

St Stephen Walbrook Parish Newsletter

July 2018

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Welcome!

Thank you for such a warm welcome as your new Parish Priest. We have so much to look forward to over the next few months. Our Summer Garden Party takes place on Wednesday 18th July at 6pm. Details of our weekly services during the summer are on the back page of this newsletter. In the autumn we hope to extend our musical outreach with the launch of a new voluntary choir, rehearsing on Wednesday lunchtimes and leading up to a Christmas concert. Our Monday 'Choral Classics' return on 2nd October.

With every blessing, Reverend Stephen Baxter

Parish Life in Pictures

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the wonderful service to officially license Reverend Stephen Baxter to our church as our new Parish Priest. Thank you to Archdeacon Luke for presiding and Bishop Stephen Platten and many other clergy for attending. Thank you to the PCC for hosting all our guests, especially Meg and Margaret for all their work in the kitchen and to Lee, Jonathan and Elizabeth in the office and Tom and Andrew and the choir. Most of all thank you to everyone who came to join us in welcoming Stephen as our new parish priest. More photos are over on our facebook page and our website.



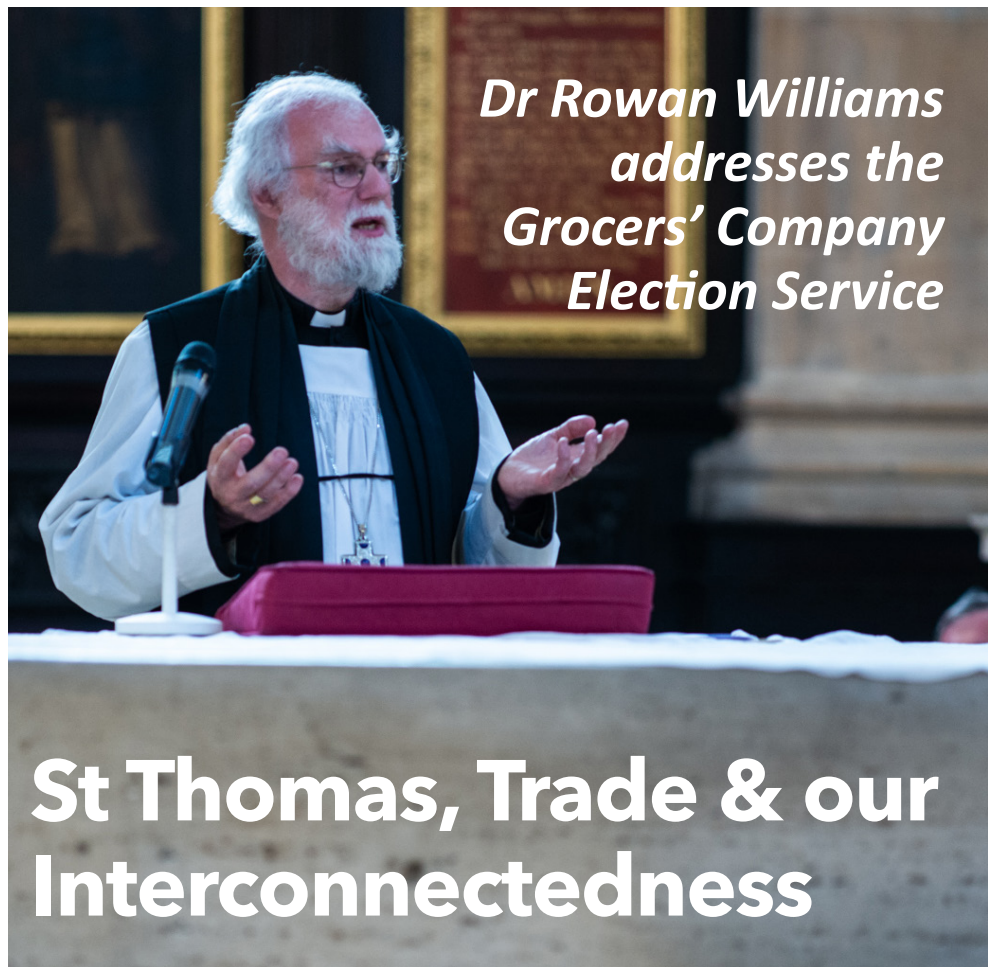


Day of Prayer

On May 16th 2018 we held a day of Prayer at St Stephen Walbrook as part of "Thy Kingdom Come" – a global wave of prayer which invites Christians around the world to encourage more people to pray between Ascension and Pentecost.

Our Day of Prayer was structured around the Daily Office and began with Morning Prayer, led by Reverend Stephen at 7.30am, continuing with Midday, Evening Prayer and Compline (Night Prayer) at 8.30pm. Between these times our prayers at the start of each hour sought to follow a Benedictine rhythm, with prayers of praise, gratitude and joy in the morning, prayers for the work of the Spirit around noon (including prayers for Christian Aid Week). Our afternoon prayers were focussed on forgiveness and reconciliation. Evening prayers took a theme of serenity and healing.

Thank you to Lynda, Mary, Bryan, Phillip & Reverend Stephen for leading our prayers and organising the Day of Prayer. Thank you to all those who joined us in prayer during the day in church and around the world via the London Internet Church.



We were delighted to welcome our patrons, The Worshipful Company of Grocers, to St Stephen Walbrook for their Election Service on 3rd July 2018. The service was conducted by The Reverend Stephen Baxter and the sermon was given by The Right Reverend and the Right Hon the Lord Williams of Oystermouth, Master of Magdalene College Cambridge; the college is also a Patron of our church.

In his sermon, Dr Williams spoke about St Thomas the Apostle, whose feast day we celebrate today. He explained that he has been challenged by a friend to find a link between St Thomas and the Worshipful Company of Grocers.

Dr Williams explained that St Thomas followed the Spice Route to India; which perhaps provides the best connection to the Company; originally known as the Guild of Pepperers. He suggested that when we speak of the history of London as a global city, we must not only remember the history of trade and commerce but look around and see what that history has brought us – a world of interconnectedness; where our well-being and those of our families are bound up together – a world where we cannot create 'exclusion zones' around us. In the words of John Donne "No Man is an Island". We are one body. Through our inter-connectedness it is possible to recognise what at first may seem strange. For St Thomas, preaching the gospel in India must have been as culturally distant from Palestine as you could imagine, but people listened – they recognized the gospel message; and through this they recognized one another as participants in a common human destiny. Dr Williams explained that it is incumbent upon all of us to continue this work today.

Photograph: www.nikigorick.com



Thank you for the music!

Thank you to the 2017/18 Choral Scholars of St Martin in the Fields who performed their last Choral Classics service here on 2nd July, directed by Dr Andrew Earis.

The choral scholars have led us in worship every Monday at our Discover and Explore services (in the Autumn Term) and at Choral Classics (in the Spring and Summer Terms) offering thirty minutes of sublime music interspersed with readings and reflections based on a theme. Our theme for the final service of the term was 'The Lamb'. Choral Classics at St Stephen Walbrook is made possible thanks to the support of our Patrons, The Worshipful Company of Grocers, to whom we are most grateful. Good luck to our choral scholars as they embark on the next stage of their musical careers. We look forward to welcoming the 2018/19 Choral Scholars when they return for the next season of Choral Classics on Monday 1st October at 1pm. The 2017/18 Choral Scholars of St Martin in the Fields were: Helen Lacey, Ellie Sperling, Angharad Rowlands, Freya Turton, Jessica Haig, Sophie Timms, Robert Martin, Adam Begley, Nathan Harrison, Dominic Veall.

Music continues through the summer at St Stephen Walbrook! Every Tuesday from 1.00pm-1.50pm join us for a lunchtime concert organised by The Walbrook Music Trust, our Sung Eucharist on Thursday from 12.45pm is accompanied by The St Stephen's Voices and our popular Friday Organ Recitals take place 12.30pm.



The Skinkers' Company would like to thank all at St Stephen Walbrook, especially Lee, Elizabeth and Tom for hosting their Corpus Christi Election Service this year, when last minute building works mean that the usual venue was not available.



A Prayer of Welcome

Whether we are here for the first time or more regularly, whether we are laity or clergy and whatever our faith, we are part of a community of the past, present and future, all drawn to this place as visitors. We pray that:

as we rise up the steps into our church we feel the welcome embrace of hospitality,

in this birthplace of the Samaritans we will be filled with renewed compassion for those in need,

in the quietness of our City church we are able to hear words of comfort,

we will gather around our circular altar in concert, each a different note being played in one divine song,

in contemplating Wren's dome above, we will remember those beyond and all who are treated as beneath or below,

in this home of the London Internet Church our prayers will be joined with a global community of the faithful,

as we return to Walbrook the outward beauty of our church inspires us to share our inner joy,

we relish the gift of being visitors wherever we are.

Phillip Dawson

Summer Service Times

Tuesday

7.45am - 9.15am : Start Stop

Reflections beginning on the quarter hour. Start the day by stopping to reflect.

1.00pm Lunchtime Concert

organised by the Walbrook Music Trust

Thursday

12.45pm Sung Eucharist

with music from the St Stephen's Voices. Followed by light lunch.

2.00pm Prayer Group

in partnership with the London Internet Church

Friday

12.30pm Organ Recital



Parishioner Perspective....

Bishop Sarah in conversation

Several members of our parish went to hear the new Bishop of London in conversation with the Dean of St Paul's Cathedral in June. Here, Mary reflects on what she heard:

Bishop Sarah is a remarkable woman. She already has two successful careers behind her. What a wealth of experience to bring to the Church, and what skills and gifts! But her three careers all arise from a single vocation – she told us that she was called to walk beside people that they may have fullness of life. As a bishop her job is still to care for and tend her flock. We are blessed.

She has the compassion and practicality of a nurse and as a senior civil servant has learned to speak with authority. She told us that she has dyslexia, and that she has difficulty with words which means that she must invest a lot into any speaking she does. Words are important to her, because for her, conversation is central. Her joy is to engage with people, to listen and to discuss. But she does pray for “the wisdom of words”, being aware that people do listen to what bishops say, and are often ready to misconstrue.

She talked a lot about collegiality, which I think means more than corporate responsibility; she has a genuine desire to understand the other side. It is easier to talk to people of faith, even where we have differences because of the shared language and culture, than it is to talk to people of no faith. One of the challenges facing us is that we have generations of people who have had no exposure to church. So those difficult conversations need to take place, but with graciousness and kindness.

There is much work to be done to demonstrate what the church can bring, and is trying to bring to the community in London. The churches are at the centre of so much in this city – food banks, credit unions etc, and we need this to be recognised. Yes, the Church is here, alive and working for the common good.

Mary Ricketts

Welcome to Constance!

Thank you to Vanessa and Clément for these lovely photographs. Constance was baptised here on Saturday 9th June 2018. Please hold all the family in your prayers.

