

St Stephen Walbrook Parish Newsletter

Summer 2019

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Blinded by Grace

It has been a privileged few weeks: impressive weather for a British summer; the Choral Evensong and Garden Party with a happy buzz and stunning music; and then last weekend's extraordinary sporting fiesta where the most memorable feature was the sportsmanship of the New Zealand team in the face of extraordinary bad luck. As I write, the principal gospel reading for the week is the story in Luke of Jesus's visit to the sisters Martha and Mary with its wonderful emphasis on priorities. Those of us who are fortunate enough to have some time away should perhaps take the opportunity to switch off the phone and reflect on all we have been graciously given. One of my summer privileges was the stunning performance at Glastonbury by the London rapper Stormzy of his song Blinded by your Grace, when he emphatically gave God the glory. Many thanks for your continued support for St Stephen Walbrook. I would also like to thank Venerable Peter Delaney and Father Alan Trigle for generously covering for me when I am away. Blessings and all good wishes, Stephen

They Don It!

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Parish Party on 26th June and especially to The Don Restaurant for providing the drinks and refreshments.

In a radical move, we celebrated the feast of our Patron Saint on 26th June rather than 26th December, with a special service of Choral Evensong followed by a party! In his address, Reverend Stephen called on all of us to be as radical as St Stephen – rebels with a cause. More party pictures on our website!





Supporting persecuted Christians

20% of the 2,500 people who follow the London Internet Church online live in one of the top fifty countries where Christian persecution is most severe.

The London Internet Church which is based at St Stephen Walbrook offers daily night prayer videos and the opportunity for followers to request prayers and ask for candles to be lit. Can you send a message of support to our brothers and sisters living in countries where Christian persecution is most severe? Perhaps you have skills in digital communication and would like to help to further the work of the London Internet Church? Please get in touch if you can help in any way with this important ministry. Please pray for all those facing religious persecution around the world.



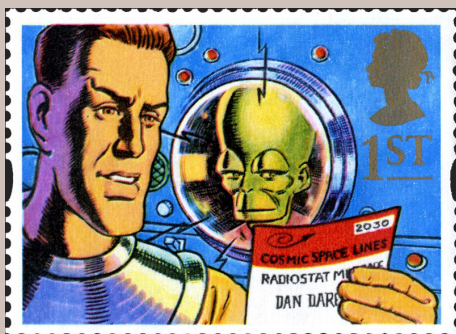
The first year of our Community Choir ... **"A highlight of my week"**

The Walbrook Community Choir was established in September, offering the opportunity for those who live, work and visit the city to sing together in an informal group led by an experienced Director of Music, Tom Shorter. Rehearsals, on Wednesday lunchtimes, will resume in September.

No prior experience of singing in a choir is necessary nor do you need to read music or commit to coming each week to take part. The aim is to have fun! In



their first year the choir have sung in a World Premiere with Cantata Dramatica, at a special WW1 Centenary service and performed 'This is The Record of John' - a piece written by Tom Shorter - at Choral Evensong in June. Speaking to us from the pulpit, from where he sang the part of narrator, Neil Wiltshire, who works for an insurance company in Lombard Street, described the Community Choir as a highlight of his week - "it is a joy to be with a group of people who share a love of singing."



Love Thy New Neighbours! Welcome to Walbrook!

Earlier this year 400 lawyers moved in to the Walbrook Building as DAC Beachcroft relocated its global Headquarters to the parish. Later this summer we also welcome The Royal Philatelic Society who are relocating to 15 Abchurch Lane. They are looking for volunteers to help settle their collection in. Please email contact adminmanager@rpsl.org.uk if you can help. There doesn't appear to be a St Stephen Walbrook stamp (yet) so this "Dan Dare" stamp (pictured) is in honour of our former Rector Chad Varah, who co-created the character!

Pillars of the Church : Admission of Churchwardens

We were delighted to welcome The Archdeacon of London The Venerable Luke Miller, Area Dean Reverend Katherine Hedderly and Registrar Jon Baldwin to St Stephen Walbrook on 6th June for a special lunchtime service during which Churchwardens for the City of London area of the Diocese were admitted to their office.

Thank you to all who support the churches of the City of London, especially our churchwardens. At St Stephen Walbrook we thank Meg Post for her service as Churchwarden for many years and congratulate Margaret Brown who was admitted as warden for the first time this year.



Exiles by Matilde Damele

**Monday 16th September –
Wednesday 25th September**

Matilde Damele is an acclaimed photographer whose work is inspired by the mix of cultures and fast pace of the city. Her series 'Exiles' will be on display in church in September, including during Open House Weekend. Matilde's documentary style photographs are printed on refuse bags. Her work provokes questions about our relationship with the city and with each other and with the environment. Matilde is represented by Joanna Bryant who, with her husband Peter are members of our congregation.

O Clap Your Hands!

A huge round of applause for this year's Choral Scholars!



In July we said farewell to Izzy, Danni, Maisie, Kate, Claire, Helen, Peter, Robbie, Alex and David - our Choral Scholars and Polina our organ scholar who have amazed us with their musical talents all year at Choral Classics on Monday lunchtimes, at our Choral Eucharist on Thursday and our monthly Choral Evensong. We wish them well in their future careers. We rely on your generous donations to finance our music ministry. Please do make a donation online if you are able: <https://ststephenwalbrook.net/support-us/>

Saturday Superstar

Throughout July and August our verger Lee will be in church every Saturday from 10am until 4pm. Lee has swapped his working days in order to welcome visitors to the church on Saturdays. Please pop in and say hello if you are passing!

Service Times

Monday

1.00pm-1.30pm : Choral Classics
(Resumes in September)

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.
(Concerts take a break in August)

Wednesday

1.00pm-1.45pm : Community Choir
(Resumes in September)

Thursday

12.45pm Sung Eucharist
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!

Saturday

Church open from 10am - 4pm
During July and August

God is working his purpose out

The Diocese of London has begun a consultation exercise to help set its vision for the next ten years. What do you think God is calling the church in London to be over the next ten years? Please help shape the future of our diocese by filling in this short online survey before the end of July: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/london2030vision

Parishioner Perspectives.....

Fit for a Queen - or two!

Two members of our congregation visit Buckingham Palace and another sings with the Queen of Pop in the Eurovision Final!



Churchwardens Margaret Brown and James Thompson were invited to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. James explains : "I was privileged and honoured to be invited for services as a Common Councilman, which includes my current roles as Deputy Chairman of the City of London Police Authority and Chairman of the City of London School. The whole family volunteer and were also invited. Kate currently volunteers as a Community First Responder for the East Anglian Ambulance Service, Bronwen for Riding for the Disabled and Arthur for time working with the Cubs. It was a fabulous experience and I enjoyed meeting officers from the City of London Police."

In more Royal news, Paul de Ridder got a chance to sing with the Queen of Pop! Paul writes : "I have been singing in a variety of choirs pretty well all of my life but nothing had prepared me for this! I have been a member of the London Oriana Choir for six years. Early in May the choir was contacted to provide 35 male singers at short notice. All very confidential; we were sworn to secrecy. The gig? Back-up vocals and choreography – dressed as monks - for Madonna doing her headline act live on stage on the final day of the Eurovision Song Contest at the EXPO arena in Tel Aviv, which was watched by 200 million viewers around the world!"



The Fantastic Feats of St Stephen Walbrook!

Thursday 26th September from 6pm

As part of the City of London's celebration of architecture, engineering and innovation in the City, we are delighted to host a special evening celebrating the Fantastic Feats of St Stephen Walbrook. We will be joined by Loyd Grossman, Lord Palumbo and Art and Theology specialist The Reverend Dr Ayla Lepine for an evening of words and music to celebrate our beautiful building by Christopher Wren, our altar by Henry Moore and the Samaritans who were founded here by Chad Varah. Join us from 6pm on Thursday 26th September!