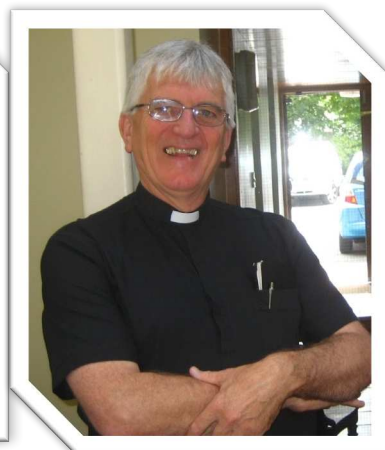


The Pilgrim

St Laurence's Parish Magazine, Sept 2018



Celebrating Fr Pat's time at St Laurence's

Contents

What's New?

Fr Pat Farewell & thanks	1
60th celebrations round-up	2-3
60th Flower Display	4-5
Fr Bob's 50th Anniversary	6

Features and Opinions

War and the non-violent Christ	7-8
When to stop?	8-9
Cardinal Points	9-10
Women who changed the Church	10
The tragedy of child abuse	11

Reviews

Book review: The Agony & the Ecstasy	11
--------------------------------------	----

Parish Organisations & Activities

St Laurence's School work	12
Confirmation Day	13
Ablaze Mass & Fr Pat's Leaving Do	14
CAFOD update & <i>liveSimply</i> award	15
Cambridge Justice & Peace Group	16-17
Parish Forum Summary	18-19
Fairtrade and Traidcraft Exchange	19-20
Share the Journey	20
Feed the Hungry: Cambridge City Foodbank	21
SVP update	22

Personal Stories

Poem: Exodus	22
--------------	----

Tailpiece

23

Editorial

24

What's New?

Farewell and thanks

Fr Pat Cleary



This picture of Frs Anthony, Alvan and Alex is a reminder to me of all the wonderful help I've had at St Laurence's as Parish Priest for the last eight years. For a while, I said all four weekend Masses and then Fr Bob arrived and I'm very grateful to him, not just for the Masses offered, but also for the scripture sharing sessions and for taking individuals in preparation for several sacraments and ministries in the Parish.

Fr Jay journeyed with us, and we with him, as he went from seminarian to deacon to priest. We've enjoyed his presence in the Parish and wish him well in the future. Thanks also to Deacon Geoff Cook for all his support over the years. Pat Cook, too, has done so much to keep things moving. I particularly appreciate her welcoming tone when on the phone or answering the door. Lynda McIntyre and Helen Allan made up the office team until Lynda's ill health prevented her from continuing. We've been blessed to have two seminarians from the Parish, both studying in Rome, Peter Wagnanski and Mike Smith.

I've found the model of open Forum meetings, with the Facilitation Group and Finance Committee all working in tune with me as Parish priest, a wonderful model for decision making in the Parish. Each has particular skills and when we pool them we become a much better Parish as a result. Pope Francis once said, "When the Church does not empower the laity she is no longer a mother but a babysitter who puts the baby to sleep. She is a dormant Church."

We now continue our discipleship in different places, but if we remain faithful to the continuing mission of Jesus, we'll be heading in the same direction to the same destination. There have been so many people involved in making us the Parish that we are, so I'm sure you'll forgive me for not naming anyone in particular, that does not lessen my gratitude for all they have done. Thank you!

60th celebrations round up

Sarah Sykes

Bishop Alan's message for St Laurence's Parish on our 60th Anniversary

Following our Songs of Praise celebration in April, Bishop Alan joined us in July to say Mass in honour of our 60 years at Milton Road and unveiled a new plaque listing all the Parish Priests who have served St Laurence's throughout the years.



The Bishop's sermon that day started by covering the history of the Parish briefly up to its arrival at Milton Road. He praised and thanked those – in particular Fr Oates – whose foresight and hard work in raising funds, finding and buying the land means we have the church we have today. He then continued:

For many of you this church will hold powerful memories for you and your families and will always have a special place in your affection. This is the place where you have encountered God himself, where his divine life has broken into your human life and transformed you through the sacraments. Here some of you will have been baptised or confirmed, here you've been reconciled and fed regularly with the bread of life. Here some of you have been married, baptised your children, and some of you will have taken farewell of a loved one.

So in this 60th year we offer up all our thanksgiving, all our remembrances, all our memories of past graces and blessings, and we pray for the souls of all those priests and people who served God in this place with such generosity. But today, this 60th year is not just about this building, but today is *our* celebration for 'We' are the people of God, not the bricks and mortar of the building but the 'living stones', living memories of Christ's body; the Church.

So what does this mean for us today? The Gospel gives us our answer. As the 'living stones' of Christ's body each one of us is called to be a missionary. In the Gospel, we hear how Jesus sends out his disciples to proclaim the coming of the Kingdom of God. But he doesn't only send the disciples. We read subsequently

that he sends out a further 70 people to carry out that same work of evangelization.

The work of evangelization is entrusted to every baptised member of the Church. Because it is through our baptism that we become the 'living stones' of Christ's body, we received our vocation from the Lord to continue his work, his mission in the world today. At our Confirmation, God confirms us with that vocation and fills us with the Holy Spirit so that we can be strengthened in that vocation to be his Son's witnesses.

Where is our mission field? It lies around us amongst our fellows, neighbours, in our schools, colleges, places of work; in fact, wherever we are. Our mission is to proclaim the Lord's Gospel and to challenge many of those values of today's society which so enslave and diminish human life.

You are right in the front line of this mission. You carry the Gospel teaching and values into the world of politics, finance, law, fashion, technology, sport, art, entertainment. You are the specialist in family life and education. You are the ones who can demand a responsible media. And we do all this because we know that men and women will be more complete in their human lives when the religious values of this world are not disregarded. In all of this we share the ministry of Jesus Christ himself to help all to come to a deeper understanding and acknowledgement of man's sacred origins and destiny, and an acknowledgement of God himself. So as the 'living stones' of this Catholic community we can never afford to be complacent or inward looking. We must always be seeking to be outward looking, to bring others to know the love of Jesus Christ, always seeking to serve others in his name.

On their mission, the apostles discovered those in need. As the 'living stones' you too are called to be a beacon of hope and love in a society which is torn apart by selfishness, war, terrorism, hunger, homelessness and poverty and pushing people out to the margins. As Christians, we can never turn our backs on those who are in need in the wider community. This too is our mission. And Jesus reminds us in the Gospel that in serving them we serve him.

The Gospel later records that the apostles and 70 others return to the Lord. We are reminded by this moment that we have to be equipped for our mission. We cannot do it in our own strength. We too need to return to the Lord; and very often. We constantly need to turn to him in prayer, in worship, in adoration, in reflection. And our diamond jubilee provides us with an opportunity to deepen and renew our faith, both in

our own lives and in that of our Parish. We must constantly turn to the Lord in prayer and worship, adoration, reflection and as we do so we will rediscover those gifts with which God has filled our lives and begin to use them again with a constant building up of the love and unity of our community.

As Pope Francis reminds us, it is only from the love and unity that we display as a Christian community that we can effectively display the presence of Jesus Christ in our world and truly welcome all who come to seek him. Bringing others to Christ, constantly returning to the source of our spiritual strength through prayer and the sacraments, reaching out to those who are in need in the wider community, are ways in which we can seek to grow the 'living stones' of this Parish.

God has greatly blessed the community here at St Laurence's over these past 60 years. You are a strong and lively community. May he renew and sustain you all in your faith and vision for the future, and especially as changes come about in this coming autumn. May he give you the courage to live and proclaim the Gospel in these challenging times. May he help you to grow in love and unity. May the seeds that you sow for the Lord today produce an even greater abundance of fruit during these next 60 years. May God bless each one of you.

The Feast Day celebrations



The final celebration of our 60th anniversary at Milton Road took place fittingly on St Laurence's Feast Day. The Church decorated with balloons and special flower displays; the priests in festive red and the Church full of parishioners, we enjoyed a concelebrated Mass with wonderful music and 3 sermons! Fr David, Fr Richard OP, and Fr Pat all said a little something about St Laurence and our Parish.

Afterwards, with a queue out the door for the hog roast, we enjoyed a real feast of food and drink and a chance to meet and chat with our guest priests and reminisce a little with each other about events across the years of the Parish. Fr Pat cut the cake, specially made for the occasion.

We were also joined by our new priest-to-be, Fr Simon (plus dog), who was also celebrating his birthday. Fr Pat – accidentally – knocked a few years off his age, but Fr Simon confessed after we'd all sung a rousing Happy Birthday!



And although we have finished our 60th celebrations, we still have another party to plan for next month when we will celebrate our time with Fr Pat and wish him a fond farewell and good luck in his new Parish of Wymondham. His last Mass at St Laurence's will be the Ablaze Mass on Sunday 9th September at 5pm, followed by the party from 6pm.

And finally....

Thank you to all those who have helped tirelessly behind the scenes to make all the planned events go on successfully and with enjoyment for others. To Barbara Quail for heading up the Steering Group and all those on the Steering Group, to the CWL for supporting the socials with food, drink, setting up, serving, and shopping. To Joanne Kerrigun for organising the plaque, including a hellish journey down to Surrey and back to make sure it was here for the Bishop to unveil. To the person who mounted it on the wall! To Eddie Watson for providing the banner. To all those who contributed photos of Parish life across the years. To the musicians and singers at Songs of Praise and the Feast day Mass. To those who provided food, drink and to those who voted for their favourite hymn.

We have all come together across the Parish to celebrate together and mark the occasion. We look forward to the next 60 years.

The Flower Display commemorating all the priests who have served St Laurence's

Put together by Frances Stafford and the flower arranging team for the 60th anniversary Feast Day celebrations on 10th August.



Fr Gerald Hulme 1947-1951

During his life Fr Hulme had a strong devotion to Our Lady. He was responsible for many processions around the streets of Chesterton, culminating in the crowning of the statue of Our Lady in the church grounds.



Fr Patrick Oates 1951-1968

All credit must go to Fr Oates, who since his appointment in 1951, worked tirelessly to raise funds in order to make possible the building of our Church.



Fr Norman Smith 1968-1969

Fr Smith said the very first Holy Communion Mass for the Parish children.



Fr Liam Brady 1969-1972

In the early years Fr Liam was a Passionist Priest. He has been well remembered for his wonderful singing voice. He greatly enjoyed visiting the Ellison household for Eunice's homemade chips!



Fr John Drury 1972-1977

Fr John began adult life as a footballer. After a vocation in his 20's, his priestly life took him to S. America, Northampton and E. Anglia. While serving at St Laurence's he loved to visit us in school where he could be seen giving the children rides around the playing field on his scooter! He was responsible for the Waterbeach Barracks Chapel which he named St Joseph's.



Fr Richard Wilson 1977-1982

Fr Richard was a devoted priest considering parishioners of all age groups. His sermons were always 'down-to-earth' and relevant to everyday life. Sadly, he died in 2010. RIP.



Fr Peter Wynekus 1982-1988

Fr Peter was a member of the choir at OLEM before entering the priesthood. A keen gardener, he filled his greenhouse and presbytery with exotic plants. Many a coffee morning was taken after the 11 o'clock Mass admiring and discussing the beauty of the various species.



Fr Michael Griffin 1988-1996

Fr Michael's sermons, during which his teachings were related to everyday life and were brought alive by liberal amounts of humour, were always understood and well received.



Fr David Paul 1997-2010

Fr David was totally committed to his role as Parish priest here at St Laurence's – sharing his time between all age groups. He now serves as Dean of the Cathedral of Norwich, a position which he is more than worthy to hold. The Cathedral's gain is our loss! But beware – he is a big tease!



Fr Pat Cleary 2010-2018

Fr Pat's 'easy-going' attitude and sense of humour have allowed the Parish to breathe and flourish to the greater benefit to all its members – young and old. We ask God's blessing for his ministry in his new parish and on his health in the future. Thank you, Fr Pat.

Fr Bob's 50th Anniversary

Nora Darby

The 29th and 30th June were two special days in the St Laurence's calendar. We were celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Fr Bob's Ordination into the Dominican Order.



It started on the evening of Friday 29th, the Feast of Ss Peter and Paul, with a Mass at St Laurence's. When we arrived we were greeted by a Scottish piper in full Tartan outside the church porch. This was a reminder of his time as Catholic Chaplain to Strathclyde University, others were to follow.

The congregation filled the church; Parish members, but also many friends and family of Fr Bob who had travelled for the occasion. The bell rang and the altar filled with clergy. Fr Pat celebrated Mass accompanied by Fr Jay, Fr Bob and Deacon Geoff,



joined by what seemed to be the entire community of Blackfriars led by Prior Euan Marley. As the service progressed the choir and congregation filled the church with 'Beautiful Music', Fr Euan gave a homily, not a tribute to Fr Bob he stressed, and then before the final hymn, unannounced, the Novices from Blackfriars, sang unaccompanied Ambrosian Chant, 'O Spem Miram', which is the anthem to St Dominic. A wonderful moment! A fitting end to an inspiring, moving Holy Mass.



Service over, we all crowded into the Parish room and the garden – thank goodness for a fine evening – where there was masses of food and drink to be consumed plus of course



lots of chatter! The climax came with Fr Bob cutting his own special cake made by Jeannette Milbourn.

Now to Saturday 30th, and to Blackfriars for 'The Party'! Another beautiful, sunny day and the garden at Blackfriars looking cool and calm with tables and chairs spread around in the shade. First the important things, again masses of wonderful food and drink laid out in various rooms, the Novices making sure we knew where to go and that we had enough. Everyone was having a great time, again there were many from St Laurence's plus even more people from Fr Bob's past. He was in charge of the kitchen but we did see him from time to time in his chef's apron that is until silence was called for.

This was to be his moment; he was brought centre stage – still wearing apron (see photos)! Time for tributes to a very special person. The first speaker, Jim Griffin, was from his Strathclyde days, and in his wonderful Scottish accent told of those days, and the many times, spent with Fr Bob over the years. Next was his nephew, Matthew, to tell us something about his family life, of the man visiting him in hospital every day when he was a little lad, the priest who had baptised and married him and other members of the family. Finally, it was Fr Pat's turn to pay tribute, thanking him for five great years. He said, "I didn't know how it would turn out, but it worked. Two very different personalities with different ideas, in unison with one another."

Now it was time for Fr Bob to say a very heartfelt thank you to everyone and also to tell us how much he had "enjoyed his parties", time to cut the second cake with fizz provided.



Fr Bob had stipulated – No presents! However donations to the Dominican Friars 'Training Fund' would be welcome.

A total of £4,800 was donated over the two days.

Features and Opinions

The World Wars – War and the Nonviolent Christ

Michael Allan

At a Calvary near the Ancre

Wilfred Owen

One ever hangs where shelled roads part.
In this war He too lost a limb,
But His disciples hide apart;
And now the Soldiers bear with Him.

Near Golgotha strolls many a priest,
And in their faces there is pride
That they were flesh-marked by the Beast
By whom the gentle Christ's denied.

The scribes on all the people shove
And bawl allegiance to the state,
But they who love the greater love
Lay down their life; they do not hate.

Almost 100 years ago, on the 11th November 1918, the First World War ended, leaving an estimated 18 million dead. Was it a victory of good over evil? Was it a just war? Can war be just?

In 1915, the Bishop of London, Arthur Winnington-Ingram preached, “Everyone that loves freedom and honour ... are banded in a great crusade – we cannot deny it – to kill Germans. To kill them, not for the sake of killing but to save the world; to kill the good as well as the bad, to kill the young men as well as the old, to kill those who have shown kindness to our wounded as well as those fiends who crucified the Canadian sergeant, who superintended the Armenian massacres, who sank the *Lusitania*, and who turned the machine-guns on the civilians of Aerschott and Louvain – and to kill them lest the civilisation of the world itself be killed.”

Fierce support for the war gripped most of the nation and the Churches, with an understandable outrage over reports (some of them true) of German atrocities.

Some voices spoke for peace, though were barely heard above the clamour for war. Pope Benedict XV passionately opposed the bloody, industrialised warfare engulfing Europe. On 28th July 1915 he published the apostolic exhortation *To the Peoples Now at War and to Their Rulers*, ‘In the holy name of God, in the name of our heavenly Father and Lord, by the Blessed Blood of Jesus, price of man’s redemption, We conjure You, whom Divine Providence has placed

over the Nations at war, to put an end at last to this horrible slaughter, which for a whole year has dishonoured Europe.’

This was ignored. In 1917, Pope Benedict issued his *Peace Note*, which proposed detailed negotiations for an end to the war that would be just, fair and reciprocal.

This also was widely rejected – including by Cardinal Bourne, the Archbishop of Westminster, who wrote, ‘The Pope has proposed that all the belligerents should come to a compromise. No! We demand the total triumph of right over wrong. We do not want a peace which will be no more than a truce or armistice between two wars. There may be in our land some people who want peace at any price, but they have no following among us. We English Catholics are fully behind our war leaders.’

There was generally a fevered, sometimes vicious attitude towards anyone who questioned or opposed the war.

But was it a just war? Traditional ‘just war’ theory includes certain criteria for a war to be ‘just’, principally: war must be a ‘last resort’; innocent civilians must not be harmed; and the use of arms must not produce evils graver than the evil to be eliminated.

How grave an evil is 18 million dead, including up to six million civilians? And, arguably, the First World War in part led to the Second World War, with over 60 million dead, of whom about 50 million were civilians. The genocide and mass killing of Jews, Roma, communists, homosexuals, the disabled and others, was probably humanity’s deepest descent into hell on earth, but civilians were also often deliberately targeted by all sides.

Pope Francis believes there is still a world war going on today, ‘While the last century knew the devastation of two deadly World Wars, the threat of nuclear war and a great number of other conflicts, today, sadly, we find ourselves engaged in a horrifying world war fought piecemeal.’

Sadly, we are still involved in this world war. British-made cluster bombs, for example, have recently been killing possibly thousands of children and adults in the Yemen. (Here the desire for profit goes hand in hand with human evil.)

For Pope Francis no war is just, ‘Today we have to rethink the concept of ‘just war’. We hear people say: “I make war because I have no other means to defend myself.” But no war is just. The only just thing is peace.’

But if war cannot be just, how can war and violence be opposed? Pope Francis believes it is only by following the nonviolent Christ, ‘Violence is not the cure for our broken world. Countering violence with violence leads at best to forced migrations and enormous suffering, because vast amounts of resources are diverted to military ends and away from the everyday needs of young people, families experiencing hardship, the elderly, the infirm, and the great majority of people in our world. At worst, it can lead to the death, physical and spiritual, of many people, if not of all.’

Christ’s message in this regard offers a radically positive approach. He unfailingly preached God’s unconditional love, which welcomes and forgives. He taught his disciples to love their enemies and to turn the other cheek. And when, on the night before he died, he told Peter to put away his sword, Jesus marked out the path of nonviolence. He walked that path to the very end, to the Cross, whereby he became our peace and put an end to hostility.



Photo from the Imperial War Museum Collections:
British soldier in the First World War lifting a damaged figure of Christ from a ruined Calvary. © IWM (Q 3874)

Nonviolence is not passive – it is active, creative and courageous. It is Jesus (the King who rides on a donkey) fearlessly proclaiming the coming of God’s kingdom of truth, love and mercy to a world deformed by lies, violence and injustice.

Writing this article has left some unresolved questions:

Do war and violence ever work? Surely war creates more war, violence more violence?

Were the World Wars victories of good over evil, or just utter tragedies? Should they be celebrated or lamented?

(Stalin’s regime – as tyrannical and murderous as the Nazi regime – benefited greatly after the Second World War, extending its malign dominion over Eastern Europe.)

Does nonviolence always work? Or is violent resistance to evil and injustice sometimes the only option?

Or is it time to follow a new way – to a new humanity?

When to Stop?

Petra Tucker

During the past year, the very sad stories of Charlie Gard (died July 2017) and Alfie Evans (died April 2018) have attracted world-wide publicity. Much of this was intrusive and divisive, with tabloid media straining to sell their papers, regardless of the best interests of the children or any ethical considerations.

I have worked in paediatrics for over 30 years and seen parents being told that nothing more can be done – decisions made after every avenue of treatment has been explored. Children in this country get round after round of treatment, over and above what an adult would be offered. I have nursed children where no one wants to say that they are not going to get better. I remember a 10-year-old girl who was going through her third round of treatment after a second relapse. The ward rounds became ever more stressful as both the doctors and parents knew her disease was responding poorly to treatment. One day she said to her consultant, ‘I want to stop taking my medicine’ and a couple of days later died peacefully in Dad’s arms. I wondered for whose benefit we had carried on treating her for so long.

Both Charlie and Alfie were in situations where trust and communication had broken down. Breaking bad news to parents in these situations is possibly the hardest part of a doctor’s job, as parents can feel angry, helpless or hopeless while watching their child deteriorate. It is easy to hit out and blame others. When this happens, feelings can become polarised and people become unable to really listen to what is being said.

I have nursed a child where the parents continually threatened to go to the press if doctors and nurses didn’t do exactly what they wanted. This is unacceptable and makes our jobs even more stressful than they already are. Every action is being watched and everything you say is being written down and may in the end be used against you and/or the hospital.

There are of course moral dilemmas in making decisions on treatment for terminally ill patients, but fortunately in this country we still err on the side of treatment rather than stopping. The Catholic Church

talks about the difference between ordinary and extraordinary treatment as a guideline for when to stop treatment. For both of these children, after many months of treatment, they were still dependent on the most basic of support – that of breathing. Putting someone on a ventilator isn't ordinary treatment at all. Indeed, both of these children died soon after their ventilation was withdrawn.

The anger and distrust that parents hold while fighting in the courts make it hard for staff to help them with little things like taking hand and foot prints. When the decision is taken to withdraw treatment, the focus is normally on making the last time together as full of positive memories as possible, so that during the grieving process the parents can hold onto these memories. A relative of mine had a precious week with their six month old son after ventilation was withdrawn, despite expecting to have only a few hours. During this time, the family did ordinary things like bathing him for the first time and their other child was able to hold and cuddle his little brother.

The hysteria around these two cases invited people to taunt and threaten the nurses and doctors who were caring for these children. CNN talked about a 'fictional, dystopian, totalitarian nightmare'. The reality is that our courts order the withdrawal of treatment only after every single option has been looked at. However there will be more Charlie and Alfie cases for as long as people refuse to accept that nothing can be done. Maybe there will come a time when the media stop hijacking these cases and families are allowed to say goodbye with peace and dignity.

Cardinal Points

John Hobson

So, it's all about sex this time! Sex is fascinating, isn't it? If there is any sniggering as you read this then you must volunteer yourself for the naughty step for at least two minutes!

Now then, sex, and I don't mean the erotic bit and the naughty magazines off the top shelf of the newsagents, but the gender debates which have filled the news lately. The introduction of same sex toilets in some schools; the increased awareness and focus on multiple different sorts of gender that can be self-selected, it seems; a creation of unscripted social etiquette rules and practices; news of a Professor of Psychology in a Canadian university (YouTube star Dr Jordan B Peterson of the University of Toronto) in very hot water for refusing to sign up to conform with new campus rules about how to address people in their

newly chosen form of gender; a new gender vocabulary and new ways of addressing people and a special flag to accommodate all this.

Anyway, I was quietly musing away and gazing at the passing clouds in the sky and wondering whether the roadworks on the A14 will ever end and then, quite suddenly, my mind landed in the middle of all this sex and gender stuff. It was a nice day and I mentally drifted into the creation story and wondered, with all that nakedness in the Garden of Eden, why it was that Adam and Eve were not expelled into the wilderness for some erotic misbehaviour but instead were expelled for scrumping? Well they weren't really, were they? Anyway, since then the institutional church – don't forget now, we ourselves are the Church, the 'institution' is largely speaking 'them others with the big hats' – has massively relegated the seriousness of the sin of scrumping.

In parallel with this they have created an industry of behavioural science and definition of sin which is based around sex and whether, and how, sex can be sinful; and also, who can and can't take part in it; and finally, who should be celibate.

Augustine was the main creator of fake news on this and was himself a youthful scrumper of pears. Later he was obsessed with the Genesis story of the Fall and his own promiscuous behaviour in his early life. He became deeply disturbed and repentant and he declared in his autobiographical writing called *Confessions in Thirteen Books*, that '...in intercourse a man becomes all flesh', overlooking the wonderful words of Christ in Matthew 19:1-12.

He was aided and abetted in this denigrating of sex by Pope Innocent III who, when merely as Cardinal Lotario (sic), wrote ten reasons to avoid marriage in his paper *De miseria humanae conditionis* (*On the Misery of the Human Condition*, look it up it is very amusing and insightful!). Once he became Pope Innocent III, he gifted the priesthood their compulsory celibate code and wrote off conjugal intercourse involving '...foul concupiscence whence the conceived seeds are befouled and corrupted' – really? Really!?! Do we still go along with this stuff?

Anyway, I mused further for a while on what would happen to our attitudes to all this, how our behaviour would change, or what new realisations would come to us, if we were all neutered and physical sexual activity was no longer possible, but that our genders remained clearly identifiable? Human reproduction would have to be achieved medically and scientifically – and a process already exists to achieve this – but the contractual framework of rules is not fully developed

and in their eventual full development such rules would need to be socially and morally accepted.

In such a world would we still seek out kindred spirits and people with similar tastes, interests and attitudes with whom to form emotional sharing and caring relationships? I think we might. We may search out folk who like the same computer games or like growing the same vegetables or flowers, folk, who like the same music or poetry or have attractive personality quirks! Would we develop life-long partnerships and share homes and resources together? I think we probably would. And guess what, our genders would not matter at all any more, how odd is that?

Women who Changed the Church

Amy Daughton

When I proposed a seminar series on the topic of ‘Women who Changed the Church’ and began to discuss it with colleagues and friends, I was universally met with excitement. Sometimes though, I would hear a more doubtful follow up: ‘changed *the Church*?’

What might be behind that hesitation is thinking of the Church as a formal institution. I am thinking here of Elena Curti’s report in *The Tablet* on 7th and 14th July, where she explored the roles women currently have in leadership and across parishes in England and Wales, which can sometimes be limited. She makes it clear how essential and diverse women’s contributions are in our lived religion today, and how beneficial it is to us all to create spaces for that to be recognised.

It’s true historically as well. The theological creativity of Julian of Norwich still shapes our ideas about Jesus Christ, the music of Hildegard of Bingen crops up on Radio 3, and writers like Thérèse of Lisieux and Evelyn Underhill have helped to nourish the spirituality of ordinary life. These are figures who have transformed our lived religion. Often, women amplify each other’s contributions too: in her writing, Teresa Okure raises up the commission of Jesus to Mary Magdalene, connecting women today with the women of the Gospel.

Women have and do change the Church, both dramatically and through the more gradual transformation of communities. It was the Catholic social activist, Dorothy Day, who makes this point so beautifully: ‘a pebble cast into a pond causes ripples

that spread in all directions. And each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that.’

So this autumn, the Margaret Beaufort Institute is creating a space for those ripples to continue, by running a public series of seminars on women whose legacies continues to shape our faith today. With speakers like Janet Soskice and Tina Beattie, we are excited to create spaces for the flourishing of Catholic women and to give our wider Church an opportunity to recognise their influence on us all.

Women who Changed the Church is a public seminar series at the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology. It will run from 4th October, 2pm Thursdays until 22nd November. All are welcome. £10 per seminar or £65 for the full series.

To learn more get in touch: mbitadm@hermes.cam.ac.uk, and keep an eye on the final schedule at: www.facebook.com/MargaretBeaufortInstitute

Here is the list of lectures for the series:

Lecture title and date	Speaker
<u>4 October</u> Hildegard of Bingen	Férdia Stone Davis
<u>11 October</u> Julian of Norwich	Elizabeth Powell
<u>18 October</u> Thérèse of Lisieux	Ann Swailes OP
<u>25 October</u> Evelyn Underhill	Louise Nelstrop
<u>1 November</u> Dorothy Day	TBC
<u>8 November</u> Catholic Women Speak	Tina Beattie
<u>15 November</u> Valerie Saiving & Teresa Okure: Women of the 20th Century	Janet Martin Soskice
<u>22 November</u>	TBC

The tragedy of child abuse

A homily on Ezekiel 18. 1-10 and Matthew 19. 13-15

Fr Bob Eccles

St Augustine says in his Rule, accord your superior the first place of honour among you. But in fear before God he shall lie prostrate beneath your feet.

Once upon a time, so long ago that it could be just an urban myth, there was a priory or convent, where no-one was found willing to be elected to be their Superior at all. It seems no-one wanted to fill that place. Did they govern themselves by meeting all the time? I don't know, perhaps so. Such a household could be a religious community but not a Christian one, or not for very long, or at least not obviously. Christ is among us as one who serves. Not only must whoever takes first place be least of all and servant of all, the Form of the Servant is, the sign we give. It is not an add-on when we have decided who is to put out the dustbins and feed the cat, it's the stuff of our lives, our daily bread. Where there is no spirit of service, Christ is not present. But it seems that community was possessed of the strange clericalist heresy that leadership consists in the exercise of power, domination and control. They were not being curiously shy or modest in recoiling from election, anything but. They all thought they had a demon to lay; the will to power. The true community on the other hand would be one in which all would hope to be of service, and the one who presides will indeed be least of all and servant of all, his or her only ambition to help them all to be of one heart and one mind in God.

The crisis of abuse by religious and clergy is our crisis, we are all in some way their victims though we do not suffer as the children have suffered. Our vocation is besmirched. The bride of Christ dishonoured. It exposes their brutal will to power where there should have been loving service. Men, it was mostly men, exercised power to destroy the powerless and indeed the little ones to whom the kingdom of heaven belongs. And in doing so destroyed themselves and brought down their institutions too. The sadist hates himself most of all. The Form of the Servant assumed by those men cloaked the naked exercise of cruelty. What torments us is the thought that this was only possible because of a deeply rooted climate of deference and servile obsequience towards monks and priests. Clericalism takes what is not God and treats it as sacred. Why, in the end, the victims were caught like rabbits in the glare of the headlights, unable to move.

Ezekiel, today's prophet, reflects on collective responsibility, and he gives us much to reflect on, how we can be responsible for our own generation, how we

are not to throw the responsibility upon anyone else. Doesn't he lead us on to think how we exercise our baptismal priesthood, how we treat one another as fellow-servants in the Church of Christ, who is Servant as well as Lord. Cut one another down to size! How we can demolish the walls that rise among us, how we can really be and be seen to be the fraternal Church.

Reviews

***The Agony and the Ecstasy: A Biographical Novel of Michelangelo* by Irving Stone**

– fictional depiction of Michelangelo. Includes bibliography, glossary and a list of the artist's works.

Karen Rodgers

This bald and accurate summary in no way does justice to this work.

I've been reading this book in two minutes bursts when I got the chance ever since we came back from Florence and it was gripping, moving, insightful, fascinating. There is a slight parental advisory, but if you expurgated four pages that would be about it and I felt nothing was gratuitous. With that proviso, the book is heartily recommended for budding artists.

Stone is as competent and impressive an historian as he is a novelist. He did a staggering amount of research before writing this book (reading all 450 or so of Michaelangelo's letters and other contemporary documents). The result is an account which makes the reader feel they are sharing the artist's feelings and thought processes – that we are really present, indeed more than present, in Michaelangelo's consciousness as he sculpts his Pieta, paints the Sistine chapel and designs the dome of St Peter's.

Despite the period depicted being one of the most controversial in all human history, I could detect no axe being ground. If you want to understand why the Reformation happened this is a very good place to start, yet Stone is not anti-Catholic. Every character in the novel, whether lowly or noble, Christian, humanist or pagan is depicted as a real, living, breathing person, as historically accurate as the author could make them; their virtues and humanity brought to luminous life and their flaws thrown into stark relief.

Scenes from *The Agony and the Ecstasy* keep going around in my head; especially the final two pages which take their power from the journey we have shared with the artist over the course of most of his life. In short this is one of the best novels I've ever read.

Parish Organisations & Activities

St Laurence's School children's work

This year, many of the Year 3 children from Quails, Doves and Swallows Classes made their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Here are some of the children's reflections upon how they felt before, during and after receiving these sacraments for the first time.

My first Holy Communion
My Mum bought me a suit it was a tuxedo and trousers. When I was still at school she bought me the suit because the first Holy Communion is a very special occasion.
I felt excited and nervous because I was going to eat the bread/body of Christ and drink the wine/blood of Christ for the first time in my life!
But I felt mostly excited because if I ate the body of Christ I would get closer to Jesus.
By: Joshua

My First Reconciliation
In May I had my First Reconciliation. First, I told Father Pat what I was sorry for. After that, Father Pat did the sign of the cross on me to show that Jesus had taken away my sins. I first felt nervous and then I felt quite joyful. Then, me and Father Pat said the 'Our Father' together as my penance.
By Daphne

My First Holy Communion
Just before my first Communion, when I was in the car I to 09:30 mass I had butterflies in my stomach and hedges rolling about in my tummy. I was sweating all over and I was so excited. When I went up to Communion I was repeating 'Amen' to myself.
I felt so worried that something would go wrong but it didn't.
After mass I was really pleased with my self. I liked going through the church because everyone was congratulating me but my favourite bit had to be the photos.
There were so many cameras I didn't know were to look!
Still a couple of days later I feel overwhelmed as I'm still doing my First Holy Communion.
By: Madeleine



My FIRST HOLY Communion
For my first Holy Communion, I went to church and got ready to lead the singing for the word of my lord and the our father. We went with the offertory to the altar and bowed when the priest bows or genuflects. Then we had our turn for the bread and wine. I felt like I was a tabernacle inside me it was a really special day and now I feel like I have Jesus in my heart.
by Alex

My First Holy Communion
On the 2nd June I made my First Holy Communion. Before, I felt ecstatic because I would have Communion for the first time and Jesus would be closer to me and I would love him more. My mum helped me get dressed. I had a beautiful white dress with a bow on the front. When we were in church I felt excited because I would have Communion. I did not like the wine because it had a bitter taste. After, I was happy. My family came to my house and we celebrated. It was a very special day.
By Aria

Confirmation Day, 25 June 2018



Confirmation, a strengthening and deepening of one's relationship with God....

After months of preparation led by Helena and her team it was time. 28 young people were here from St Laurence's, including a few from OLEM and St Philip Howard, to receive the sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Alan. Surrounded by family and friends they waited for the service to begin, the Ablaze Mass musicians led the music and hymns. Bishop Alan's homily centred on Confirmation being the sacrament whereby we receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit into our hearts and minds.

Those to be confirmed processed to the altar with their sponsors, as their names were called they knelt before the Bishop. He had a private word with each one individually before anointing them with Chrism oil and laying his hands upon them.

As part of their preparation, which began in October and ended in June, they did various activities including making Christmas decorations for St Laurence's church and inviting a guest speaker from CAFOD to speak about their work and learn about how parishioners fulfil vocations in different ways.

At the end of Mass Fr Pat thanked Helena and Gail and they were presented with flowers. A rousing final hymn 'Ablaze for you' was sung before we all crowded into the Parish Room where there was plentiful food and drink, including a special cake made by Helena which was cut and enjoyed by all.

We hope that they continue to take part in St Laurence's Youth Group (GIFT) which begins again at the end October.

ABLAZE

Mass



Sunday 9th Sept , 5pm

@ St Laurence's Church, Milton Road.

A Joyful, lively and upbeat Worship
For Youth and the Young at Heart

**Followed by Father Pat's
Leaving Party & Presentation**



Everyone welcome!



CAFOD Update

Nora Darby

I think it is important for all of you who contribute every month to our 'Pound for Peru' collection to see what is happening and how it is helping. I was able to go to the CAFOD website and found the July 2018 Connect2 Peru update.

Below are two of those updates. The first from the Lake Peron region where the local people are now able to participate in protecting their water supply thanks to our support. And the second from Lima and the children we support there through Warma Huasi. This is only a small section of the update so please go to the CAFOD website, (<https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Parish-fundraising/Connect2/Connect2-Peru>.) where you will be able to see the full report – well worth doing!

Peru Update July 2018

We report back from Peru on what you are helping to achieve through the Connect2 Peru scheme, both in the capital Lima and up in the High Andes; "We can be women leaders." Thank you for supporting the Cruz de Mayo community in the High Andes as they work to protect beautiful Lake Parón, and find ways to boost their income.



An important part of our work in Cruz de Mayo has been to help women gain a voice in the community. Most cannot read or write, and are typically confined to household duties. Now they are learning about their

rights, how to help their community plan ahead, and 25 are taking literacy classes. "I take part in the Roundtable Dialogue to protect Lake Parón", says Maria. "Before the workshops I couldn't speak out, I was scared. Now I am much more confident. We've also been learning how to produce radio programmes. The first time I spoke on the radio I was very nervous, but now I feel I am a much better communicator.

In our Warmi Huasi project for children and teenagers in Lima, children from five child-led organisations took 12 of their own proposals for social projects to the local authorities. The children's projects aimed to:

- eliminate violence towards children, especially sexual violence;
- train parents in non-violent parenting;

- raise drug prevention awareness;
- make communities safer.



We have been a *livesimply* Parish for Five Years!

The first to receive this award in the Diocese, we have been asked to say how we continue to live more simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor.



- We cited as examples: Increasing our recycling to include wide range of articles not collected by the local authority via recycling for good causes – via a box in the Narthex. The money raised goes to Traidcraft.
- Becoming a Connect2 Parish with Peru – showing solidarity with two communities by fundraising, awareness raising and prayer. Established monthly 'Pound for Peru' collection.
- Planning and undertaking the 'Walk in Solidarity with Refugees' as requested by Pope Francis.

The Parish now has a certificate of thanks which is displayed on the CAFOD noticeboard. The original (very simple!) plaque is displayed under the picture of St Laurence in the Narthex.

The Parish, through the Parish Forum, might consider setting up a sub-group to pursue *livesimply* and to ensure that all Parish activities take it into account.

Cambridge Justice & Peace Group

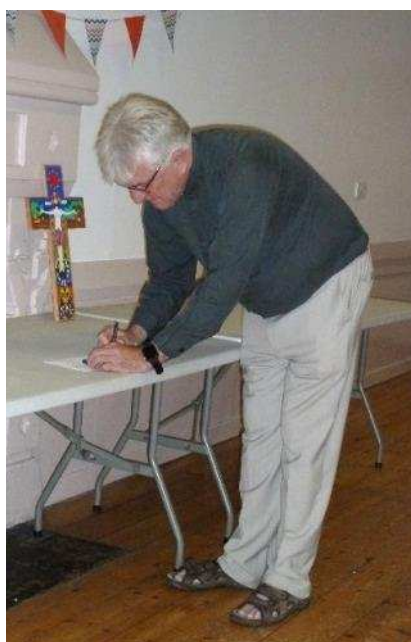
Sheila Thomas and other members of the group

“If you want peace, work for justice” (Pope Paul VI). Christ’s call to build His Kingdom of Justice & Peace is at the heart of the Gospel. How can we respond now to this challenge? How can our faith lead us to work for a fairer world where no-one is neglected? How can we begin to offer hope to those suffering from conflicts we hear of so much in the daily news, and those forgotten in desperate situations? One place to start is your local Justice & Peace group.

The Cambridge Justice & Peace Group was founded in 1981, to include the parishes of Our Lady & the English Martyrs, St Philip Howard and St Laurence. We meet monthly to reflect on the spiritual basis of our commitment to Justice & Peace and on the issues of the present time. We plan activities, often working ecumenically, to address these concerns – including liturgical events, talks, fund-raising, campaigning, events to raise awareness, and so on.

We find that we learn so much by sharing together and pooling our skills & experience. We discover how many apparently different problems locally, and in other countries, are in fact linked. For example, Pope Francis asks us ‘to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor’ (*Laudato Si*’), remembering that it is the poor who suffer most from climate change and environmental destruction.

Here is just a sample of the things we do.



Fr Pat signing the pledge of support for Cambridge City of Sanctuary

Refugees

In association with the Cambridge City of Sanctuary group, we promote events and appeals on behalf of refugees. So far the highlight has been the pledge of support for this initiative, signed on 16th June 2017 on behalf of the Catholics of the Cambridge Deanery by Fr Pat. In September 2016, we held a walk between the three parishes to focus our thoughts and prayer on refugees, using material provided by CAFOD. This year we promoted and joined in with CAFOD’s ‘Walk a Mile for Refugees’ and ‘Share the Journey’ walks in Cambridge, and held a campaign card-signing at St Philip Howard. We have produced a leaflet, *Welcoming the Stranger*, detailing how volunteers can help the various refugee projects in Cambridge.

Peace

We work to promote Peace Sunday in parishes every year. We held a vigil of prayer at St Laurence’s in advance of the big London arms fair in September 2017. We marked the ‘Week for Peace in Palestine & Israel’ last year by sending messages to Palestinian communities. As in the past, we have arranged for a speaker from the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel to talk about his experiences as an accompanier; this will be held at St Laurence’s on 17th September.

Poverty

We helped initiate, and keep in touch with, the local Foodbank and the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project. As a result of exploring the Church Action on Poverty ‘End Hunger UK’ campaign, we are considering the possibility of an autumn meeting on local Cambridge projects which address food poverty, debt and homelessness, since all are interrelated. We are currently supporting the Traidcraft campaign for fair treatment of tea plantation workers in Assam.



Encircling Great St. Mary’s in white as part of the call to Make Poverty History

Care of Creation

To mark the *Season of Creation* (1 Sept – 4 Oct), we have planned a walk for 8th September between the three parishes, built on the theme of Global Healing, using resources produced by CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration) on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales. We did something similar, based on the papal encyclical 'Laudato Si' for the World Day of Prayer for Creation in 2017. Last year we produced an Advent calendar on the theme of 'Live Simply', which was made available to all parishioners. We promoted the Green Christian Roadshow, which came to Cambridge in June. We are now working on a programme for Advent this year on 'Care For Our Common Home', using the Global Healing resources.



A pause for reflection and prayer during our inter-parish walk to pray for creation

Lent

Every year our group has organised Stations of the Cross at OLEM one Friday in Lent, using texts which focus on aspects of justice and peace. This year we also co-hosted, with the Romero Trust, a talk by a diplomat/peace activist who knew Blessed Oscar Romero, the patron of social justice.

We have links with Justice & Peace groups across the Diocese and with the National Justice & Peace Network. Through our contacts with a wide range of national and international organisations, we can call on resources to keep up-to-date with relevant issues, raise awareness, and encourage action for their support in our parishes. These include CAFOD, Pax Christi, Traidcraft, Catholic Concern for Animals, Green Christian & Church Action on Poverty. We belong to the ecumenical Cambridge group International Social Affairs Christian Network, and find it an important aid in coordinating activities with other groups in Cambridge.

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month in the OLEM Parish Centre at 7:30pm. Over the years, meetings have most regularly been attended by parishioners from St Philip Howard and Our Lady and the English Martyrs.

We have maintained links with St Laurence's parishioners and have been inspired in particular by their recognition as a 'Live Simply' parish, by their work with refugees, Pax Christi and CAFOD, and letter writing in support of prisoners of conscience. We have valued the opportunity to join in the study of Catholic Social Teaching at St Laurence's, such as the study groups on Laudato Si' and Evangelii Gaudium. We would always welcome closer contact!

It would be particularly valuable to have St Laurence parishioners join our monthly meetings, however we realise not everyone is able to come to evening meetings regularly, but please let us know

- if you would like to keep in touch via the Cambridge J&P email list (cambridgejandp@groupspaces.com)
- If you could occasionally lend a hand e.g. with publicity
- If something in our activities particularly interests you
- If you want to suggest something extra

Would anyone be willing to volunteer to be the St. Laurence Parish's main Justice & Peace contact please? The role would involve keeping the Parish informed of wider J&P activities and keeping the city's J&P group informed of Parish activities.

Contact us:

Sheila Thomas: sheila@sheilamthomas.com
or 01954 210715

Sheila Brookes: sheila.brookes@btinternet.com
or 01223 503948

Events Coming Up

8th September from 10.15am – Walk from St Philip Howard via OLEM to St Laurence, marking the *Season of Creation*, when we will reflect and pray about the 'care of our common home'.



17th September at 7.30pm in St Laurence's Church Parish rooms – Talk by Paul Clark from the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel, about his experiences as an accompanier.

Summary of St Laurence's Parish Forum – July 2018

Stephen Warde, (Chair) Fr Pat, Fr Bob, Serga Collett (Minutes)

Total of 22 parishioners

Matters arising:

New Parish Priest

Fr Pat announced the change of Parish Priest. He told the Forum that Fr Simon Blakesley from Newmarket would be coming to St Laurence's probably in early September. Fr Pat will be leaving St Laurence's Parish for Wymondham – exact dates to be determined.

Attendees of the Forum formally recorded our thanks and appreciation to Fr Pat, thanking him for his great service over the last eight years.

A farewell for Fr Pat and also a welcome for Fr Simon were the subject of discussion. It was agreed that a social event that provided an opportunity for Parish groups to introduce themselves to Fr Simon and advertise their activities to other parishioners would be a good idea. Fr Pat said that a similar event had been useful to him when he arrived in the Parish.

Fr Pat mentioned that, during his time at St Laurence's, due to the success of the 'Alive in Faith' programme, it had enabled six extra priests and four temporary deacons to be trained.

Update on 60th anniversary celebration

Joanne Kerrigun reported that the plaque commemorating past priests will be here by next week. It is to include Fr Simon and will be unveiled by the Bishop after Mass on 15th July – the first of two celebratory Masses for the 60th anniversary of the Church.

The second celebratory Mass for the anniversary to be held on Friday 10th August is to be moved to the earlier time of 7pm. It is to be followed by a social. Joanne Kerrigun reported that we were in touch with priests with a connection to the Parish to invite them. A Steering Group is organising this event.

Other Activities

Fr Bob's Jubilee celebration was acknowledged and he said how thrilled he was by the welcome of parishioners – "*thank you for giving me a lovely party, I feel very blessed*" he said. At Mass a collection of £800 was taken and separately £3,850 (yet to still increase) was donated to the Training Fund of the Dominicans. Official congratulations for Fr Bob's Jubilee were recorded.

Buildings and Grounds

Flooring – there has been limited progress – a second quote is now being organised so that we have something to compare with the first quote previously received. Any decisions will wait until Fr Simon arrives.

Trees – There has been some discussion in regard to the trees along our boundary at the north edge of the grounds, most of which have a preservation order. The residents of the next door property are getting these reviewed by a tree surgeon. One of the trees is on our property and is possibly responsible for some cracks in the building of the presbytery. Fr Pat has been in touch with Sara Payne from the Residents Association next door and we will see what the tree surgeon reports. In addition, one of the neighbours to the rear has requested that the bamboo on his boundary be thinned out.

Ramp – We received a quote for a ramp from the Parish Room to the garden, but it was quite expensive. Nora has spoken to Sue Price who advises that it may be possible to cut out a path with a lesser gradient that would not require the same hand-rails and other expense etc. as a ramp. On hold for now pending decisions on other buildings & grounds issues.

Gardening – funding is available to get gardening support – there are two possible options to take forward. Nora has a contact, hoping to come next week – but also gardener from next door is available. Fr Pat explained that the library next door is being turned into flats, workmen have been very cooperative, e.g. stopping noisy building works during funerals. He explained that the council have pledged to put in plain glass windows on the far side of the church. One of the problems with the new building works is that there is no parking for the flats so there will therefore be increase pressure on parking in the area.

Site manager – The position of site manager was discussed but it was felt it would be best left to discuss with the new Parish Priest.

Finances

Christine to follow up low interest rate question. Fr Pat explained that he felt that he was leaving the Parish in financially good shape and there are some funds to make improvements.

Tech group

Some progress, but how to put in new power line, temporary camera, and sound is being reviewed. Some discussion about new laptops and PCs for office, VPN access, updating router, IP address, CCTV requiring tweaking, improving the wifi and establishing a logging system.

Catechesis and Liturgy

Fr Pat said he was pleased that there will be continuity into next year with Helena Judd and Chioma Ubajaka continuing with Confirmation and Holy Communion preparation respectively. He expressed grateful thanks to both of them, supported by the Forum.

Other regular items

Fr Pat also reported a very positive reaction to the preparation for marriage course running at St Philip Howard (run over 4 Sunday nights).

A parishioner spoke about a new resource 'Seeking God Together', a practical companion for parish communities in meeting, welcoming and accompanying families. It is being launched at the World Meeting of Families in Dublin.

St Laurence's School celebrated its 50th anniversary with a lovely Mass with Bishop Alan at the school. Mary Jane said that the interim Diocesan inspection had rated the school as 'outstanding'.

SVP – Christine recalled the trip to Walsingham as a great success as they had rented a coach with wheelchair access. This enabled those with mobility scooters and such to access the trip for the first time in many years.

CAFOD – Nora reminded everyone that the CAFOD 'Share the Journey Walk' would take place on Sunday 22nd July and asked that we all support it.

Fr Bob spoke about the high levels of inequality within the city of Cambridge. He explained that there is a great social strain because the city is expanding so fast, for example, the pressure on foodbanks. Life expectancy in Kings Hedges, he said, is 10 years lower than in Newnham. He recommended publicising and viewing a recent short film made about inequality in Cambridge: <https://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/choice-look-inequality-cambridge>

It was felt a good idea for the Justice and Peace group to speak after Mass and put an article in the Pilgrim on this subject. The hungry and homeless should be included in bidding prayers.

The foodbank box in the Narthex needs to be further publicised. The contents are taken regularly to the foodbank warehouse.

Any Other Business

Religious talks – James McQuillan proposed to organise a series of talks about religion, e.g. theology, scripture, liturgy, prayer, organising pilgrimages. This was greeted positively and Helena seconded. James explained he was happy to organise.

GDPR – This new legislation on the handling of personal data is an issue we need to take action on. Richard Birkett explained the need for people to actively 'opt in' to the use of their information for each different purpose for which it is used. Fr Pat had been on a useful Diocesan training day that had identified what actions the Parish needs to take. He will pass on the information. We need an action plan.

Meeting closed shortly after 9.15pm.

Date of Next Meeting – Monday, 8th October 2018 at 8pm.



Fairtrade and Traidcraft Exchange

Teresa Campbell

St Laurence's Parish has been a Fairtrade Parish for several years now and Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar are used in the Parish rooms for Parish meetings as well as any other group using them. We join many other parishes in the Diocese of East Anglia which have also become Fairtrade parishes.

However, Fairtrade is an easy way for each of us to help to reduce poverty through our everyday shopping.

Imagine if no matter how hard you worked today, you couldn't afford to put food on the table. For millions of people around the world, that's the reality they face. A fair income gives you freedom, security and hope for the future. It allows you to feed your family and educate your children.

Fairtrade is an alternative approach to conventional trade and is based on a partnership between producers and consumers. They look across the whole of the supply chain and are able to ensure that small-scale farmers, producers and workers receive a fairer share of the profits. When farmers can sell on Fairtrade terms, it provides them with a better deal and improved terms of trade. This allows them the opportunity to improve their lives.

The Standards

There are distinct sets of Fairtrade [Standards](#), which acknowledge different types of producers.

One set of Standards applies to smallholders who are working together in cooperatives or other organizations with a democratic structure, e.g. banana growers, cocoa farmers and textile workers.

Fairtrade offers two things:

- The farmers and producers are guaranteed a reasonable, sustainable price for their produce, whatever the fluctuations in the market price. This means that they have security, are able to improve their families' lives and plan for their future.
- The community of producers are also given a Fairtrade premium for the produce they sell. This is a small percentage of the profit they make on the sale of their goods. This is given to a group not to individuals, and together they choose what they wish to do with that money. They may invest it in healthcare, improvements to farming methods, education; whatever they choose. This gives them some control over their lives as they set their own priorities.

The other set of Standards applies to workers employed by a large company. These ensure that the employers pay decent wages, ensure health and safety standards are met and provide adequate housing where relevant, e.g. tea pickers on a large plantation.

Fairtrade also supports trade and businesses to become environmentally responsible. Many supermarkets sell their own Fairtrade products and they are easy to find.

So, look out for the Fairtrade logo on items when doing your shopping so that we can support our brothers and sisters across the world working for a better life, and to support the companies who stock these Fairtrade goods, and together we will reduce poverty.

Share the Journey: We helped walk around the whole world!

Mary Watkins, CAFOD Parish rep



On Sunday 22nd July, 55 local people of all ages and abilities, mostly parishioners, but also some neighbours and friends, gathered to 'Share the Journey' walking in solidarity with our global neighbours – those refugees and migrants forced to flee their homes and make desperate journeys in search of refuge.

We met in the lovely community orchard at Milton Country Park and picnicked under the trees. We then gathered to walk around the shady paths of the Park – very welcome on an extremely hot day! A small Lampedusa Cross and a banner was carried and provoked quite a bit of interest from the general public enjoying their day out. We paused frequently to hear stories of those on the move, and to reflect on their suffering, and the part we could play in helping alleviate it. We had a go at singing the children's CAFOD song 'We Are One World' together with enthusiastic actions!



We added the miles we walked to those of others all over England and Wales as we aimed to walk the 24,900 miles around the world! We ended in the small garden next to the café for a final prayer, and song and participants were invited to sign cards urging our Prime Minister to work towards global compacts on migration and refugees to respect human dignity and support host countries in advance of new UN agreements.

Very many thanks to all those who supported this act of witness by turning up, offering prayer and to those who helped it run so successfully.



More information on 'Share the Journey' may be found at <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Share-the-Journey> where you can also sign the online petition.

Feed the hungry – Cambridge City Foodbank

James Dore



Monday comes around and I'm off for my twice weekly work-out at the Cambridge City Foodbank warehouse. This is the busiest day of the week at the unit in Orwell Furlong near the top of Cowley Road. Many of the donations come from

churches, just like our own Parish, and Monday is the most popular delivery day. But donations also come from bins set up outside supermarket entrances and from private companies or individuals who do their own collections.

Donations arriving at the warehouse are weighed and sorted. Weight is used as a control to measure what comes in and what goes out. The Foodbank only deals with food with an extended life so, apart from cereals, pasta, rice and sugar, the majority of donations are in cans or jars. Sadly, we are often given out-of-date, damaged or already opened items which are no good to us – and waste valuable volunteer time in sorting.

Some of the volunteer team will be busy packing. They make up boxes of emergency food from a pre-defined list for either a single person, a couple or for families. These boxes are intended to provide meals for three days. We also provide a few supplies for those living on the streets. Once packed, these crates are delivered to one of eight distribution centres around the city which operate on various days of the week, principally from church halls. Agencies such as Citizens Advice, children centres and health visitors, plus a few other local charities, are authorised to issue vouchers for those in need and these vouchers are exchanged for the boxes of food at the distribution centres.

The demand for emergency food continues all the year round but does fluctuate between seasons as do donations. At Harvest Festival time and in the lead up to Christmas, we are well-stocked with food but at the moment there is a shortage of many core items – demand constantly outstrips supply. Referrals to the Foodbank from agencies have been increasing every year and have risen 30% in the first six months of this year. Therefore, as well as food, monetary donations are also important as we often need to purchase items we have run out of. On our website <https://cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk> there is an up-to-date list of the food we are in greatest need of each month.

This month we are in short supply of:

Tinned Vegetables
Tinned meats
Fruit Juice - Long Life 1 litre
Instant Coffee - small jars
Puddings - Long Life - Sponge etc.
Tinned Rice Pudding
Milk - Long Life, NOT Soya/Almond etc.
Jars of Pasta sauce
Tinned Tomatoes
Tinned Potatoes or Instant Mash
Tinned Fruit
Sweets - Children & Adult
Snacks - Crisps, Nuts fruit bars etc.
Pasta—Penne, Fusilli etc. - max pack six kgs.
Packets of Tins of Instant Custard
Biscuits
Jams & Spreads
Granulated Sugar – 500g preferred or 1 kg
Cooking Oil - 500 ml preferred or 1 litre
Instant Noodles
Pasta 'n' Sauce mix

I have been a volunteer at the Foodbank for almost six years and it continues to be a way of directly helping people and making some real and immediate positive difference to their lives. St Laurence's Parish has been supporting the Foodbank for the last eight years since it opened in 2010. The green crates in the Narthex are our collection point and are emptied every few weeks as and when the donations come in. It is clear that there is a very great and growing need so please continue, or perhaps restart, leaving donations in the Narthex. And, on behalf of all the recipients I would like to thank anyone who has, or is, donating.

Please keep the food coming in – shifting all the crates is a better work-out than going to the gym!



Our Parish's use of 'Alive in Faith' social need funding – SVP update

Christine Knight

St Laurence's St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) in Cambridge comprises 12 volunteer members working to alleviate poverty in all forms. Our work within the Parish has increased in recent years as both our volunteer numbers have increased, and awareness within the Parish has grown. All our funding to date has come from donations and, on occasion, grant funding for larger, specific needs. During the 'Alive in Faith' campaign at St Laurence's Fr Pat volunteered that 50% of the 'Parish' funds be allocated for use by the SVP within our local area. This report is to let you know what we have been doing with these funds.

Our clients include families, and the elderly or lonely within our Parish. Some are particularly vulnerable or socially excluded from society, such as ex-offenders, people suffering with mental health problems, travellers and those at risk of homelessness. Whilst much of what we do is not dependant on funds, but on time, many of those we help are in financial crisis, including those affected by benefit changes. Most of those we have helped are Catholic but we do not discriminate in our offers of help and also support non-Catholics. All our work is person to person.

In the last year, St Laurence's SVP has received £9,000 of financial support from the 'Alive in Faith' initiative, all of which has been spent within the local area. Examples of assistance we have recently provided include: helping families recently arrived in Cambridge to settle into a new home – connecting with local services and finding furniture, bedding and kitchen equipment; accommodation for a family temporarily in Cambridge whilst their son was treated at Addenbrooke's after a hit and run accident; a family with short-term debts following confusion over benefit caps, including help to move to better gas and electricity tariffs; linking a family whose son has high medical needs with local services and professionals and providing groceries whilst the father was out of work; providing funds for school clothing for a couple of families; and transport costs to help older parishioners get to Mass and to help sick parishioners on pilgrimage to Walsingham.

Through our work we encounter Christ present in those we accompany. Our work is supported by prayers and we are grateful for the help provided by parishioners – through prayer as well as many donations of clothing, toys, furniture, bedding and funding. The 'Alive in Faith' funding has allowed us to relieve poverty and isolation for many people locally. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Personal Stories & Experiences

EXODUS

Wally Moscuza

A bright light in the sky, a star, a sage soul
Abruptly woke me up as in anger.
I lazily opened my eyes just in time
To see the cold stern look, observing.
A cruel Moon – Fluorescent
Silver circle crashing through the window
and curtains in a raging flame
And down to my bed. A judging look
Standing still without asking permission to stay
Or tell me why.

A deep shadow on the sea bed
But with the power to decide on the
Mysteries of depth alien to man. Life in a vase
A fish known only for its beauty...
Or fried in olive-oil in a pan.
But she was there for a purpose, I thought,
There, like a Ghost whispering in my ear
Reminding me of what I wanted to forget –
Cool dignified – A queen reflecting on the lake
Crowned by the infinity of stars

No flowers or dragonflies on the blue bells
Or doubts racing through time...
Defying Infinity!
She angrily broke my sleep to make me think
A nightmare with open eyes – A phantom
To show that the Exodus was still going on
As it was centuries ago. A flash of light
Lamenting in the wind and I see their
Vacant eyes looking ahead as they walk
Through a storm. Showing
Their despair as they stand on the border
Of no man's land.

Image removed for copyright reasons.

Tailpiece

The Third Editor



An Irish reminisce

Nora Darby

Some years ago my sister and I were often sent to Granda's farm in County Mayo during the summer holidays by ferry from Liverpool with a stewardess in charge of us as we slept in our cabin. We docked the following morning and were met by relatives and then travelled on by steam train to Westport, stopping regularly for various forms of livestock on the line. My parents would arrive for a short stay at the end of the summer and then take us home. Daddy was the eldest son but did not want to be a farmer so escaped to England.

On one particular visit, we were all seated round a very large kitchen table when there was a knock at the back door. There was Poach, I never knew his real name, with a large, fresh salmon for the prodigal son's return. His comment was, "I see Seamus is home so here's his salmon." Granda asked Poach whether he was staying, and received the answer,

"No, I'm not! I'm going to confession."

There was much laughter and I think it was Granda who said, "You have a lot to confess, Poach." His reply was,

"Yes, but I will give Father his salmon first!"

A very Irish response to which there is no real answer, except perhaps Father would go easy on the penance!

A bit of a laugh....

Man: What is a million years like to you?

God: Like one second.

Man: What is a million pounds like to you?

God: Like one penny.

Man: Can I have a penny?

God: Just a sec.



A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt."

His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"



What is a dentist's favourite hymn?

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Extra points: Holy, Holy, Holy

A sign we could consider for our carpark??



Editorial Comment

We have had a summer to remember. A summer of sun and celebrations from first Holy Communion and Confirmation to Fr Bob's 50th and our 60th Parish celebrations. Memorable also because it was Fr Pat's last summer with us. Referring a little to some words in his sermon on 10th August, Fr Pat has been a priest who has done his best to enable the Parish to release the gifts and talents of his parishioners; a Parish Priest, who like the conductor of an orchestra draws out the harmony of the music. And, we are sure that he will continue to 'Just do the best you can, my dear' (as he was advised in his early years), and nudge his new Parish gently in the direction of the kingdom of God and we will try to do the same here at St Laurence's along with help of Fr Simon.



And as a result of the efforts of those who have gone before us, we have a solid foundation; a church full of the presence of God and of prayer. A place where there is comfort, protection, love and affection. A place to feel at peace and close to God. May we welcome one and all, and may those who come offer their gifts large or small, noisy or quiet and be a witness to the presence of God in this world.

Wondering where to send your article, photos or drawings? Our email address is at the bottom of the page and you'll also find it every week on the front page of the Parish newsletter.

The deadline for the next edition is 2 November for publication 1-2 December.

The production team:

Editors

Nora Darby and Sarah Sykes

Sub-editors

Alex Dias

What's New?

Carol Williams

Features and Opinions

Sarah Sykes & Nora Darby

Personal Stories & Experiences

Sarah Sykes & Susan O'Brien

Parish Organisations & Activities

Susan O'Brien

Reviews

Sarah Sykes & Nora Darby

Tailpiece

Leonie Isaacson

Cover

Caroline O'Donnell

Proofreader 1

Sarah Sykes and Nora Darby

Layout (preparation for printing)

All members of the Pilgrim team can be contacted at pilgrim@saintlaurence.org.uk

Some Regular Events

The Parish Forum is where **ALL** parishioners can come together to discuss and debate Parish matters, and decide when and where things need to be done. The Agenda is planned in advance and the meeting is led by the chairman and Parish Priest. It meets every 3 months.

To go on the list to get the agenda in advance and the full minutes after the meeting, email forum@saintlaurence.org.com

You can raise a topic at the meeting but it helps if you send a short note about 10 days before the next meeting, again, to forum@saintlaurence.org.com, which can then be circulated.

The Pilgrim by Email

Away for the week-end? All copies taken? Don't miss the Pilgrim on publication day! You can receive a pdf version by email. Send a request to pilgrim@saintlaurence.org.uk

Extra Pilgrim copies: Do you know anyone who has difficulty coming to church but would like to receive the Pilgrim? Please feel free to take an extra copy.

Pilgrim on the Web

The most recent back editions are now available on the Parish website <http://www.saintlaurence.org.uk/pilgrim>

ABLAZE

The St Laurence Youth Mass is known as Ablaze. The Mass is designed to encourage our youth to build their confidence in running the Mass for the benefit of us all. It is held approximately once a month, is vibrant and fun. We encourage young readers, Eucharistic Ministers, budding musicians of all ages and the only requirement is enthusiasm for God. If you are looking for 'perfection' you won't find it here, so if you fancy it, pluck up your courage and join in.

The next Ablaze Mass is on 9 September at 5pm.

CAFOD

Connect2:Peru retiring collections will take place usually on the first weekend in the month. These monies go directly to the projects CAFOD is supporting.

Upcoming Parish Events

At the time of publication some dates are awaiting confirmation.

Fr Pat's last Masses at St Laurence's	
8 am	2 Sept
11am	2 Sept
6pm	8 Sept
9.30am	9 Sept
And....	
... ABLAZE Youth Mass, Followed by Fr Pat's Leaving Party	9 Sept, 5pm 6pm
Zimbabwean Mass Saturday 12 noon	8 Sept 13 October
Cambridge Justice & Peace 3 Churches Walk	8 Sept 10.15am from St Philip Howard Church
Cambridge Justice & Peace Talk on 'Life in Palestine'	17 Sept 7.30pm
Harvest Fast Day	5 Oct
Scripture Study – Acts of the Apostles from Chap 9: Saul's conversion	Weds 7.30 – 9pm From 12 Sept
Holy Hour	Every Weds 6-7pm
Rosary Group	Every Weds after 12.30pm Mass
Soulfood Prayer Group 1 st / 3 rd Tues: St Laurence's 2 nd /4 th Tues: OLEM Parish Hall	Every Tuesday 8pm
Pre-School Masses for Autumn Term	TBC
1st Holy Communion Sessions with Parents Information evening	TBC
Confirmation Classes	TBC
Parish Forum 2018	Mon 8 Oct 8pm



Follow St Laurence's on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/stlaurencecambidge>

ST LAURENCE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

91 Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 1XB

Tel/Fax: 01223 704640

Email: office@saintlaurence.org.uk

St Laurence's Parish is in the Diocese of East Anglia, and covers the area of Cambridge north of the river Cam including Arbury, Chesterton and King's Hedges, and also the villages of Histon, Impington, Girton, Cottenham, Milton, Landbeach and Waterbeach.

Parish Priest:

Fr Patrick Cleary

01223 704640

pp@saintlaurence.org.uk

Assistant Priest:

Fr Bob Eccles O.P.

01223 741265

robert.eccles@english.op.org

Assistant Priest:

Fr Jay Magpuyo

01223 704640

Deacon:

Dr Geoff Cook

01223 351650

Secretary:

Pat Cook

01223 704640

office@saintlaurence.org.uk

Treasurer:

Rev. John Steel

01223 704640

Safeguarding Coordinator:

Petra Tucker

petratucker@gmail.com

Service Times

Saturday 9.30am

6pm Vigil Mass (sung)

Sunday 8.00am

9.30am (sung)

with children's liturgy

This Mass is held at St Laurence's School, Arbury Road.

During school holidays it is held at the Church.

11am (sung)

with children's liturgy

Join us for coffee in the Parish Room afterwards.

Mon - Thurs 9.30am

Wednesday/Friday 12.30pm

Check the weekly newsletter for changes to the above times

St Laurence's School

Head Teacher

Address

Mrs Clare Clark

St Laurence's School

Arbury Road

Cambridge

CB4 2JX

Telephone

01223 712227

Email

office@stlaurence.cambs.sch.uk

Website

www.stlaurence.cambs.sch.uk