

Summer 2011

InSpire



St Luke's church spire, seen on a glorious day in March 2011.

The Magazine of St Luke's Church, Maidenhead

An Open Letter from St Luke's New Vicar

A Visit to the Sagrada Família

An Evening of Rodgers and Hammerstein

Is There a Place for Me in the Life of the Church?

St Luke's Forgotten Admiral



St Luke's Church, Maidenhead

InSpire

Produced three times a year

Next issue: Autumn 2011

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Many thanks to all the contributors to this issue.

Any views expressed in this magazine are of the article's respective author(s), and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, St Luke's Church Maidenhead, the Diocese of Oxford, or the Church of England.

Regular Services at St Luke's

Sundays

8:00am: Eucharist (said) – Second and Fifth Sundays only

10:00am: Sung Eucharist

(First Sunday in the month – All-age worship)

6:00pm: Evening Worship at either St Luke's, All Saints, or Cox Green. (Further details on separate 'Sundays at Six' leaflet)

Tuesdays

7:15pm: Eucharist or Evening Prayer

Wednesdays

10:00am: Eucharist or Morning Prayer



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Who'd have thought that we'll have licensed our new vicar exactly one year after Richard Holroyd's announcement of departure? Having designed the parish profile, I was delighted to be invited to talk to a couple of the hopefuls in February. Both seemed excellent candidates, but in the end Sally Lynch stood out for most people, so she was the churchwardens' decision. You can read an open-letter she's penned on Page 4.

Back in December, when editing the Winter 2010/11 edition of *InSpire*, I put on hold a small amount of content (including Gerry Knight's interesting article about including people with disabilities on Page 18). This was amid fears that otherwise there simply wouldn't be enough material in this Summer edition. In fact, the vast number of St Luke's activities have filled this

magazine to the rafters – there's reports from the Reordering Committee and the Thursday Group, an update from the Jinmans in New Zealand, and you can read my account of a walk with the self-confessed 'Crinklies' on Page 13!

I'm really pleased to feature another guest writer; Rachel Anderson (a PTA member at St Luke's School) has written a truly fascinating piece about St Luke's 'forgotten admiral'. Read it on Page 8.

In the autumn, *InSpire* will feature pictures of the church fete on 2 July, the Parish Outing on 9 July, and, of course, the licensing of Sally Lynch on 21 June.

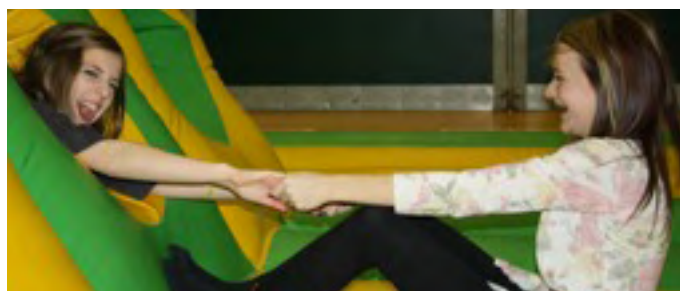
Clearly, a busy time is ahead of us all. Changes are afoot. But let's embrace them with that lifelong St Luke's spirit, and bring on the summer!

Andrew Burdett
May 2011
Editor of *InSpire*

The Youth Church's Post-Christmas Party

Every year, the young people of the church congregation descend on the Magnet Leisure Centre for a party.

Photography: Andrew Burdett



Watch a video of the party on the website:
www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

Letter from the New Vicar

Writing to us ahead of her induction, St Luke's first female vicar wrote an open-letter to her new congregation.

Words: Sally Lynch

What a whirlwind the last few weeks have been! It seems aeons ago that I first came to visit St Luke's, and I was totally taken by the place and the people that I met, so applied to be your vicar.

On my first visit I felt a strong call to St Luke's. The church is beautiful, lovingly kept and surely inspires worship. Those members of the congregation and ministry team who I have so far met clearly enjoy each other's company, clearly wanting to worship God and spend time together as part of a family. In the local community and beyond, there are many activities and opportunities for mission and sharing the love of God. I am very much looking forward to coming to join you as your vicar, to lead your church family as we continue the journey, 'in faith out there'. It is good to have this opportunity to introduce myself to you a little before I arrive formally in mid-June.



I am an Essex girl. I was born here but moved away to Durham for university, then to Doncaster and Cambridge to teach RE in secondary schools. I moved back to Essex in 2000 to be a deputy head teacher and then, for a short time, a head teacher. When I did my first degree in theology, women could not be priests so this vocation never entered my mind. I was, however, a bishop in 1979 – I led one of our local outreach groups and its leaders were called bishops!

I was married and divorced many years ago and now live alone with Lily, my spaniel, who was an ordination gift. Lily has transformed my life and is super company. She regularly comes to church with me, so you will get to know her, though she rarely comes on Sundays as it is too busy. I also have a grown-up ex stepson, Matthew, who works in London and intends to spend some time living with me in the summer before setting off to travel the world.

My parents took my brother and I to church as children, but it was when I was a teenager and Graham Kendrick came to our school (before he was famous) that I committed my life to God. I had a strong vocation to teaching at that time and am still passionate about education, particularly church schools. I also feel very strongly about the need for justice and peace in the world and have a special interest in the Holy Land, having travelled there on a number of occasions. Music

and creativity are also important to me, as are special places. I enjoy travelling, being outdoors, and meeting God in unexpected places and people.

So pilgrimage is one of my key themes. I was head teacher of a school called St Peter's, and there I used the metaphor of a boat to speak of our journey together. I think that is also very relevant to St Luke's as Luke travelled with Paul (let's forget the shipwreck incident though!). So I join you to take the helm and share your journey

Letter from the New Vicar (continued)

as we sail together into the unknown. I'd like to take time to get to know each of you as individuals and as a part of the community, as your different stories combine to make that tapestry which is the church's story.



Together we will discern the course on which God is leading us, as we seek to love and serve him and our community, both local and international. St Luke is, of course, also known for his role as a doctor, and I hope that we can continue to be a centre of wholeness and healing in the parish. May we continue to be a place where God's love welcomes all people.

Over the coming months, there will time to share so much more. But for now, thank you for your prayers. Please continue to pray as we prepare for the next stage in the life of St Luke's, and be assured my prayers for all of you. I very much look forward to meeting you all soon, and am excited to join you in mid-June.

With every blessing, Reverend Sally Lynch ■

**The Revd Sally Lynch will be inducted
at St Luke's on 21 June at 7:30pm.**

Help Needed

The Maidenhead Child Contact Centre has opened twice a month since it started in 1993. The number of families who come varies, but their regular attendance proves the need for the Centre. Financed by donations, its management are indebted to St Luke's Church for the constant support given – not only financially but also by the number of volunteers who give their time on Saturday afternoons.

The Centre is sited at The United Reformed Church, West Street, and is open between 2:00pm and 4:00pm on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. The ethos of the centre is to provide a safe and secure place for non-resident parents to meet with their children when contact cannot be agreed.

We are looking for volunteers, and hope that some of you reading this may join our team. More information is available from **Phyllis Sigsworth** (☎ 01628 778656).

Thank you.

An Evening of Rodgers and Hammerstein

This year's annual church social event was themed around the music of Rodgers and Hammerstein. A highly successful evening, it had everyone singing along to old-time favourites.

Words: Andrew Burdett

Photography: Ann Burdett, Andrew Burdett

It was Monday afternoon in January and I'd just got in from school. The phone rang. As Mum was out, I answered it. "Hello? Is Andrew in? Andrew?" said the woman on the other end. It was Sonya. "Urm, speaking," I cautiously replied. "Great. Look, we need you to sing at the Church Social next Saturday." I was unsure. I knew the theme was to be based on Rodgers' and Hammerstein's music, but I barely knew anything except *Getting To Know You*. "Look, you'll do it, won't you?" Before I had time to protest, Sonya had hung up having written my name down on her list of 'definites'.

Three days until the big day, I was dropped off at the organisers' house for a rehearsal with the other 'St Luke's Singers'. Although I'd listened to an old CD of the songs a couple of times, it was not until the Wednesday that they really stuck in. Something that struck me was just how easy-to-learn the little tunes were. I was in love with the music, and the cheeky words were very



memorable.

The big night quickly came, and after another short run-through, the audience began to arrive. Now Sonya was beginning to feel a little nervous about her big solo, though she was reassured by cries of "It'll be alright on the night". But there was no going back for any of us. It wasn't long before I was introduced for my solo performance of *Some Enchanted Evening*, and then my duet with Roger Bevitt singing *There Is Nothing Like A Dame* – hence the T-shirt! A splendid dinner separated the two acts: the first was music from *South Pacific*, the other took its songs from *The King And I*.

At the end, audiences were

invited to get up and dance, as Rhydian (the accompanist) played *Shall We Dance*. It was a great end to a great evening, and once again proved that the community-minded, fun-loving spirit of our church's people is still very much present. ■

Quake-hit Churches

Former congregation-member Ann Jinman sent *InSpire* this special report from New Zealand.

Words: Ann Jinman

I had resolved not to write about earthquakes again, because, as bad as they are here, far worse things have been happening around the world. There is, however, little happening here that is not related to their ongoing effects in some way, and I thought you should know the fate of the church of St Luke's in the City as I had written about its 150 anniversary editions a couple of years ago (*InSpire*, Autumn 2009).



St Luke's in the City, Christchurch, after the February 2011 earthquake.

The church was badly damaged by the earthquake on 4 September 2010 and, after joining us at St Michael's for a couple of weeks, its congregation shared a historic chapel. There, they held their services so that they could retain the character of their own community, while they considered the restoration of their church. Sadly, on 22 February 2011, St Luke's suffered even more extreme damage, which rendered it irreparable. At 8:00am on Sunday 10 April, the site was deconsecrated by Bishop Victoria Matthews, allowing the remains to be dismantled. The chapel that they had been using was also damaged so that it too is out of use at present, but the St Luke's community continues to worship in yet another temporary home.

St Michael's church building has withstood all the shaking remarkably well, and was only unusable for a couple of weeks following the February earthquake, as it was within the cordoned-off area; the most severe damage was to the organ, and all the pipes are currently laid out in the chancel so it looks as though repairs are under way. In the past few weeks we have enjoyed some lovely unaccompanied singing, and we now have the use and care of a nearly-new grand piano which has had to be moved from a damaged building for safe keeping. A stone building on the church-and-school site was damaged on 26 December 2010 and again on 22 February, and is currently being repaired to make it safe.

Far worse was the fate of the large Durham Street Methodist Church, which was an important part of Christchurch's history. It had suffered damage in the September earthquake, and on the day of the February one, three organ specialists were in the building dismantling the organ so that it could be moved to a safer place. Sadly, the building was destroyed and all three men killed.

It has now been established that this area has suffered four separate earthquakes since 4 September 2010, and the aftershocks from all of them continue to rattle us in every sense. We look forward to a more stable time to enable the rebuilding of Christchurch. ■



Andrew Pankhurst

Durham Street Methodist Church, Christchurch, after 22 February 2011.

St Luke's Forgotten Admiral

In 1888, a stained glass window was installed at St Luke's in memory of Admiral Sir Astley Cooper Key. Guest writer Rachel Anderson investigated his connection with St Luke's.

Words: Rachel Anderson

The west window on the north side aisle of the church is dedicated to Admiral Sir Astley Cooper Key of Laggan House, Maidenhead. It was placed there in November 1888 and paid for by his friends, who wanted a 'lasting memorial of the esteem and affection which they felt for him'. The window was filled with painted glass by Messrs Clayton and Bell of Regent Street, London, at a cost of £112 4s, and represents our Lord as the great teacher of his people, preaching from a boat on the Sea of Galilee.

So who was Sir Astley Cooper Key, and why is he commemorated at St Luke's Church?

My interest in Sir Astley is through Laggan House, which stood behind my property in Pearce Road until it was demolished in the 1960s to make way for the modern day shops and flats. All that remains of that time is a small retaining wall at the bottom of the adjacent gardens, and it was this that sparked my interest in its history.

The property first appears on local maps in 1875. The area was so much different than it is today – a lane leading to Cookham with various large residences, such as Laggan House, with views towards Cliveden and Taplow Court. You can imagine why Sir Astley chose to live here after he retired from the Admiralty in 1885.

Astley Cooper Key was the second of the nine children of the well-known surgeon Charles Aston Key, and his wife Anne (nee Cooper), and was born in London on 18th January 1821. After schooling in Brighton, Winchester, and (albeit briefly) Hampton, he joined the Naval College in

Portsmouth in 1833 where he was known to his friends as 'Copper Key'. It was here that he was already showing himself to be a remarkable and popular young man, with a keen interest in invention, a natural aptitude in mathematics, and a strong Christian faith. His first ship was the 'Russell', which he joined as a midshipman in 1835. This was 28 years after the Battle of Trafalgar, yet it was still the days of wood and sail. Writing to his parents he said that he never was so happy in all his life. The ship took him to the Mediterranean, where he was disappointed that a smoking Mount Etna did not erupt whilst he was there. The captain described him as one of his 'best midshipman' and as a 'correct and gentlemanly young fellow'.

However it was his frustration over his lack of promotion which brought him to the 'Cleopatra' in 1839. This 26-gun frigate was on duty down the east coast of North America and into the Caribbean, where he served briefly on the schooner 'Pickle' tracking slave ships. He wrote complaining how 'horrid and uncivilised' it was there, that he abhorred the 'Yankies' and how he yearned to return to the Mediterranean. His father told him that if he was to have any chance of promotion then he had to stay, although he used his influence back in England to comply with his son's expectations. Sir Astley was finally promoted to Lieutenant and was sent back to England to naval college.

His next ship was the 'Curaçoa', which he joined in 1843, and was stationed on the south east coast of South America. Their principle role was



St Luke's Forgotten Admiral (continued)

to intercept slave ships and stop revolutionary wars on the River Plate. Slavery had been abolished by the English in 1833, although this was unpopular with the locals. Ships did still try to get through, and on one particular vessel which the 'Curaçoa' captured, they found 450 slaves, men women and children, crammed on board and dying daily from diseases such as small pox, and emaciation. Key wrote describing how the shocking sight made him want to cry.

In 1844 he was transferred to the 'Gorgon' in Montevideo, Uruguay. As a steam frigate it satisfied his keen interest in the advancement of technology. The city was under siege by the fleet and army of the President of Buenos Aires against revolutionary factions, until the English and French intervened. When the 'Gorgon' ran aground, Key used his inventive, mathematical and engineering skills to re-float the ship, earning a commendation by the Admiralty. He was so proud of his achievements that a full account of the re-floating was published back in England. In a letter to his parents, he predicted that this incident would 'be the best thing' which ever happened to him.

No doubt this led to him taking his first command, the 6-gun paddle-wheel steamer, the 'Bulldog', in Devonport in May 1847. Although he initially found it in a 'dreadfully disorganised state', he described it as a 'truly noble ship'. The 'Bulldog' was first sent out to Portugal to quell a rebellion against the Queen of Portugal, then onto Sicily to intervene in revolts against the King of Naples and his unpopular land tax, providing refuge to British merchants and local nobleman and gentlemen. Whilst he could not intervene, the Admiralty requested that he report on the state of affairs. As a 26-year-old commander he showed great maturity, judgement and integrity, was open minded and unbiased, and had a good knowledge of Italian politics. Whilst they were more than satisfied with his findings, he earned himself a reprimand from the foreign secretary, Lord Palmerston! The revolts led to the setting up of a separate Sicilian parliament and, ultimately, the unification of Italy.



He did, however, find time for some sightseeing excursions. He took in the fine arts and sights of Florence, Pisa, and Rome, where he was presented to the Pope. He wrote home with great admiration for everything he saw.

His next command was of the screw frigate, the 'Amphion', in 1853. War was brewing with Russia and in the autumn, when hostilities were declared, he was sent to the Baltic where he was involved in the bombardment and destruction of the fortresses of Bomarsund and Sveaborg. After undertaking peace keeping duties, this was the first time that many, including Captain Key, had witnessed war first hand. However he did manage to write that he was angry with *The Times* for wrongly reporting that the 'Amphion' was captured and that the crew were on their way to Siberia!

By now he was becoming a household name and a well-respected individual. When the war ended he was transferred to the battleship, the 'Sans Pareil', and was entrusted in bringing home the troops from the Crimea. He took a month's leave on his return to marry his sweetheart, Charlotte Lavinia McNiell in Gonville, Jersey, on 28th April 1856. At 23, she was twelve years his junior.

He was then sent off to the east - for the Indian Mutiny, and then to capture Canton, China (now Guangzhou), where he personally captured the troublesome Governor Yeh.

However his exploits were taking their toll, and in May 1858 he was invalided back to England with 'climatic cachexia and derangement of the digestive organs'. After he recovered he represented the Navy on the Royal Commission and campaigned for improvements to defences, particularly at Portsmouth, although his arguments were ill-advised. In 1859 he was appointed Captain of the Devonport Steam Ordinary. He lived with his young family just outside Torpoint, and each day took his gig across the Hamoaze to the dockyard. It was his responsibility to oversee the construction and fitting out of the ships. He was particularly influential in the emergence of the new ironclad battleships, with each being developed as an

St Luke's Forgotten Admiral (continued)

experiment, as he challenged established ideas and procedures.

In 1863 he was transferred to the training base the 'Excellent' and was head of the Navy's gunnery department at Portsmouth, where he made improvements to the Navy's guns, with his innovative and challenging ideas. In November 1866 he was made a Rear Admiral, and in 1868, made a fellow of the Royal Society for his scientific achievements. Admiral Key's appointment to the office of Director General of Naval Ordnance was well received, as it was felt that 'no man was more capable of giving advice'.

It appeared that Admiral Key could do no wrong. However changes were afoot at the Admiralty. The new Naval Lord took a dislike to Key and his opinions fell out of favour. After a short service in command of the Reserve Fleet, he was transferred to Portsmouth Dockyard as Admiral Superintendent in 1869, and then, in 1870, on to Malta dockyard as its Superintendent. Yet still in his 'exile' he worked with integrity and vigour. When the ironclad 'Lord Clyde' ran aground 130 miles from Malta in March 1872, it was Key that went out to re-float and tow her back to the dockyard.

When a new Naval Lord was appointed in 1871, it was Key that was looked to to fill the new position of the presidency of the new naval educational establishment at Greenwich (later to be called the Royal Naval College), as he had expressed concern in the past over the lack of education of naval officers. The position awarded him a £2000 salary and a house in the grounds. Admiral Key and his family left Malta in August 1872 and the new naval college opened on 1st February 1873. However living near to the Thames was said to disagree with Key's health and he didn't find the job particularly fulfilling. So when his wife, Charlotte, died of 'pleurisy and congestion of the lungs' after a heavy cold on 30 December 1874, he eagerly accepted the command of the North American and West India station.

His memoirs describe this time as passing without incident. Although on a personal note, Key married his second wife, Evelyn Bartolucci, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in October 1877. He was 56 and her, 21, and younger than most of his children. So their union must have been seen as a bit of a scandal!

He was made Admiral in 1878 and returned to England in the May. After another short stint in command of the Reserve Squadron in the Channel, Admiral Key was appointed First Sea Lord in 1879. He lived with his family behind the Admiralty, and worked tirelessly, often taking his work home. He was described as someone who always had to have a full agenda.

He now had the power to implement many of his earlier ideas, such as the 'Staunch' class of gunboat and breech loading guns. He was also opposed to suggestions for the construction of a channel tunnel, fearing French invasion. He unsuccessfully pressured the government for increased expenditure on improving the navy, in preparation for a future war. As his popularity waned, he was relieved to retire to Maidenhead in 1885.

He had an active retirement. He enjoyed shooting and fishing, writing enthusiastically about catching his first salmon. He learnt how to handle horses, and I found him in the *The Times* of 29 August 1885 advertising a horse for sale.

However it was a philanthropic and religious work in Maidenhead which drew particular note. He was a county magistrate, a member of the board of guardians, the president of the local branch of the Church Defence Institution, chairman of the local committee of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, a member of the standing committee of the Society of the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, a member of the committee of St Luke's Cottage Hospital, a trustee of the Maidenhead Savings Bank, a treasurer of the National Schools of Maidenhead and president of the Maidenhead School of Art. He also took an active interest in foreign missionary work and would often speak at local missionary meetings.

He was actively involved in the work of St Luke's Church, never missing a service and willing to undertake any work connected to the church, always putting everything into what he did. After his death he was described as 'tower of strength' and the clergy felt that they had 'lost their right hand'. The vicar of St Luke's, the Rev. William G Sawyer, wrote that 'in the two and half years that he had lived in the parish he had endeared himself to rich and poor alike'.

St Luke's Forgotten Admiral (continued)

He was in fine health until the end of 1886 when he was bedridden for several weeks with a serious illness. He recovered, albeit with a blood clot in his leg. On 3rd March 1888 this proved fatal, when he died suddenly at Laggan House. He was 67 years old.

Admiral Sir Astley Cooper Key is buried in St Luke's Churchyard, near to the fence in Vicarage Road. His wife joined him upon her death in 1931. Their grave is marked by a simple cross, providing no clue to the illustrious career of this remarkable man.



The main source of my article is the Memoirs of Admiral the Right Honble. Sir Astley Cooper Key, G.C.B., D.C.L., F.R.S., Etc. which was written by Philip Howard Colomb and published in 1898. Copies are available to buy from online booksellers such as Amazon and Abebooks, however I found it free to read online in its entirety at

<http://www.bit.ly/astleycooperkey>. Many thanks also to Chris Atkins at Maidenhead Library for kindly finding Admiral Key's obituary and the report of the installation of the window in the archive of the *Maidenhead Advertiser*. ■

Rachel would be pleased to hear from anyone who has photographs of Admiral Key's Laggan House.

Were You There?

Words: Enid Barber

A favourite spiritual song often sung at Eastertime and loved by many is *Were You There?* Indeed it was sung by our own choir on Good Friday.

Were we there when they crucified our Lord? Of course we weren't! After all, that was two thousand years ago! Does the thought of it cause us to tremble? How do we remember Good Friday and what difference does it make to us on that particular day? Do we manage to remember the agony of Jesus, or are we just too busy?

Some years ago, I decided it was time to 'stand up and be counted', and join the silent walk of witness through the town centre on Good Friday. I expected to feel embarrassed as I had never done anything like it before. As it happened, I felt quite comfortable being part of a crowd; hundreds of people of all ages and many races remembering what happened to Jesus.

I must admit that I felt better seeing other people from St Luke's also taking part, and knowing that we were joining Christians from many other churches. Less than an hour out of my life each year is really not very much, in fact really very little. An evangelist I am not, but I receive strength from this occasion at the same time as feeling humble in being able to follow a cross with others from different churches. ■

Prayer Group

Our Prayer Group meets on the first Wednesday of every month in church from 3:00pm. All are welcome to come and share time in the presence of our Lord.

Sonya Clarke
(☎ 01628 632626)

Reordering St Luke's: Summer 2011 Update

The team who are dreaming up a reordering of the church sent us an update of their progress.

Words: Kevin Baughan (on behalf of the reordering group)

In my winter update, I finished by noting that many people had suggested that we approach the challenge of reordering St Luke's in a gradual – or even experimental – manner that could be easily reversed. We took your feedback onboard and we are now in the process of putting the finishing touches to three experiments that will take place over the coming months.

If you recall, we had focused our work on three themes: the choir, the House of God and the office. Our

first experiment addresses the choir and will involve the creation of a temporary extension to the dais, so that the choir can be brought comfortably out of the chancel – without causing a traffic jam during communion or disappearing into the aisle. The extension will be 'cheap and cheerful' and done in such a way that it can be easily removed at the end of experiment. Whilst it may not be the finished article, it will allow us to see how one approach may work, in order to reunite the choir with the congregation, which was one of the key themes to emerge from our survey back in November. My thanks to John and the choir for their willingness to give it a go.

The remaining experiments are related to the theme of the House of God, which we have structured by thinking of the church as having a "sacred centre" surrounded by a number of areas. One of these areas is the space for our Sunday Club. We received a lot of feedback from the survey suggesting that the Sunday Club should be brought out of the Hall and closer to the church. So in experiment number two, we will be bringing the Sunday Club into the Parish Centre and moving the Sparklers into the Hall. This has its challenges but, on the plus side, it

moves the children closer to their parents and the crèche area at the top of the right (south) aisle – making a natural progression from one to the other. The Sparklers and Sunday Club leaders have kindly agreed to give it a try, and will let everyone know when the trial switchover will occur.



The timing of our upcoming experiments is perfect as it will allow our new vicar, Sally, to arrive and join us before we start to draw any conclusions.

The seating in our church will be the subject of the third experiment. In November, we received lots of comments about the seating, but no easy conclusions for

the group to draw out. Therefore, experimenting with the seating makes perfect sense. Over the next few months a number of different seating options will appear at the back of church for you to try out and to let us know what you think. You might love some and hate others. Great – tell us! A particular thanks to Don and Gerry who have put a lot of elbow grease into preparing one of these experiments for you. I won't spoil the surprise by giving you any more details.

The first steps in a challenging journey are often the hardest to make and so I hope you will find our initial experiments both fun as well as a very practical way to explore the future reordering of St Luke's. The timing is also perfect, as it will allow our new vicar, Sally, to arrive and join us before we start to draw any conclusions about what may or may not work. Lots of consideration is also going into the office and other aspects of the House of God themes – more to follow on that at a later date. But until then, everyone in the reordering group (myself, Barbara Essam, Terrie Robinson, Richard Burdett, Don Luff, Clare Price, Sue Maclean, and Serena and Shula Tajima) will be looking forward to hearing your thoughts. Happy experimenting! ■

Walking With 'The Crinklies'

Andrew joined an affectionately named group of St Luke's walkers on a ramble around the Box Hill area in Surrey.

Words and Photography: Andrew Burdett



We met at church at 10:30am, and shared cars to get to the start of the walk. The land, as the name suggests, was incredibly hilly. Consequently, over a total of five hours of walking, we covered just eight miles. Having said that, we crossed rivers, a railway, and a dangerously busy road.

down the steep path all afternoon, training for a charity run this summer from London to Rome. We were interested to learn that they were doing it for Water Aid – the Sparklers' chosen charity for 2011. We wished them the best of luck, and continued.



There was one section of the walk where we had to cross the River Mole using concrete stepping stones. Lin Luff was genuinely apprehensive about making the crossing, but – by holding onto the hand of her husband, Don – she eventually made it across. We stopped on the banks of the water for a packed lunch, before pressing on with the rest of the walk.

We then climbed Box Hill, where we met some breathless students. They'd been running up and



As our walk neared the end, we collectively decided to visit a pub for dinner when we got back to Maidenhead. It was lovely to have a break in the revision of my GCSE German writing task, and great to chat to members of the St Luke's congregation outside of the walls of the church. My thanks, of course, go to Roger for organising the route, and my fellow walkers for their company. ■

Watch a video of the walk on the website:
www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

Bishop Andrew's Installation

Our licensed lay ministers went to watch the new Bishop of Reading's installation.

Words and Photography: Noëline Page

On Saturday 16 April, Sonya and I were privileged to represent St Luke's at the installation of the ninth Bishop of Reading, The Rt Revd Andrew John Proud. It was an illustrious occasion in the presence of no fewer than five English bishops, the Archbishop of NW Europe, the President Bishop of Jerusalem and the Middle East, and many other church and civic dignitaries. The congregation was drawn from as

far afield as Brisbane, Australia and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Although it was a formal occasion with solemn oaths and anointing with oil, there were pleasing touches of humour and informality, as tributes were paid by some of those who had worked alongside Bishop Andrew in Ethiopia. As well as telling us how lucky we were to have him and how much they would miss him, they felt he would best be remembered for what he had left behind: namely, the 57 new churches he had founded during his nine years as chaplain of St Matthew's in Addis Ababa and Area Bishop of Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa. On hearing this, the Archdeacon of Berkshire smiled mischievously at Bishop Andrew and quipped, "57 new churches? No pressure then!"

In a simple address, Bishop Andrew spoke of his strong conviction that God had placed him in Ethiopia for a special purpose and told how living among a people of little material wealth but with a strong, simple faith had changed and strengthened his own thinking about faith. He now felt equally strongly that God had called him back to serve in this diocese.

Amidst all the ceremony and formal tributes made by those holding important offices, the show was stolen by a young boy – aged no more than eight or nine – who, speaking clearly and confidently, addressed Bishop Andrew in the following words:

"Be like a child. Do not allow the burdens and anxieties of your office to blunt your purpose or cloud your vision. Strive to be pure in heart, to be Christ's servant, to follow Jesus."

May the vision of God enlighten your understanding; may God's continuing call sustain your walk with Christ and keep you always joyful."

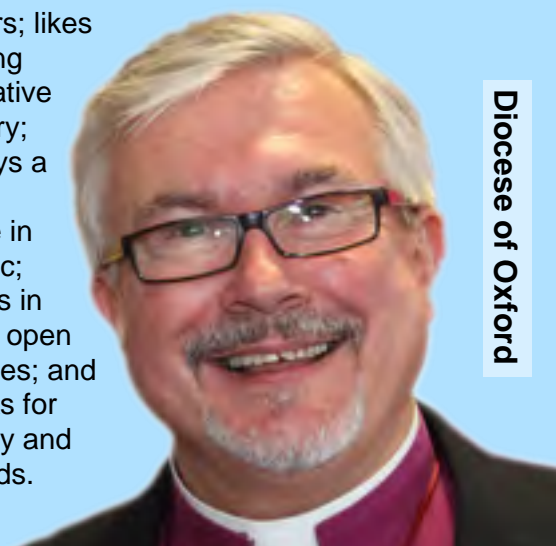
CV: Bishop Andrew

Bishop Andrew is 57. He holds a degree in Theology from King's College London and a Master of Arts from the School of Oriental and African Studies. He trained as a priest at Lincoln Theological College and was ordained in 1980.

Between 1980 and 2001 he served in various parishes in Chelmsford and St Alban's dioceses, before going to Ethiopia in 2002.

He is married to Janice, a plant physiologist, has two grown up children, and one granddaughter. When not occupied with official duties, he takes a keen interest in Africa and African

affairs; likes writing narrative poetry; enjoys a wide taste in music; walks in wide open spaces; and cooks for family and friends.



Diocese of Oxford

Bishop Andrew's Installation (continued)

The poignancy of such words spoken by a child to a Bishop struck a chord in many hearts.

The crosier, or pastoral staff, which was presented to the Bishop during the installation ceremony, was the gift of the people of the diocese of Oxford to their first Bishop Suffragan, James Leslie Randall, who was consecrated in 1889.

The money was raised by subscription and, in order to make this as inclusive as possible, no subscription was to be more than £1. Subscriptions were rapidly collected and on 19 May 1890, the Bishop of Oxford and a large number of clergy and laity assembled in the Council Chamber (now the Waterhouse Room) in Reading Town Hall to present the crosier to the Bishop of Reading.

The crosier was made by Carl Krall (of Barkentin and Krall) of Regent Street, London; a company renowned for their ecclesiastical metalwork and jewellery. It is of silver gilt adorned with precious stones, including amethysts, turquoises, carbuncles, sapphires and aquamarines.

The crook is adorned with crockets and contains a silver group representing the charge to St Peter, 'feed my lambs', while below in six niches are the figures of six saints in silver: St James, St Birinus, St Nicolas, St Paul, St Aldhelm, and St Hugh of Lincoln.

I am sure that Bishop Andrew, with his 20 years of experience working in English parishes (combined with the special insights he gained in Ethiopia), will have much to offer us and, under his guidance, we can look forward to both challenge and spiritual growth. ■



Truth or Fiction?

Words: Enid Barber

The summers of 1976 and 1977 were extremely hot. There were hosepipe bans and we were even diverting water from the bath into the rain barrel to water plants. Not a drop was wasted. Summer fairs were not on the vicarage 'lawn': they were on what seemed like dry, brown rush matting. I remember 1976 because I went into Cliveden Hospital for an operation, but was eventually sent home instead because the heat was so extreme in the operating theatre that it was deemed too dangerous to operate. Many of you will have your own memories.

One result of the draught was that the tallest tree in the churchyard died. For safety's sake it had to come down. After a while, it was duly felled by tree surgeons and the site cleared. It left an enormous space where it had once stood so grandly, king of all it surveyed.

Poor churchwarden! He looked at this woman as though she was crazy!

A couple of days later, I glanced out of the bedroom window and saw what appeared to be a flickering light. Studying it more closely, I realised it was a flame. Then I noticed there were flames in many parts of the churchyard. Spooky! True or false? One of our then neighbours was a churchwarden, so I thought the best thing to do was inform him. Poor man! He looked at this woman as though she was crazy! Then he crossed the road and saw for himself. The fire brigade arrived quickly, yet it took 24 hours to douse all those little fires. The tree surgeons had, in their wisdom, decided to burn the stump of the tree. You can guess what happened – the fire had crept along the old roots and burst into flame where they found oxygen. It really did look quite eerie. A close watch was kept on the ground for several days. ■

Local Walks

In January, the group walked around some of the Twyford Lakes and by the River Loddon, taking in a fair selection of winter wildfowl.

In March, we explored some of the less well-known parts of Windsor Great Park around Sandpit Gate. We even managed to identify the remains of 'park pales' (the historic deer enclosures near Rangers Gate).

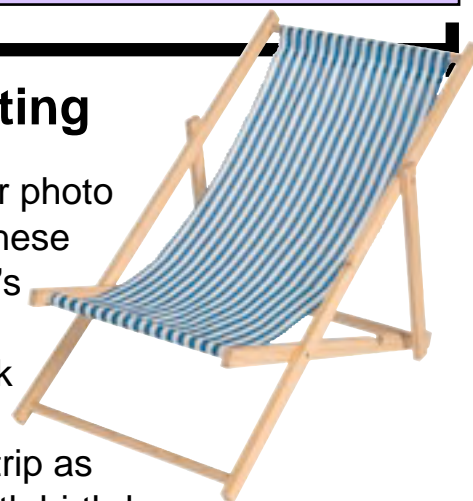
At the end of April, we started the summer season of evening walks with a walk from Pinkneys Green through Dungrovehill and Carpenters Woods, with their wealth of bluebells. We saw the site where, during WWII, the crew of a faulty, bomb-laden Halifax sacrificed themselves to avoid crashing in the surrounding built-up area. This programme of weekly walks on Wednesdays and Thursdays continues until the end of August. Details are published in the weekly newssheet, so do join us if you can.

Roger and Jilly Bevitt (☎ 01628 633464)



Parish Outing

We delved into our photo archives to find these pictures of St Luke's parish outing to Littlehampton back in 2005. Harriet Burdett used the trip as her fourteenth birthday party, inviting friends along too.

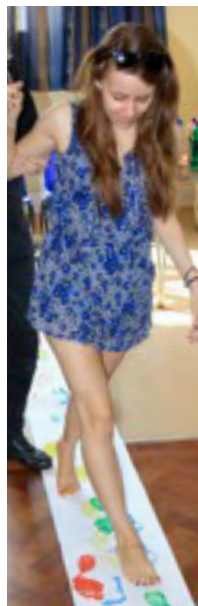


This year's trip is also to Littlehampton and takes place on 9 July. We shall leave church at 8:30am, and return by 7:00pm Tickets cost £10, including a picnic tea. To reserve your place or for more details, please see Sonya Clarke (☎ 01628 632626).

The Good Friday Arts Activity Morning

Photography: Andrew Burdett

Despite lacking in the artistic talents of former vicar Richard Holroyd, the annual Good Friday Activity Morning went ahead, led by creative congregation-member Carole Baughan.



GET STUCK IN: Left, Ruth Baughan adds her footprints to a path of painted feet.



LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON: Will Mohr and son Johann make a chocolate crispy cake.

Watch a video of the day on the website:
www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

The Lions Club of Maidenhead's Swimarathon

Words and photography: Andrew Burdett

The Lions Club of Maidenhead are the local branch of a brilliant worldwide organisation, and – as their biggest fundraiser – they hold an annual 'Swimarathon' at the Magnet Leisure Centre. Now in its 26 year, the event is a must-do for every charity in the town and, since its inception, it's raised £400,000 for hundreds of good causes. On 8 January, it was once again time for the town's swimming pool to be taken over for fourteen hours, as an estimated 800 swimmers made a splash for cash.

As little 8-year-old Rhys struggled to avoid being crushed into the self-folding spectators' chairs, I "eyed up competition". But seriously, we would be swimming against a group



of both mentally and physically disabled Maidonians, a bunch of Thames Valley Air Ambulance supporters, and representatives from the Maidenhead Stroke Club. I love that. There's times when I think that Maidenhead is a terrible town: empty retail units in the High Street, its fair share of vandalism and graffiti, news stories of murders and robbery. But I truly believe that it's events like this – organised, let's not forget, by local people out of the goodness of their hearts – which provide a stage to show off the fantastically wide demographic of the town's community, and also to raise vast amounts of money for countless good causes in doing so. Now that in itself **must** be a good thing. ■

Is There A Place For Me?

Gerry Knight attended a workshop themed around the inclusion of people with learning disabilities in the Church.

Words: Gerry Knight

I recently joined 85 others for a one-day workshop organised by the Diocese in conjunction with the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities. The opening session (which set the scene for the day) was run by the Foundation, and looked at attitudes of people with learning difficulties towards faith-related issues.

Key points raised included the need to value people first (by asking them what they want, how they see God in their lives, and asking if they need practical support); the fact that people with such difficulties often experience God in different ways to people without, and – in many cases – more frequently; and that their perception of God comes from a different viewpoint.

Workshop Sessions

We were invited to participate in two workshops during the remainder of the day, our choice was between the following:

- Worship Assembly and Self Worth. Covering the planning of activities to support 'Awe, Wonder, and Worth' for children and young people with a disability
- Total Communication. "How can I feel comfortable in greeting someone when I am not sure they understand me?" Covering a wide variety of communication techniques
- Pastoral Care for All. How to support a person with a learning difficulty who is experiencing illness or bereavement
- Parachute Bible Studies. Experience Bible stories told by a group of all abilities in an interactive and inclusive way, using a parachute
- Circles of Friends. What they are and how they can help people to become fully involved in the life of the church and their communities
- A Place for Everyone. Exploring the use of Alpha, Bible reading notes, Music and Makaton and using them to worship God together

The two workshops I attended were 'Total Communication' and 'Parachute Bible Studies'. At the former, we agreed words are not always enough, and therefore we must identify a person's preferences for communication. If possible, we should

- let the other person start the communication
- make use of their 'personal passport' (many people with learning disabilities carry one of these)
- use visual stimuli: pictures, objects, colour, sound
- discover the other person's comfort zone and try to meet them there.

Parachute Bible Studies

This is an exciting technique using a multi-coloured parachute approximately twelve-feet in diameter to act out a story from the Bible.

The workshop leader walked us through pre-scripted stories from the Bible by encouraging a group of us to stand in a circle (and in the case of one person, sitting in a wheelchair) holding between a multi-coloured parachute. As we played out the script (based around Jesus calming the storm), we used the parachute to represent waves on the sea. The parachute was also used to represent the boat in which the disciples were sailing.

Is There A Place For Me? (continued)

We found that the movement of the parachute and its vibrancy had both a calming effect and brought us all into the story telling. It cut across all boundaries of age and ability, allowing each of us to be included and to participate fully. Having gone through pre-scripted stories we then used the parachute as an aid to play out a Bible story chosen by ourselves.

A Parent's Perspective

A mother of three children – two of whom were born with disability – described her experience, including the death of one in adult life. She spoke of the horror she experienced at the lack of sensitivity received from the medical profession immediately after the birth of her firstborn child (who was born with Spina Bifida), who died in her mid-twenties.

Life for their family was often harrowing but at times full of joy, and she gained great comfort from the support and care shown by her local church. The day closed with a short service led by people with learning difficulties.

In Conclusion

We cannot all communicate in the same way – in fact, for some, speech and language is of great difficulty, so they often prefer other ways of communication.

We must not judge others by our own standards, but instead approach everyone with openness. God created us all, and loves each one of us equally including our imperfections.

Much of what I experienced in regard to those with learning difficulties applies to us all and can be used in our everyday encounters with others, as we are really not so different. Yet we all perceive God's hand in our lives in differently.

And finally, we might all learn something of each other and ourselves when standing around a parachute playing out a story from the Bible! ■

News from the Sparklers

**Words and photography:
Andrew Burdett**



Given the instruction, “with a partner, rub noses”, you may do one of a few things. If you're feeling intimate, you might both 'Eskimo kiss'. Or, more reservedly, you could think that it meant simply shining each other's nasal area with your thumbs.

That was the example we were given when we discussed how misinterpreting something could lead to a completely different thing happening. This explains why, between different versions of what is theoretically the same book (the Bible), there are slight discrepancies in content.

Roger Clarke led a fascinating session where we looked at notable editions of the Bible, from the original manuscripts dating back to 150 BC, right through to the 2001 English Standard Version (ESV). I found it fascinating that early attempts to produce an accessible English edition were hampered by priests and bishops keen to keep 'commoners' unable to read and interpret the Bible themselves. People with a hunger for Christianity were forced to 'smuggle' unauthorised editions (like the 1525 *Tyndale* version) into England.

The session was really interesting, and my thanks go to Roger for the effort he put into organising it. ■

ST LUKE'S THURSDAY GROUP

Thursday Group leader Sonya Clarke writes with a report of the Thursday Group's recent activities.

Words: Sonya Clarke

It seems no time at all since Andrew was asking for items for the Winter edition of *InSpire*, and here we are looking to the Summer edition.

Thursday Group have been busy. In January we enjoyed a talk about the history of the old Maidenhead St Luke's Hospital, given by a lady who nursed there for many years, Iris Brown. What was really nice about this meeting was the fact that Iris knew several of the members of Thursday Group who attended, thus old friendships were re-kindled.

February was just as interesting, as Johanna Raffin was our guest speaker with her subject of art. Johanna brought some slides of paintings that the

Sparklers youth discussion group studied during their Sunday morning sessions. She also gave us an in-depth explanation of the meanings of certain objects depicted in the paintings: again, another thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Our March meeting was almost a disaster. With five hours to go before we met, I received a phone call from our guest speaker (who should have been representing Maidenhead Heritage Centre), advising me that he couldn't make it. Our talk was to have been on the River Thames from the Cotswolds to the sea. However, all was not lost, as Roger Clarke (my husband) stood in at what you could call the eleventh hour. Roger rapidly put together a talk relating to one of his dearest passions, angling. He gathered up a selection of rods, reels, lines, hooks, bait, and ancillary equipment along with some photographs, and gave a very interesting talk on angling – why, how, and where. He demonstrated the difference between having a rod set up correctly, and another put together in a haphazard way. Questions from the floor came thick and fast, mainly from the ladies (one female

attendee did in fact assist him in demonstrating how strong fine line can be). All in all, the meeting – which could have been a disaster – was a great success.

This brings us to our latest meeting, held in April. Brian Darracot was our guest speaker and he spoke very fluently about being a magistrate. His talk covered how a person apply for this role, the training involved, where and when he sits as a magistrate, and many other aspects of this

position within the community. The evening was humorous and engaging, and again provoked many questions from those listening.

In April we also held our spring jumble sale,

which raised in excess of £130.00 towards our nominated charity, Sebastian's Action Trust.

So far our meetings this year have been very interesting and very well supported. Here's what to look forward to over the coming months:

On 19 May, Roger Clarke will be coming along to share an evening entitled 'Mountains, Moorlands and Lakes'. In June, we'll enjoy another of our Deanery Festivals, but it will be held at Holy Trinity, Cookham (due to the refurbishment of St Peter's Church Hall). The service will be held on 30 June at 7:30pm, followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre at Holy Trinity. This evening is an opportunity for the different groups to get together, not just in our worship but also the social side afterwards.

Our last couple of get togethers before we have our summer break are the summer party on the 17 July. This will be hosted by Judith and Roger Edwards, starting at 6:00pm. Tickets will be available in advance. Notification of this will be on the weekly news sheet in good time. Finally, we

Even if you are not a member, you are very welcome to come along and join us.

ST LUKE'S THURSDAY GROUP (CONTINUED)

shall have our AGM on 21 July in our own Parish Centre from 8:00pm. This is your opportunity to put your point of view across. It's also at the AGM where we hand over a cheque to the charity that has been supported for the year, and where we look for another charity to support. If you know of a deserving charity and think that we in Thursday Group can help, then please do contact me and it can be put to the vote at the AGM.

Even if you are not a member you are very welcome to come along. Who knows, when you find out what we do, you may wish to become a

member! Whether a member or not, you are still most welcome to come along to any of the meetings. I hope that all who attend our meetings

find that they are light-hearted and friendly, a chance where we can meet socially and enjoy each other's company.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our last few meetings of the summer, and then as we settle down to our summer break, I

hope that this will be all that you wish it to be. Have a wonderful summer and may God's blessing be with each and every one of you. ■

Thursday Group

£2 per meeting for non-members

£1 for members (£5 annual fee)

8:00pm, third Thursday of every month,
in the Parish Centre

More information available from group
leader, Sonya Clarke
(☎ 01628 632626).

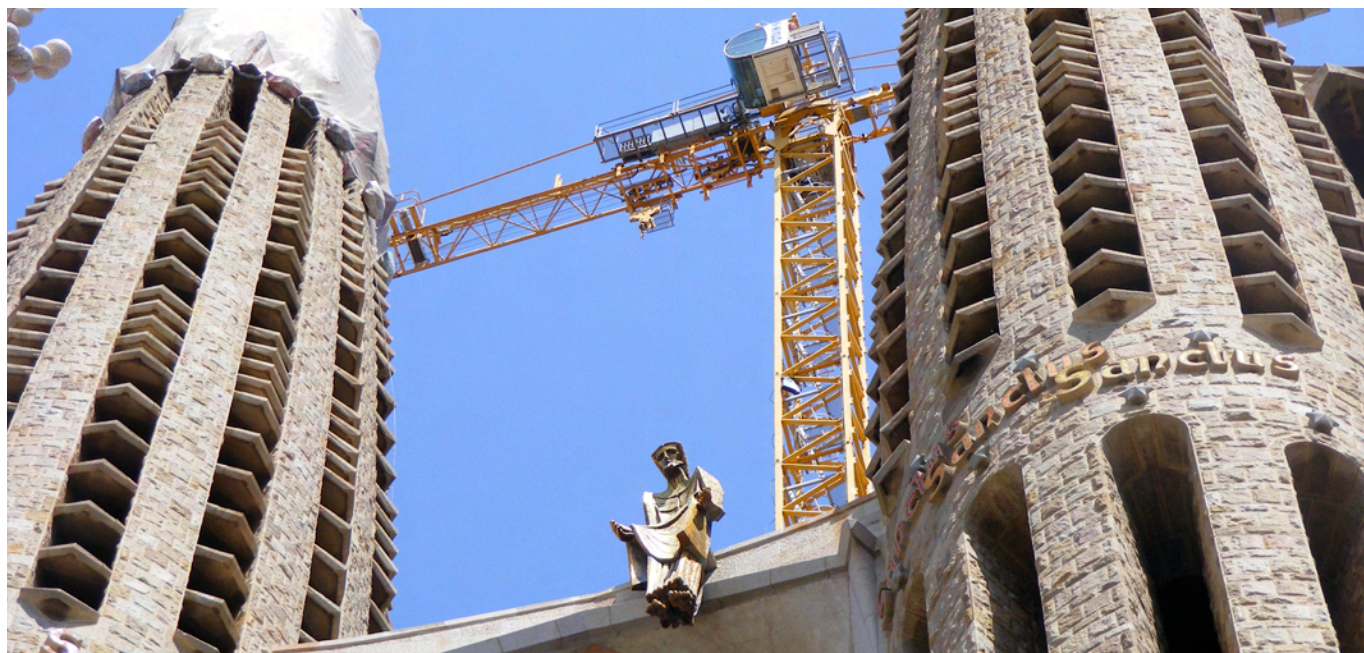
Grab your popcorn... we're on You**Tube**!



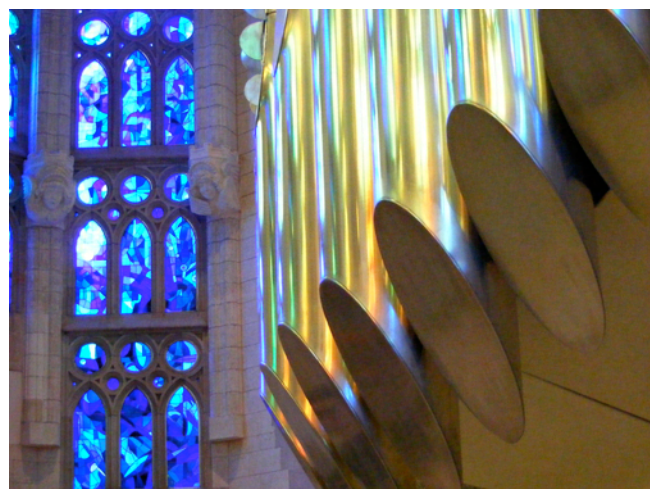
YouTube.com/StLukesMaid

A VISIT TO THE SAGRADA FAMÍLIA

Words and Photography: Andrew Burdett



During the first week of the school Easter holidays, Taplow Youth Choir set off on their 2011 tour of Catalonia in Spain. Being a member of the choir is something I've always been very proud of – the standard of musicianship in it dwarfs my merit in Grade Five saxophone. Happily, it wasn't an entirely concert-based trip; during the week, we enjoyed an afternoon on the beach, a day at a theme-park, and a trip to Barcelona.



As we drove into Catalonia's capital, we saw the famous towers of the Sagrada Família (and the arguably more famous cranes still building it) in the distance. Some choir-members chose not to go in, but I'm pleased I did forsake €6 in order to enter. From the outside it's impressive, but inside

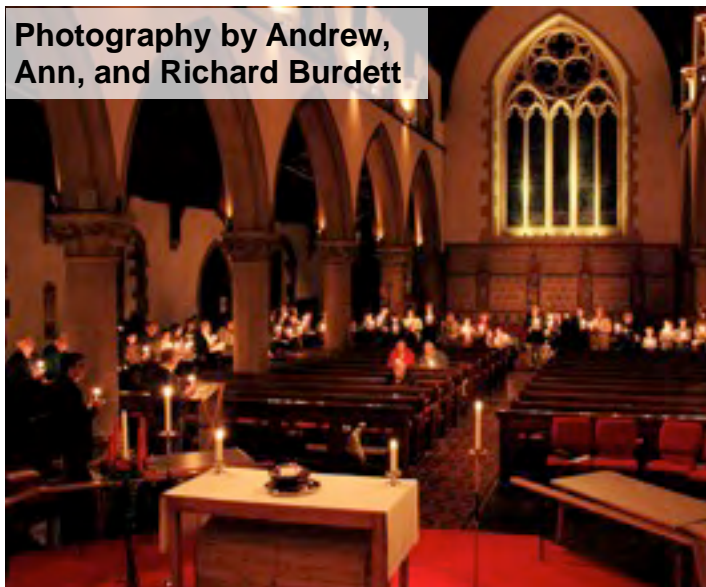
it is breathtakingly beautiful.

Designed by Antoni Gaudí, the building was never meant to be an actual cathedral, rather a church of cathedral-sized proportions. Indeed, the scale of the building is astronomical; the central nave's ceiling is 45 metres high and the supporting pillars are designed to look like a forest. Around the building are beautiful stained-glass windows. I'm not a fan of stained-glass, but the bright, colourful designs – almost cubist in style – that reflect on the 1,492 metal organ pipes were magnificent.

I was interested to see in the guide book that the church was finally opened for worship by Pope Benedict XVI on 7 November 2010. That said, just lines down it proudly reads, "The construction is well past the half-way stage...". With the foundation stone laid way back in 1882, it's obviously not going to finished any time soon. Out of the intended eighteen spires (representing the twelve Apostles, the four Evangelists, the Virgin Mary, and Jesus Christ), only eight have been built so far. However, with the aid of modern technology, building work is picking up pace and a target completion date of 2026 has been set – the centennial of Gaudí's death. Only God himself knows if that's realistically achievable, as he keeps a watchful eye on the project's progress from the top of one of the spires. ■

The Best of the Rest of the Photos

Photography by Andrew, Ann, and Richard Burdett



St Luke's circled in candlelight from Christingles; Christmas Eve 2010.



Brave walkers from St Luke's burn off Christmas calories; 27 December 2010.



Sparklers old and new reunite; 30 December 2010.



Ben Darracott helps with the serving of a 'Lent Lunch'; 27 March 2011.



Swimmers fresh from competing in the Swimarathon; 8 January 2011

From the Registers

Baptisms	Poppy Brunton; Catherine Avery; Logan James Norcott; Faye Dwyer; Alyssia Rose Clarke
Weddings	Thomas Andrew Woolgar and Emily Danielle Rowe
Funerals	Pamela Rogers; Donald Williams; Jenny Fallowfield; Leslie Hallworth; Suzanne Kemp; Cecil Clark; Pamela Rogers; Norah Speakman; Walter James Roach; David Carlam; Norah Cook; Colin Bonhomme; Vernon Bye; Lillian Cook; Donald Trigg; Sadie Jones



Vicar:
The Revd Sally Lynch
(as of 21 June 2011)



Associate Priest:
The Revd Dick Cheek



Associate Priest:
The Revd Terrie Robinson



Licensed Lay Minister:
Sonya Clarke



Licensed Lay Minister:
Noëline Page

Who's Who at St Luke's?

Church Wardens

Shula Tajima 546889
Barbara Essam 782894

Assistant Church Wardens

Peter Goford 638238
Don Luff 630833

PCC Secretary

Ralph Hinchliffe 784724

PCC Treasurer

Richard Burdett 631486

Assistant Treasurer

Ben Darracott 620280

Parish Administrator

Sue Brett 783033

Honorary Vergers

Rita Buckland 671531
Enid Barber 628195

Electoral Roll Officer

Jill Bevirt 633464

Pastoral Roll Officer

Serena Tajima

Stewardship Recorder

Jean TD 626671

Gift Aid Secretary

Ann Cooke 472147

Director of Music

John Cotterill 636514

Sacristan

Helen Petter 631896

Publicity Officer

Phyllis Sigsworth 778656

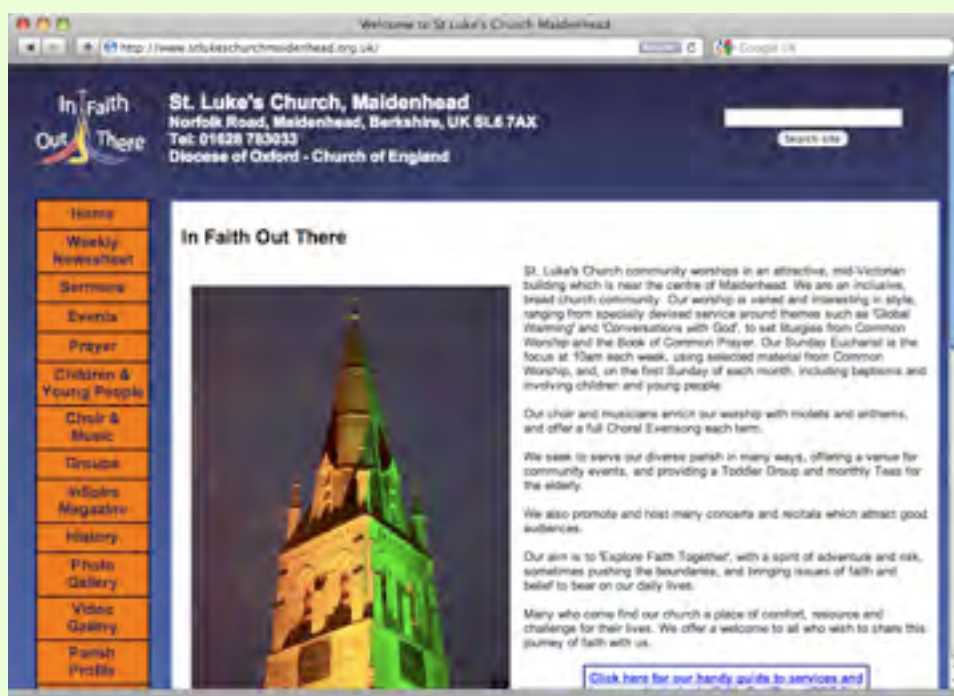
Flower Organiser

Joan Harnby 622140

Head Servers

Ralph Hinchliffe 784724
Roger Clarke 632626
Ben Darracott 620280
Serena Tajima

THE CHURCH WEBSITE



To view the latest newssheet, learn about the history of our church, or browse the 2011 Parish Bulletin,

find us online at

<http://www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk/>