

Kensington Parish News

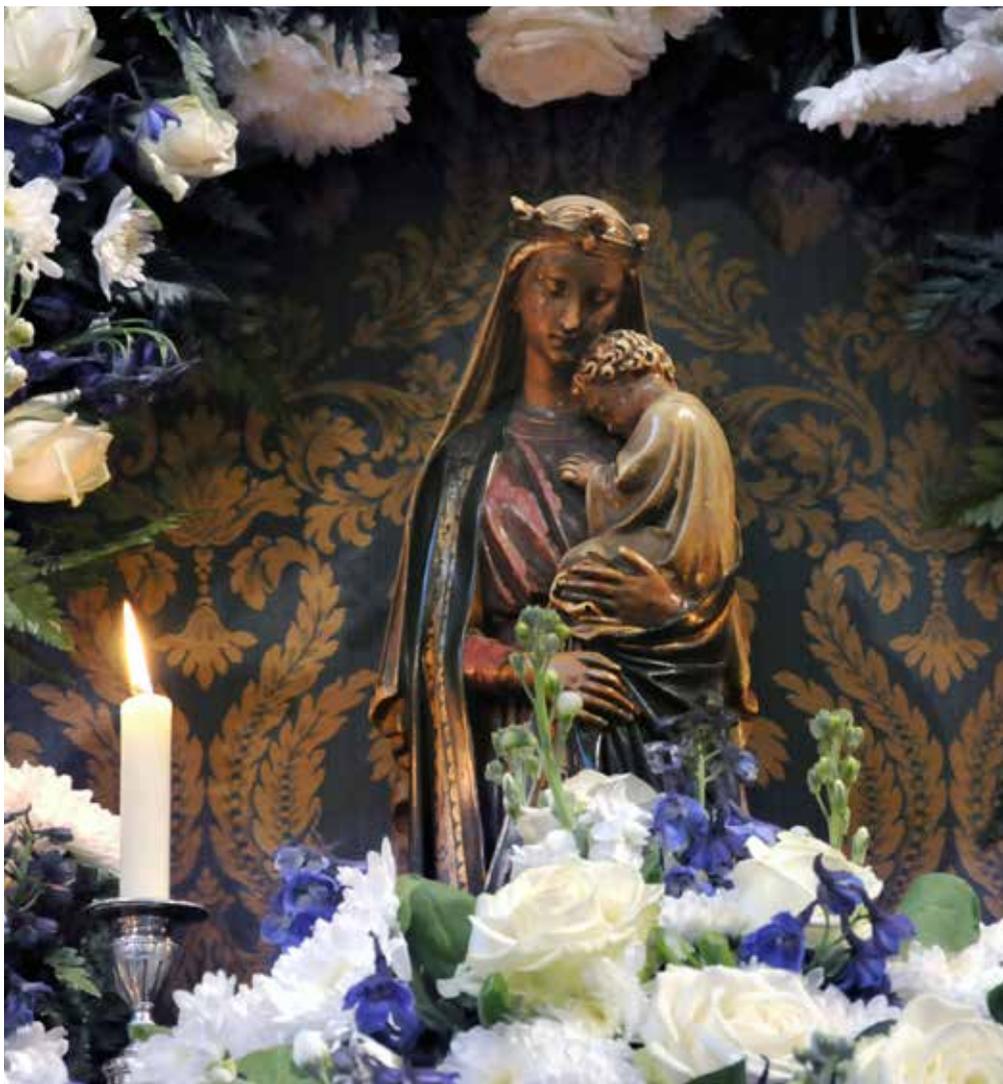
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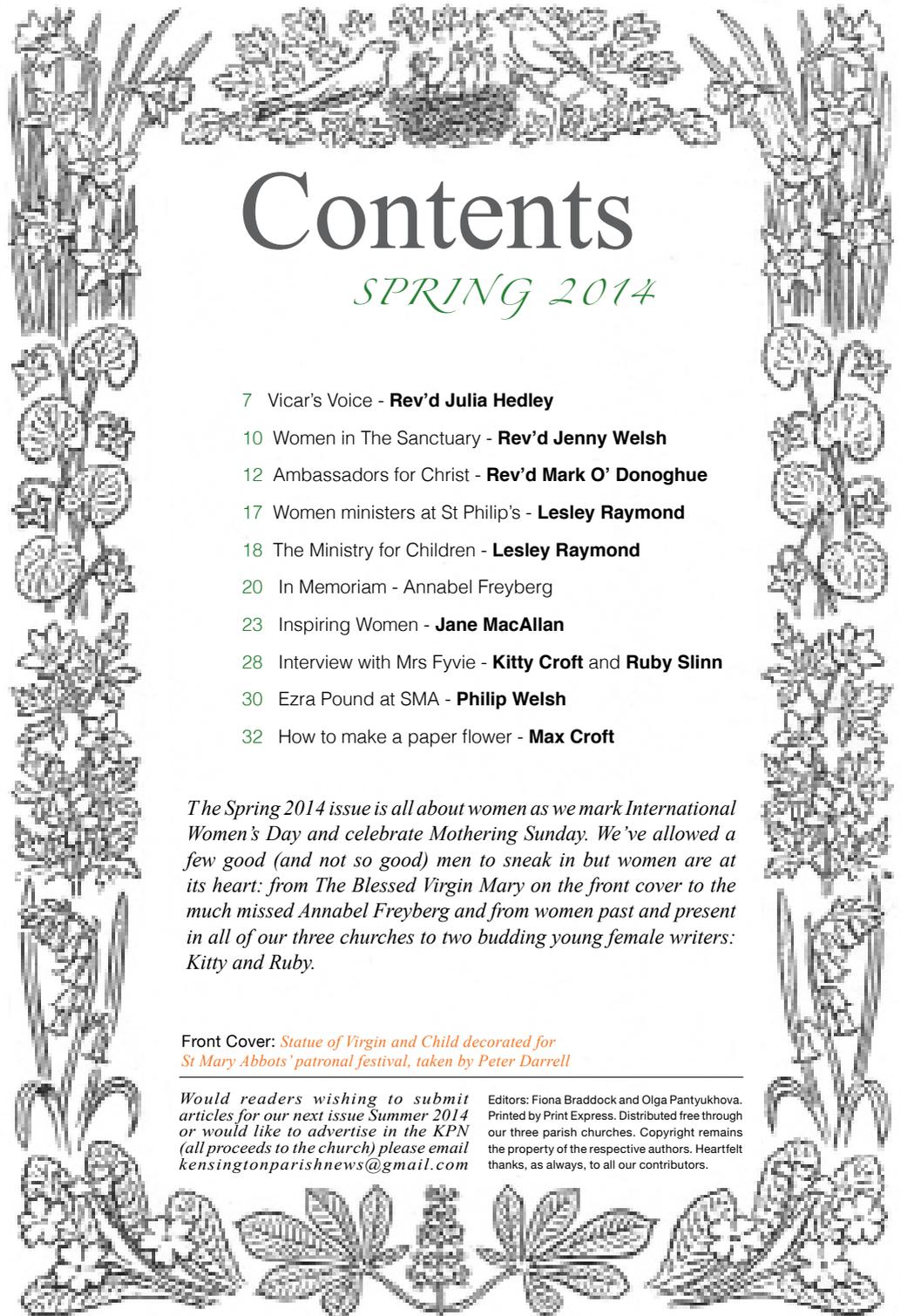
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The Spring 2014 issue is all about women as we mark International Women's Day and celebrate Mothering Sunday. We've allowed a few good (and not so good) men to sneak in but women are at its heart: from The Blessed Virgin Mary on the front cover to the much missed Annabel Freyberg and from women past and present in all of our three churches to two budding young female writers: Kitty and Ruby.

Front Cover: *Statue of Virgin and Child decorated for St Mary Abbots' patronal festival, taken by Peter Darrell*

Would readers wishing to submit articles for our next issue Summer 2014 or would like to advertise in the KPN (all proceeds to the church) please email kensingtonparishnews@gmail.com

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VICAR'S VOICE

by **Rev'd Julia Hedley**

First Impressions of St Mary Abbots.
I've got my procrastinator's hat on. It fits very well and is much too comfortable to take off, which is a pity because I'm going to have to...

When I was asked to write a reflection on my first impressions of SMA I thought 'well, that'll be easy'. But now it's 3 days to the deadline and I'm feeling challenged because actually it's not easy at all.

You see, I really feel that I've been here for so much longer than 3 and a bit months that 'first impressions' seem an age ago - and that, I think, is the measure of SMA.

Arriving in a new Church just as Advent begins is a recipe for a whirlwind romance - well, the whirlwind anyway. With special services every Sunday and all sorts of things in between I was quickly immersed in the richness of the worship and music here. There were the odd panicky moments when I did wonder if there would ever be a 'normal' week; and as Lent begins that's something I'm still wondering.



But despite there being an 'awful lot of religion' my impression is that of a Church which really believes itself to be the Body of Christ and works hard to make newcomers feel welcome into that body. And that doesn't just apply to people in dog collars. The care that's taken by the sides-people, weekday church watchers, doorkeepers at COS and many, many others, makes SMA a place where those who hesitatingly push open the huge and heavy doors can be assured of warmth and care.

The Church is not without its problems, of course. Where can we put a noticeboard for

the children's work? How do we get more volunteers to church watch? What do we do to keep our worship refreshed without treading on too many traditional toes?

These are good problems to have because they show how thriving the Church is, both in numbers and having people who care about what happens here.

First impressions - a glorious place to be.

Now - where did I put that hat....



REGULAR WORSHIP

ST MARY ABBOTS

Sundays

8.00 am Holy Eucharist
 9.30 am *SUNG EUCHARIST*
with Creche & Sunday School
 11.15 am Choral Matins & Sermon
 12.30 pm *HOLY EUCHARIST*
 6.30 pm Evensong with Sermon & Holy Eucharist
1st Sunday of month:
 Taize Prayer & Holy Eucharist

Mondays

8.30 am Morning Prayer
 1.05 pm Sunday on Monday service
 5.30 pm Evening Prayer

Tuesdays

8.30 am Morning Prayer
 11.30 am *HOLY EUCHARIST*
Book of Common Prayer
 5.30 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesdays

7.10 am Morning Prayer
 7.30 am *HOLY EUCHARIST*
 2.00 pm 3rd Weds in the month: Holy Eucharist
with Laying-on of Hands & Anointing
 5.30 pm Evening Prayer

Thursdays

7.10 am Morning Prayer
 9.30 am St Mary Abbots School Eucharist
in term time - all welcome
 5.30 pm Evening Prayer

Fridays

7.10 am Morning Prayer
 7.30 am *HOLY COMMUNION*
 5.30 pm Evening Prayer

Saturdays

9.40 am Morning Prayer
 10.00 am *HOLY EUCHARIST*
 5.30 pm Evening Prayer

On MAJOR FEASTDAYS additional Services also offered: see the Bulletin & Noticeboard.

CHRIST CHURCH

Sundays

8.30 am *HOLY COMMUNION*
 11.00 am *1st and 3rd Sundays in the month & on major Feasts:*
BCP HOLY COMMUNION
 11.00 am *2nd & 4th Sundays in the month:*
BCP morning prayer
 6.30 pm Contemporary Evening Service

ST PHILIP'S

Sundays

8.30 am Holy Communion
 10.30 am *SUNG EUCHARIST* with Sunday School
 3rd Sunday: all age service with Eucharist

Monday to Friday

9.10 am Morning Prayer

Parish Directory

Clergy, wardens, vestry and office

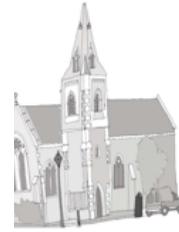
THE PARISH

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Administrator Adele Pye 020 7937 2966 admin@christchurchkensington.com
Director of Music Rupert Perkins



ST PHILIPS

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WOMEN IN THE SANCTUARY

Rev'd Jenny Welsh reflects on the 20th anniversary of the first ordinations of women in the Church of England

Women in the Sanctuary? Not another piece about women priests, surely? Are we STILL arguing about women in the CofE?

Well, not much anymore - at least not at St Mary Abbots. We are a "woman-friendly" church, certainly compared to the diocese of London as a whole, where only 1 cleric in 5 is a woman (in our parish the female clergy outnumber the men 4 to 3)

2014 marks the 20th anniversary of the first ordinations of women as priests in the Church of England. For many, it's a year to celebrate: after all, the more inclusive the ordained ministry is, the more the whole people of God is represented at the altar, and the better we can all pray for the world in its richness and variety. But for others, this anniversary is a source of sadness - for them having women priests flies in the face of tradition and scripture, and prevents greater unity with the ancient churches of Rome and the East.

20 years on, it seemed right to see where we are here at St Mary Abbots. After taking a limited and unscientific poll on the question of women priests, I found that most people I

spoke with couldn't actually remember what it was like the first time they saw a woman presiding at the Eucharist; some couldn't even remember where or when it happened; and it didn't matter if the priest was a man or a woman; one long standing member of the congregation told me that there had been women leaders at St Mary Abbots for many years before they could be ordained - religious sisters, deaconesses, and the like, who preached and led worship, ran groups and took on all sorts of pastoral responsibility, so a woman at the altar didn't faze them - it is all of a piece. And interestingly the idea of a woman incumbent or bishop didn't seem to raise any eyebrows either, at least in principle. Why shouldn't women lead in the Church?

On the other hand, others told me that they were most unhappy when the first women were priested. Their objections were clear: it was against scripture; it would impair church unity. There were more basic objections too: the women and their supporters seemed rather too victorious - this was a solemn moment and the jubilant noise from those who "won" was unseemly and insensitive. And women just didn't fit the image of a priest; their particularity as women

was distracting (wearing make up, earrings or nail varnish with vestments for instance). 20 years later, the objections remain for some, but for others, the shock has worn off, and a certain acceptance has been achieved, but it's been a difficult process. For a few, the challenge was too great, and they felt compelled to find another church to worship in, which was sad for everyone.

For all the debate, though, everyone agreed on one thing: the question of gender isn't nearly as important as the quality of the ministry - as one person said, it's not what the priest is, but who - there are plenty of good priests, men and women, but there are pretty awful ones too. The question isn't

whether ours is a man or a woman, but if he or she is any good? Is he hard working; does she care about the parish and the people; is he a good preacher; is she a strong leader; does he help us to grow in our faith? Does this woman love the Church as we do?

So, clearly St Mary Abbots is a church which takes the ministry of the clergy seriously. We want clergy, in and out of the sanctuary, who will nurture our growth, give us good teaching and lead us into a deeper faith; we want clergy who care for us and for our church. As the CofE moves into the next phase of its life, and prepares to make women bishops as well, I wonder what will we look like in another 20 years?

Archetypal Gothic artwork of Our Lady of Sorrows from a triptych by the Master of the Stauffenberg Altarpiece, Alsace c. 1455. Image: Vincent Desjardins



AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST AT CHRIST CHURCH

Rev'd Mark O' Donoghue introduces us to three women seeking to live and speak the gospel of Jesus Christ

Last year, the Diocese of London launched Capital Vision 2020, in the hope that churches across the capital would become:

- confident in speaking and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- compassionate in serving communities with the love of God the Father, and
- creative in reaching new people and places with the Good News in the power of the Spirit.

A key aspect of the first goal is to equip 100,000 ambassadors representing Jesus Christ in their daily life. As Christ Church considers how Capital Vision 2020 can shape its Mission Action Plan for the next few years, we hear below from three women striving to live and speak for Christ in their different daily situations today.

A member of Christ Church for many years, Bettina Witheridge grew up in Northumberland, worked variously as an interior designer and paper shuffler and now lives in Stanford Road with husband, Pip, their four young children and a rabbit.

“Unfortunately, any musings on my personal attempt to live for Christ on a daily basis must begin with a confession of failure. A backward glance at the day often reflects a full catalogue of disasters. In fact, I can safely say that there is nothing, not one thing, that I attempt each day that carries with it such certainty of disappointment. Where are the fruits of the spirit when my toddler-who-thinks-he's-a-lion won't stay in the buggy? Where is joy, peace and gentleness when I am picking his helpful addition of frozen fish fingers out of the birthday cake mix? Where is self control



Bettina Witheridge

when I spend my day dreaming of things that God has not ordained for me instead of thanking him for how very much he has given me? But at the end of each day, as I survey the path of destruction behind me - often cringing - always grateful that it wasn't worse - I am reminded that this is exactly the point.

I cannot do it. I cannot help but get it wrong. I cannot accurately communicate the character of God to the world, to my family, to my friends, to anyone because it is not about me and what I am doing but about God and what he has done. So I can pray, read the bible, try

to understand more, be repentant, be thankful and keep trying - and it may or may not make me a more effective toddler trainer - but the only way I can really live as an ambassador for Christ in my world is by humbly offering my life - the material, the spiritual, the good, the bad, the fish - finger birthday cake - to his service everyday. Not because he needs it; just because he wants it”.

“Were the whole realm of nature mine - that were an offering far too small; Love so amazing, so divine. Demands my life, my soul, my all” Isaac Watts, 1707



Rose O'Lone

A dental health professional now retired and active and interested in primary education in the wider borough, Rowena Winkler has enjoyed living in Victoria Road with her husband Eric and being part of the Christ Church family since 2011.

“We are so lucky to live in the delightful neighbourhood south of Kensington High Street, and further, to be a stone’s throw away from Christ Church, an Anglican church with a thriving community of worshippers,

most of whom are involved in some way in the life of the area. It is with a profound spirit of gratefulness that I can approach each day, and offer perhaps some recompense for God’s grace. Having grown up in a country parish where much of our lives revolved around the church, I still see myself ‘living for Christ’ in ways I learnt from an early age - singing in the choir, helping with flowers, especially at festival times, and generally volunteering to participate in any functions which relate to the local community. I have so often found

that ‘It is in giving that we receive’, and in my twice weekly visits to a school in north Kensington to help primary school children with their reading, my pleasure in their earnestness, and when it comes, their success, is enormous. As corporate responsibility goes, prayer and bible study may not seem essential elements, but I do value the opportunity to meet with friends when, after coffee and a good chat about inconsequential, but fun things, we look at a bible passage, and then think about our friends and family who need lifting up in prayer, along with other issues in the wider community of our world. In our busy, city lives, it is so easy to lose sight of the need to be aware of others, to treat them with consideration and respect, and to remember our ‘collective’ responsibility – it is always a work in progress. But I find that a cheerful smile always goes a long way to help!”

Rose O’Lone grew up on the Sandringham estate, studied geography at Durham before becoming a teacher at Broomwood Hall in 2011. She started attending Christ Church a year ago and says she “loves everything about it!”

“I love being a teacher. Teaching 5 year olds is often challenging, always fun and rarely with a dull moment! Their propensity and desire to learn presents me, as a Christian, with a huge responsibility and opportunity too. My responsibility is to model Christ to them in the way I live, teach them, care for and discipline them. There are also natural opportunities to share my faith with the

children and my colleagues without having to resort to proselytizing anyone. I’m lucky to be supported in this by other Christian teachers at the school, and so we pray together when we can. The wonderful thing about being a Christian is that there is God’s abundant grace and forgiveness for all the times I don’t do this perfectly. And I can assure you, there are many! The gospel is not merely something that helps me with my work as a teacher. It is about someone who is with me in all the decisions, successes, failures, disappointments, frustrations and mistakes that are a part of life. Most importantly, having been forgiven by Jesus I have a hope for the future that is a daily motivation to live and speak for him.”



TWO WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE

Lesley Raymond introduces the women ministers at St Philip's

At the moment, there are two self-supporting women ministers at St Philip's Church, Lesley Perry and Ije Ajibade. Lesley is the more senior of the two, having been ordained in 2000 while Ije was ordained nearly four years ago.

Lesley was, in fact, the first woman to celebrate the Eucharist in St Philip's. Before the interregnum between Michael Forrest and David Walsh, there had been some resistance to the idea of women priests but Lesley was very important to maintaining worship in the church during this time and her ministry won over the congregation to the extent that when David came, he asked her to stay on.

Lesley has another claim to fame in this area, in that she was the first woman ever to celebrate the Eucharist in Lambeth Palace chapel when she was Archbishop Carey's Press Secretary (1991-2000). Following this, she went on to become Director of Communications and External Relations for Universities UK.

Ije has also had an interesting career, profiled in KPN Summer 2013 issue. Following twelve years during which she worked at City Hall for two Mayors of London – Ken Livingstone



Lesley Perry

and Boris Johnson – she is about to start a new job working for the Government agency Healthwatch, where she will be managing special projects. Ije became a curate at St Philip's in July 2010 and was the first trainee minister at the church in 41 years. She is also involved in ministry at Southwark Cathedral, first as a Chaplain and now as a Minor Canon.



Crucifixion, Craigie Aitchison, 1999-2000, oil on canvas © Private Collection / Bridgeman Art Library

Bach

Palm Sunday
13 April 2014
6.30pm

St John Passion

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St Mary Abbots Choir & Singers
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ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, KENSINGTON

THE MINISTRY FOR CHILDREN

The arrival of Erica Roane has brought renewed energy and vision to the children's ministry at St Philip's. **Lesley Raymond** talks to Barnabas (Barney) Palfrey about some early changes and an initiative to identify and meet the needs of the church's older children

When Erica took over responsibility for the children's work at St Philip's a year ago, the church council was keen to see more parents involved in the delivery of Sunday School and also considered how we could cater better for the older children on a Sunday morning. Since then there have been a number of parents' evenings in the church to encourage greater participation in the planning and delivery of children's worship and Erica has brought parents in on a rota basis to help run the Sunday School.

However, the wide age-range from virtual toddlers to teenagers necessarily made it hard to engage and keep the older members. This is where Barney comes in. Over recent months he has been leading a session for Year 6 and upwards on the first Sunday of the month, ably supported by Joan Vassilou. "We try to have a creative activity each week, and a prayer, and we've had some pretty good discussions," he says. "Quite often we use the big wide-screen television, connected to a computer, for some visuals or music, but the sessions on Sunday morning are pretty short and we could do a lot more if we had more time."

The focus is on children age 10 years and up, and in the first four months the group has attracted between two and eight each time. If everyone in this age group came, there would be about 12.

Challenging discussions

It's still early days and Barney is hoping that Erica will get feedback from the children about what they think of the sessions and what they'd like more of. "It's hard for me to know if I'm doing them in the best way, but I know that these young people at St Philip's are a real delight to talk with," says Barney.

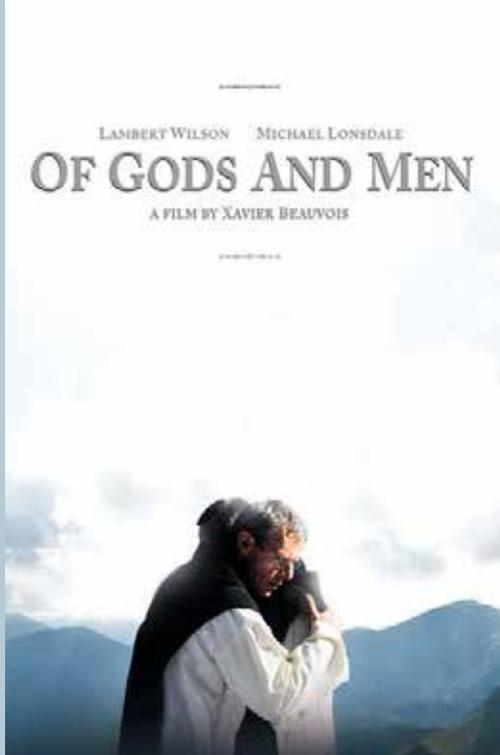
What sort of topics does the group discuss? "Well, so far we've done the hope for the future in Isaiah at the beginning of Advent, the visit of the Wise Men to Jesus at Epiphany, the Beatitudes from the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount in February, and the Transfiguration - so a pretty strong line-up of themes!! I hope that for some of them, at least, it is a chance to think about their faith and how God comes to them in their lives, in a way that builds on confirmation classes they may have been to, and that it helps all of

them in their next steps towards discovering who they are and who God is for them as they grow older."

What we can learn from children

Ideally, the older children would have their own separate group twice a month, but Barney is keen to get their input before making the sessions more frequent. "We need to know a bit more about whether they really enjoy having their own older group, and whether they want it run in the same way or differently," he explains.

But what sort of reaction is Barney currently getting from the participants? "They are so polite and lovely, it is hard for me to know," he says. "But when they engage in discussion and offer their own insights, then I think 'perhaps this is meaning something for them'. Certainly, I'm learning myself from trying to talk about these things with them, and what is more I learn from things that they say, because they really have acute and valuable observations and perceptions of their own. Children's ideas about and experience of God are often fresh, unassuming and profound. We adults need them too!"



Save the date!

On **Saturday 5 April** the St Philip's film club will be showing a magnificent French film, **'Of Gods and Men'**, which is based on real recent events. The film asks deep, profound questions about faith, commitment and the will of God, but is not in the least bit heavy. It is an important and beautiful film that will stay with you for a very long time.

The evening will start at **7.00pm** in **St Philip's Lower Hall** with light refreshments and an introduction to the film. There will be an opportunity for further discussion and the evening will end at around 9.30pm. The event is free but we ask for contributions to the refreshments.

Please join us for what promises to be a very special evening.



ANNABEL FREYBERG
16 AUGUST 1961 - 8 DECEMBER 2013

TRIBUTES TO ANNABEL FREYBERG AT TWO MOVING SERVICES

Sarah Vine from Annabel's funeral
 at St Martha-on-the-Hill in Surrey

The pretty church of St-Martha-on-the-Hill near Guildford is Norman in origin but was restored between 1846 and 1850 by Sir Henry Woodyer. This very special building stands on the Pilgrim's Way 570 feet above sea level.

To reach it, visitors face a steep climb along a woody path; but the reward when they reach the top is worth every gasp. From this wild and ancient place the breathless viewer drinks in the beauty of the South Downs, a reminder of the marvel and the richness of God's creation.

In the churchyard stands a memorial to the French fin de siecle actress and singer Yvonne Arnaud, whose ashes were scattered here. To the front of the south door of the church is the grave of Bernard Freyberg VC, who won his medal in 1916 as a Lieutenant-Colonel in The Royal West Surrey Regiment.

Last year, in Spring 2012, another, smaller grave was added, a bud of the Freyberg family tree that had only just begun to flower: Blossom Barrow, aged 9, pupil and parishioner of St Mary Abbots school and church, classmate, friend, guinea pig enthusiast, sister of Otto, daughter of Andrew and Annabel.

Then, on December 19th 2013, the moment so many of us had dreaded: Annabel's own funeral.

When Annabel was diagnosed with incurable lung cancer just a few day's after Blossom's memorial service, friends and fellow 'St Mary Abbot's parents desperately hoped it was all some hideous mistake. But it wasn't. It was just a cruel and inexplicable twist of fate, one of those monumental cosmic injustices that the human mind struggles to comprehend; and it ended here, on a windswept hilltop in Surrey.

Smiling out at the congregation of friends and family from the photograph on the front of the order of service, Annabel Pauline Jekyll Freyberg guided us all, through words and poetry she chose herself, to her final resting place alongside her darling girl.

In a corner of Blossom's gravestone, a small stone carving of her beloved guinea pig Ginger, one of Annabel's final gifts to her daughter in this life. "It was done by an artist from Cornwall," explained Otto, handing round sprigs of rosemary which we scattered on Annabel's flower-strewn wicker casket.

Earlier, Fr Gillean, the Rev'd Nick Williams and the Rev'd Richard McLaren, who had presided at Annabel and Andrew's wedding in this same church, had led us all through the final act of worship. We sung All things bright and beautiful, and Otto did his mother proud

with a reading of John, chapter 14, verses 1-6. "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh to unto the Father, but by me."

So like Annabel to want to put us all at ease, even at her own funeral. For this, she chose the poet Wendy Cope, and Andrew read, making us all giggle through our tears. Being Boring, an ode to the simple joys of normality that we all, lucky souls that we are, take for granted, but which for Annabel, in the final months of Blossom's illness and later throughout her own, must have seemed like an impossible luxury.

Brother Valerian read W.H. Auden's As I walked out one evening: "I'll love you, dear, I'll love you/Till China and Africa meet, And the river jumps over the mountain/And the

salmon sing in the street." The wind whistled at the church door, and our hearts ached with the sadness of it all.

Her great friend, the writer and critic Matthew Sturgis, gave a superb tribute, recalling their sixth-form meeting at Marlborough, their days together at Oxford, Annabel's passions, her generosity, her intelligence, her "pre-Raphaelite beauty", her teapot obsession and so much more.

It ended with Vera Lynn, singing We'll meet again, and a final black-and-white picture of a young Annabel, that shy, knowing look of hers, that mane of unruly hair, that familiar half smile.

We shall miss her so.

Max Croft from the memorial service for Annabel held at St Mary Abbots church on 26th February 2014

St Mary Abbots Church was packed with an eclectic gathering of friends to celebrate Annabel's life on February 26th. With the sun shining outside, and the tributes flowing inside, those gathered were treated to a wonderful insight into the extraordinary life of the "joyous, loving, witty, imaginative, intelligent, decorative, generous, innocent, courageous" Annabel, as described by Matthew Sturgis in his moving tribute. Many of those who attended the service lingered afterwards in the sunshine, enjoying sandwiches, cakes and tea - supplied in a variety of teapots that Annabel would have much-appreciated - as they shared memories of this "magnificent person". As Matthew concluded: "We are all very lucky and very blessed to have known her."

INSPIRING WOMEN

Archivist **Jane MacAllan** discovers remarkable women from history hidden in the St Mary Abbots archive

Many countries celebrate International Women's Day on 8th March. Originating from the Labour movements at the turn of the 20th century, the first National Women's Day was held in America in 1909 to honour garment workers who protested against their working conditions. Today it is an opportunity to promote women's rights worldwide and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women that can inspire others.

At the age of 23, Mary Edwards (1705?-1743) was reputedly the wealthiest woman in England, with a fortune of around £50,000. She fell in love with an ensign in the Coldstream

Guards, Lord Anne Hamilton (1709-1748), godson of Queen Anne, and a clandestine wedding apparently took place in 1731. The couple lived openly together and, in

1733, they had a son who was christened Gerard Anne at St Mary Abbots on 28th March. Surprisingly, the baptismal entry gives his parentage as 'son of Mrs Mary Edwards of this Parish, Singlewoman', effectively declaring him to be illegitimate. Yet, on 2 July 1733, Mary signed a grant allowing Lord Anne to use her coat of arms and crest and, for a time, he assumed Edwards as his middle name. This unconventional picture of domesticity was shattered when Mary discovered that Lord Anne was spending her fortune at an alarming rate! On 22 May 1734 Lord Anne signed a deed stating that differences had arisen between



Jane Nassau Senior, in an 1859 painting by George Frederic Watts

them and transferring ownership of the stocks back to ‘Mary Edwards, spinster’. She later denied that a marriage had ever taken place having reputedly bribed the registrars to destroy any record of the marriage in the Fleet Registers. It is likely that Mary defied convention and notions of respectability to protect her fortune in an era when the property of a woman was surrendered to her husband upon marriage and her legal identity ceased to exist. It was not until the Married Women’s Property Act of 1882 that the law was significantly altered. Upon Mary’s death in 1743, Gerard inherited her fortune.

Mrs Jane Elizabeth Senior (née Hughes) (1828-1877) was the first female civil servant to be employed in Whitehall. ‘Jeanie’ had been actively involved in enterprises to improve areas of social need – with her local Workhouse Infirmary and the local industrial school for delinquent girls; relief work with soldiers returning from the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71); helping to found the National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War, which changed its name to the British Red Cross in 1905; a new project of ‘social housing’, effectively a model for reform. Due to her work in these areas, she was appointed Assistant Inspector of Workhouses by Sir James Stansfield, President of the Local Government Board, in 1873. Following her

promotion to Inspector in 1874, Jeanie wrote an official (but controversial) report on the education and treatment of girls in pauper schools. One consequence of her report was the foundation of the Metropolitan Association of Befriending Young Servants (‘MABYS’) to assist young women in domestic service. St Mary Abbots formed its own branch in 1876. Her work had a lasting impact through the various organisations that she was engaged with and the promotion of humanitarian causes. Florence Nightingale wrote to her friend on 7 December 1874 saying: ‘You were arrayed almost single-handed, a noble army of one... Who will take your place? Who will redeem our generation?’ Jeanie’s memorial can be found in the south aisle.

In November 2013 Satellite Gallery, Vancouver, opened an exhibition of the work of photographer, Moyra Davey, in collaboration with John Goodwin, entitled ‘Ornament and Reproach’ (now transferred to New York). The title of this exhibition was inspired by the memorial to Mrs Jael Boscawen (née Godolphin) (1647-1730) in the west end of St Mary Abbots, which Davey had photographed on a visit to the church. Part of the inscription reads: “confessedly the ornament, and at the same time the tacit reproach, of a wicked age.” Brought up during an era of Puritanism under Cromwell, Jael

lived through the turbulent years of dynastic struggles and constitutional upheaval from the reign of Charles II to the accession of George II. She and her family were at the centre of politics, with her brother, Sidney, 1st Earl of Godolphin, successfully surviving accusations of treason due to his Jacobite sympathies, to rise to the position of first Lord Treasurer of Great Britain in 1702, arguably the most powerful politician in Britain. Jael, his favourite sister, supported him throughout as well as acted as hostess for him after he was widowed in 1678. As a close friend of Sarah Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough, Jael undoubtedly moved in influential circles. Little has been written about

her, thus leaving her memorial inscription as a testament to her success at fulfilling society’s expectations of her as a virtuous woman, managing domestic arrangements and participating in religious and charitable activities, while skilfully engaging her intellect in social and political realms in a patriarchal society. Today Jael is being ‘reclaimed’ by art and feminism as history is being reconsidered to reflect the roles women have played in it.

These remarkable women challenged the status quo. They were distinguished by their character and the different ways they fought for rights or ideals, whether for their families or others. Their achievements should continue to inspire.

‘Ornament and Reproach’. Courtesy of John Goodwin, Satellite Gallery, Vancouver & Murray Guy, New York.



Extract from a 1944 edition of the Kensington Parish News

* * * * *

At a stuffy English garden party, Beatrice Lillie (Lady Peel), wearing the Peel pearls, was approached by lady of lineage who said maliciously, "What lovely pearls, Beatrice. Are they genuine?"

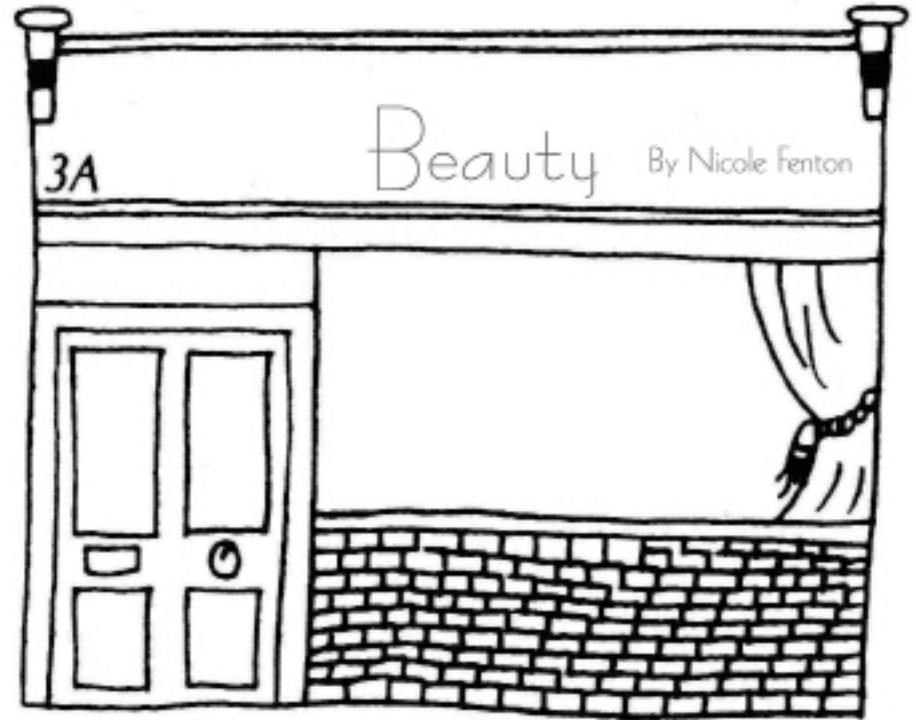
Lillie nodded,

"Of course, you can always tell by biting them," said the cat.

"Here, let me see."

"Gladly," said Lady Peel, proffering the jewels, "but remember, Duchess, you can't tell real pearls with false teeth."

* * * * *



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THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC...

Junior KPN reporters **Kitty Croft** and **Ruby Slinn** interview Joanna Fyvie, the music teacher at St Mary Abbots School who has been ringing the changes at Thursday morning's Sung Eucharist

What inspired you to become a music teacher?

I have always loved music. I started playing the piano when I was four and went on to take a degree in music and French. Then I thought maybe I'd become a singer but I got an opportunity to work at the Royal Opera House in the offices and that began a music career in administration, including at the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Barbican. Then after I had my children I thought it would be nice to be actually performing and that's when the idea of being a music teacher came in.

Why did you take the job to become music teacher at SMA?

To start with I very much wanted to be a music teacher, it's something I've held in my heart for a long, long time. I have children of my own at a different school and because of that I know that SMA is very, very well-respected for its music. So, when the music

teacher job came up it seemed like a perfect combination because it brought together my wish to be a music teacher with a school that really treasures its music - it felt like a gift.

Were you scared the first service you did?

I was very nervous because it was right at the beginning of the school year. I'd only met the teachers and the children the day before and I'd never played the piano in the church. I didn't know Fr Gillean very well yet and also I didn't know the church service, the way it ran, so it was quite difficult just to go straight in there and do a big service. I remember Fr Gillean telling everybody that it was my first service and that I was nervous and everybody laughed. I think that helped a bit because it relieved the tension.

What's your favourite part of the service?

I like the communion because I think it's the stillest time and it's the point when the choir gets to sing all those beautiful songs.



Joanna Fyvie

try and have a sense of peace and quiet around the communion. I think that's a very important part of the service.

What's your favourite hymn?

I really like Jerusalem. I love singing it and I love hearing the congregation sing it. But the only downside is that it's quite hard to play on the piano. So it's both my favourite hymn and most challenging hymn all at once.

What instruments do you play?

I play piano. I used to play the clarinet but once I'd done all my grades I'm afraid I stopped. And then I started taking voice training, so singing and piano are my instruments.

What changes have you made to the service?

I'm not sure what changes I've made because I wasn't here to know what the services were like before, but I love it when the children at school have the opportunity to play their instruments so I try to make sure that happens as much as possible. I also love to

Do you ever get things wrong?

Yes, I do! Sometimes I play wrong notes in hymns and once or twice I've forgotten to come in at the right time - sometimes Mrs Doyle has to give me a little whisper - but I am learning all the time so I think the things that go wrong will be less and less.



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EZRA POUND COMES TO CHURCH

Philip Welsh reveals that the American poet and writer spent time and found love in Kensington

This month brings a surprising centenary for St Mary Abbots: the marriage in church of the 28-year old Ezra Pound, who confidently announced his Rank or Profession in the marriage register as ‘M.A., Poet’.

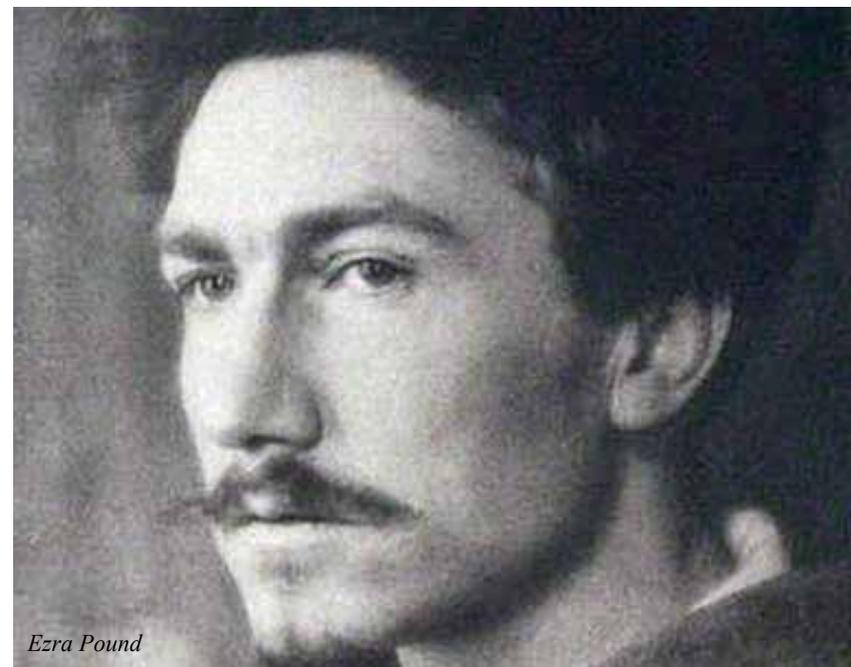
Pound had arrived in London from the United States via Venice six years previously, and from 1909 until his marriage lived just



Dorothy Shakespear

outside the churchyard at 10, Kensington Church Walk, where he rented the first floor front room for 8 shillings a week, grumbled periodically about the noise of the bells, and occasionally helped his landlord deliver groceries. His marriage to Dorothy Shakespear took place at 10.15 on a Monday morning, 20th April, with about half a dozen guests. The poet Yeats expressed his intention of attending – Pound had recently been his literary assistant – but in later years no one could remember that he was there.

After their wedding Pound and his new wife lived round the corner in a small flat at 5, Holland Place Chambers, just off Kensington Church Street. Here they remained for six years, until leaving England, and their triangular living room virtually became the unofficial centre of London’s avant-garde cultural life. 1914 was a momentous year for Pound and for literature. Yeats had mentioned to him that he had come across an unknown but promising Irishman living in Trieste called James Joyce. So in February Pound included a poem by Joyce in his anthology *Les Imagistes*, and asked for more. Joyce sent



Ezra Pound

the first chapter of *Portrait of the Artist* as a Young Man, and Pound’s career as Joyce’s greatest promoter and agent was born.

In June of that year – a month when Pound was busily co-editing the iconoclastic Vorticist manifesto *Blast* with another Kensington resident, the painter and novelist Percy Wyndham Lewis – Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated on the other side of Europe. The outbreak of the Great War meant that a young philosophy teacher from Harvard, T.S. Eliot, had to cut short a study visit to Marburg and come to London. In September he turned up in Holland Park Chambers to meet Pound. He had sent Pound a poem that one distinguished editor had already rejected as ‘absolutely insane’ - *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*. Pound enthusiastically

arranged for its publication, and one of poetry’s great collaborations began.

After 1920 Pound lived variously abroad, and came to be notoriously associated with fascism and antisemitism. But one more literary coincidence, many years later, brings us back to where we began. In 1957 Pound’s former protégé T.S. Eliot – now the elder statesman of English poetry, Nobel laureate and OM – married his second wife Valerie at St. Barnabas, Addison Road (at 6.15am). The wedding breakfast took place at the officiating clergyman’s house. This was 10, Kensington Church Walk, the very same house in which Ezra Pound had lived until his own marriage, at St Mary Abbots exactly a century ago, in between discovering two of the giants of 20th century literature.

MOTHERING SUNDAY - HOW TO MAKE A PAPER FLOWER

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- ♥ Coloured tissue paper
- ♥ Pipe cleaner
- ♥ Scissors
- ♥ Ruler

HOW TO MAKE IT



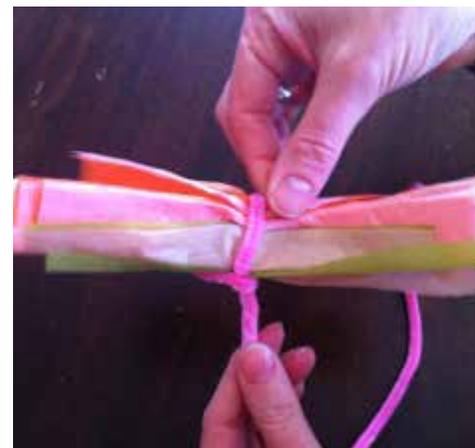
1. Cut the tissue paper into rectangles about 12cm x 16cm in size.



2. Stack at least eight pieces and up to 15 pieces



3. Pleat the tissue paper from the long side like an accordion.



4. Wind a pipe cleaner around the middle of the folded tissue paper.



5. Trim the ends of the folded paper into a point.



6. Gently separate each layer on one side of the pipe cleaner by pulling upwards toward the middle of the flower.



7. When your flower is finished you can make more for a bouquet, or pop it into a jam jar.

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