides a much-needed additional income stream, but this is highly variable and subject to fluctuations

Running costs are increasing, driven by cost-of-living increases and higher utility bills, together with an ongoing repair program to the Church and Presbytery

The outstanding loan is repayable over 7 years and whilst a favourable rate was negotiated, it is linked to the base rate and therefore the interest burden is higher than initially predicted