

# St Stephen Walbrook Parish Newsletter

Lent 2019

St Stephen Walbrook  
39 Walbrook  
London  
EC4N 8BN

020 7626 9000  
[www.ststephenwalbrook.net](http://www.ststephenwalbrook.net)



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## A Lively Lent!

A very warm welcome to our Lenten newsletter. We should remember that the word Lent comes from the Old English word for Spring. This season gives us the chance to pause and to prioritise reflection on the real meaning and relevance to us of the transforming gospel of new life and light. The Trappist writer Thomas Merton reminds us that the biggest human temptation is to settle for too little. Rather than giving up in Lent, let us consider how we can be active, vibrant agents of this new life and light, even taking risks and going beyond our comfort zones. Do join us for any of the events in the next few weeks at St Stephen Walbrook. It will be very good to see you.

All blessings, Stephen

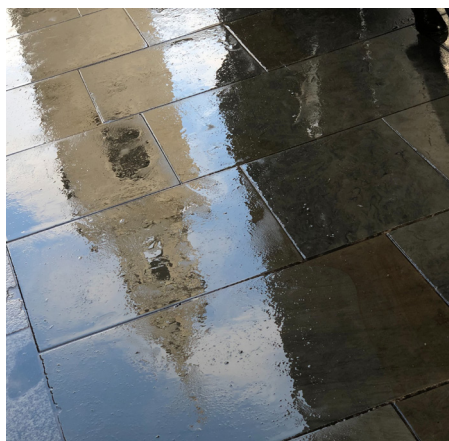
## Parish Life in Pictures

We were delighted that The Bishop of London, The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, was able to preach and celebrate at St Stephen Walbrook on Ash Wednesday, one of the holiest days in the Church's calendar. Preaching on the Gospel reading, from the sixth chapter of St Matthew's Gospel, The Bishop reminded us that our spiritual sacrifices are not an end in themselves but the assurance of God's love;

*"We are but dust, but we are called to glory."*







## Start:Stop Reflections during Lent

**Our Start:Stop Tuesday morning reflections offer busy commuters the chance to start their day by stopping to reflect for ten minutes. Reflections begin at 7.45am and repeat every quarter of an hour. The last reflection begins at 9am.**

During Lent our reflections will be based on the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book; *The Merciful Humility of God*. The author, Dr Jane Williams, invites us to start Lent not in the desert but by a river – the river of Jesus's baptism – and calls on us to uncover the underground stream of God's love in our lives.

*Lord, we pray that we may begin each day in the knowledge that we are your children and are beloved. Surround us with the waters of our baptism, a river of mercy, source of life and love.*

*May the mystery of this river bring hope to those in the deserts of despair and from the long droughts of the mind.*

*May the gift of your unfailing love, through your grace, continually sustain us.*

*Amen.*



## Parishioner Perspective.....

### Faith Confirmed

**John Omoti was confirmed by The Right Reverend Pete Broadbent at St Paul's Cathedral. John reflects about the process of responding to a call to be confirmed;**

"God has truly been faithful to me and my family. I am happily married and we have a son. I have been a Christian most of my life. I was born into a Christian family so had my roots in Christian principles from an early age. I have been meaning to do my confirmation for a while but never got around doing it. In exploring my faith and work with my God I decided to do Confirmation in the Church of England at St Stephen Walbrook, as I work in the City.

For me confirmation is a spiritual experience and deepening my faith with God and to learn more about Christian principles and biblical doctrines. The confirmation classes were very engaging as everyone had the opportunity to be themselves and ask any question about Christian faith. I would surely recommend everyone to take the classes and get confirmed. God bless you all richly in Jesus name. Amen"



## Treasures of Byzantium

It was a great pleasure to welcome Cantata Dramatica on 30th January for the World Premiere of Akathistos by Nick Bicât. The piece was performed as part of 'Treasures of Byzantium' in aid of the charity Lepira. Our community choir joined the chorus at key points in the piece. Read a full report on our website.



# Join the Walbrook Community Choir !

Live or work near the City and want to sing or find out more about singing in a choir? Then join the Walbrook Community Choir! Come along to our informal rehearsals on Wednesday lunchtimes from 1pm-1.45pm.

No prior experience of singing in a choir necessary - nor do you need to read music or commit to coming each week - just come whenever you can. Led by Tom Shorter, an experienced Choir Director, we learn different pieces of music together. Since launching in September 2018 we have already appeared in a World Premiere with Cantata Dramatica and sung for a special WW1 Centenary Service. We are currently learning music which will be performed at our Maundy Thursday Service and other pieces for our Summer Garden Party.



## Celebrating Candlemas with The Worshipful Company of Grocers

On 5th February we welcomed our patrons, The Worshipful Company of Grocers, for a special service for Candlemas. Candlemas commemorates the presentation of Jesus in the Temple. During the singing of the Nunc Dimittis - the words of St Simeon after he had seen Jesus - the Master led a procession around the church. In his homily, Reverend Stephen asked us to reflect on when we have seen the face of Christ in others.



## Choral Evensong at St Stephen Walbrook

**Wednesday 20th March 2019**  
**Wednesday 17th April 2019**  
 from 6.00pm to 6.45pm

An opportunity to reflect with beautiful music at the end of the working day with our choir, The St Stephen's Voices. Choral Evensong takes place on the third Wednesday of every month.

Join us on March 20th and on the Wednesday of Holy Week.

### Wednesday 20th March

Introit: Drop, drop slow tears *Walton*  
 Responses: *Reading*  
 Canticles: Ireland in F  
 Anthem: Wash me thoroughly S.S. *Wesley*

### Wednesday 17th April – Holy Week

Introit: Eheu sustulerunt *Morley*  
 Responses: *Ebdon*  
 Canticles: Short Service *Tallis*  
 Anthem: God so loved the world *Stainer*



# Service Times

## Monday

**1.00pm-1.30pm : Choral Classics**  
30 minutes of sublime music.

## Tuesday

**7.45am - 9.15am : Start Stop**  
10 minute reflections beginning on the quarter hour. Start the day by stopping to reflect. Last reflection starts 9am.

**1.00pm Lunchtime Concert**  
organised by the Walbrook Music Trust.

## Wednesday

**1.00pm-1.45pm : Community Choir**  
Informal rehearsal. New members always welcome.

**6.00pm-6.45pm : Choral Evensong**  
Takes place on the third Wednesday of every month. A perfect way to end the working day.

## 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**  
Free entry with retiring collection. Bring your lunch and enjoy the music!

# HOLY WEEK + EASTER at St Stephen Walbrook

## MONDAY 15TH APRIL

8.30am - 8.50am

**Eucharist**

1.00pm - 1.30pm

**Choral Classics**

St John Passion

## TUESDAY 16TH APRIL

7.45am - 9.00am

**Start:Stop**

10 minute reflections starting every quarter hour

## WEDNESDAY 17TH APRIL

8.30am - 8.50am

**Eucharist**

6.00pm - 6.45pm

**Choral Evensong**

## MAUNDY THURSDAY 18TH APRIL

12.45pm - 1.30pm

**Choral Eucharist**

With music from our Choral Scholars & Community Choir

## HOLY SATURDAY 20TH APRIL

6.00pm - 7.00pm

**Easter Eve Vigil & First Eucharist of Easter**

Followed by refreshments

## The London Internet Church

The London Internet Church is based at St Stephen Walbrook. Requests for prayers and for candles to be lit are made online via our website and are particularly popular with people living in countries where access to a church is difficult. After many years running the social media presence of the LIC, Lynda Keen has stepped down. We would like to say a special thank you to Lynda for so many years of vital ministry.



## Bonhoeffer in Lent

Thank you to everyone who came to the 2019 Bank Churches Lent Lecture. Martin Lind, Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Great Britain spoke about Dietrich Bonhoeffer & how his 'Letters from Prison' can guide us through Lent. For a full report on the lecture, please visit our website.

Please support the Bishop of London's Lent Appeal if you can.  
"Hidden in Plain Sight" - Fighting Modern Day Slavery  
[www.london.anglican.org/mission/lentappeal/](http://www.london.anglican.org/mission/lentappeal/)