

St Stephen Walbrook Parish Newsletter

August/September 2018

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Welcome!

I hope you are having a wonderful summer. Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Patronal Festival and Summer Party last month. Thank you to Fr Alan Trigle and Fr Peter Delaney for leading our services during my holiday. In the next few weeks we launch a new Community Choir, monthly Choral Evensong and a new Faith Discussion Group, with the option of being confirmed in St Paul's Cathedral on 3rd November. I look forward to seeing you soon.

With every blessing,

Reverend Stephen Baxter

Parish Life in Pictures

St Stephen Walbrook is known as 'A Place of Celebration' but even our joyful-spirited, party-loving congregation would find it a challenge to turn out in force to celebrate our Patronal Festival (the feast of the saint to which a church is dedicated) – which falls on 26th December! This year we transferred our festivities to the summer, with a special service and garden party on 18th July to give thanks for the life of our parish and recognise all those who work so hard in so many different ways to make St Stephen Walbrook such a special place. Thank you to all who helped to make the evening such a joyous occasion.



'Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God.'

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin



Business Harvest Festival

Join us on Thursday 4th October at 12.45pm as we give thanks to God for our skills and talents and the good use we put them to. Bring along an object that represents your daily work, to process to the altar during the service, as a symbol of thankfulness.

Our Business Harvest Festival lasts 45 minutes and a light lunch is served afterwards, finishing in time for those who need to return to work within the lunch hour to do so. This popular service includes beautiful music sung by our choir, The St Stephen's Voices.

Living and working in our parish and the surrounding area are those who work in insurance and financial services companies, art dealers, dentists, shops, property companies, museums, restaurants, hotels, wine importers, not to mention the City Livery Companies and a large number of volunteers. Last year everything from bottles of wine to copies of business reports, loaves of bread and works of art were processed and placed at the altar.

If you like singing, or would like to give it a try in your lunch hour, join the

Walbrook Community Choir

Wednesday lunchtimes 1.00-1.45pm
from 12th September 2018

No auditions, no fees and an ability to read music not essential - come along and give it a try!

Love singing? Join our Community Choir!

We are forming a new community choir at the heart of the City of London. If you like singing or would like to give it a try in your lunch break, come and join us!

There are no auditions or fees, and ability to read music is not essential. We will be singing a wide variety of songs during our first term together. We'll start by learning some songs for Remembrance (as we approach Armistice Day). We will have the opportunity to sing these as part of the lunchtime service on Thursday 8th November. We then move quickly into Christmas mode(!) and start learning carols to perform at the St Stephen Walbrook Carol Service on Wednesday 12th December. Join us every Wednesday from 1pm to 1.45pm at St Stephen Walbrook.

Dedication of new staves



Thank you to everyone who joined us for a special service of Choral Evensong celebrating St Stephen on July 18th, when new Churchwarden's and Verger's Staves were dedicated. We are grateful to all those who contributed to the cost of the new staves, including The Worshipful Company of Weavers and their Master, Alderman John Garbutt, Deputy James Thomson and the Worshipful Company of Grocers, a Churchwarden in memory of George Millington who served as a Churchwarden from 1963-2006, Mark Lewis (Designer) and Steve Wager (Silversmith) for their work and The Worshipful Company of Information Technologists and their Master, Dr Stefan Fafinski, who joined us at the service.



Light of the world!

During our Patronal Festival Evensong in July, Reverend Stephen dedicated two new candleholders which have been designed and created by Tony Gant in memory of his wife, Janet Gant; a loyal member of the St Stephen Walbrook community and an enthusiastic member of the St Stephen's Art Group.

Tony is a renowned potter and the candleholders have been specially designed for day-to-day use at St Stephen Walbrook; the size, colour and texture all considered to sit perfectly on top of our Henry Moore altar. The pottery is unglazed although Tony has added additional red clay and the 'roulette' pattern around the edge of the holders has been formed with a Meccano gear wheel – a technique Tony has been using since he began creating pots.

Tony was a student of the late Gwilym Thomas at Hammersmith School of Art and is a Fellow of the Craft Potters Association. He has been making his highly recognisable, glazed domestic stoneware since 1961. Tony's pieces are made using Devon ball clays, which are used to create his own clay bodies. His designs evoke a sense of landscape and distance through the intersection of unglazed clay across the blue, yellow or brown glazes, which he makes from basic raw materials. They are then fired in a gas kiln of Tony's own design and cooled for two days.

Find out more about Tony's work at www.tonygantpottery.com

NEW! CHORAL EVENSONG
On the third Wednesday of every month beginning on Wednesday 19th September 6.00pm - 6.45pm

Join our choir, The St Stephen's Voices, to hear beautiful music set amongst passages of spoken liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer.



Time and Space : new discussion group

Starting on September 6th 2018 join us on Thursday evenings from 5.30pm-6.15pm for an informal discussion of aspects of the Christian faith, with the option to be presented for Confirmation at St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday 3rd November 2018.



This wonderful miniature of our church was commissioned by the Goldsmiths' Fair 2018 from Vicki Ambery-Smith for the Lord Mayor of the City of London.

Service Times

Monday

1.00pm-1.20pm : Choral Classics

30 minutes of sublime music. Resumes Monday 1st October.

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. Resumes Tuesday 11th September.

Wednesday

1.00pm-1.45pm : Community Choir

Begins Wednesday 12th September.

6.00pm-6.45pm : Choral Evensong

The third Wednesday of every month.

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

5.30pm-6.15pm : Time & Space

An informal discussion group on aspects of the Christian faith. All welcome.

Friday

12.30pm Organ Recital



Parishioner Perspective....

The Museum of the Book

Over the summer Lynda Keen visited a little known but important museum in Tower Hamlets....

Tucked away in a side street off the Commercial Road inside a Baptist church is this little-known but very important museum. It contains a large number of Bibles in manuscript and print, along with other interesting texts, books and memorabilia, including ancient cuneiform tablets from Ur of the Chaldees, Torah scrolls and Quran texts.

There are original manuscripts of both the Old and New Testaments by John Wycliffe in the 14th century, the first ever translations into English. Also the first printed edition of Wycliffe's New Testament.

The earliest complete printed Bible is the Gutenberg Bible of 1455, written in Latin. First and early editions of Martin Luther's 16th century publications of the Bible and New Testament in German are on display. Also from the 16th century are the New Testament in English by William Tyndale and the first complete printed Bible in English translated by Myles Coverdale.

Another notable early Bible in the collection is a copy of the first edition of the 1539 Great Bible with a preface by Thomas Cranmer and the title page showing Henry VIII giving the Bible to Cranmer and Thomas Cromwell to distribute to the people. The first edition contains Cromwell's coat of arms. The museum also has a copy of a later edition with Cromwell's coat of arms removed because by then he had been executed for treason and heresy.

This fascinating collection was begun by Dr Jewell E Smith and is now curated by his son David and David's wife Eva. David is pastor of the Baptist church in which the museum is located – the Church of the Book at 270 Salmon Lane, London E14 7EU. Guided tours are free immediately after scheduled church services or you can book via the <https://www.museumofthebook.com/> website for a paid tour from Tuesday to Friday between 10am and 4pm. The nearest stations are Westferry or Limehouse DLR and buses D3, 15, 115 and 135 all stop at Salmon Lane.

Lynda Keen



Our church, described by Pevsner as one of the ten most important buildings in England, will be open on Saturday 22nd September from 10am - 5pm as part of Open House.