

Lent 2020

St Stephen Walbrook Parish Newsletter

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Priest : The Reverend Stephen Baxter

 **www.facebook.com/ststephenec4n**

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**Sponsor Reverend Stephen's
Marathon effort for the Samaritans**
**[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/
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Welcome to our Lenten newsletter. On Ash Wednesday we reflected on the words of Joni Mitchell's song Woodstock that we are stardust, billion-year old carbon - and that we are golden. We are called by the Archbishops this Lent to reflect urgently on our privileged role as carers of our planet and on the patterns of consumption that may be contributing to climate change. At St Stephen Walbrook we are reviewing our use of energy and our carbon footprint and would welcome any advice.

I am delighted that Phillip has been recommended for training for ordination. Do read his story in the article in this newsletter. He is a wonderful, talented gift to God's church.

I look forward to welcoming you to any of the events planned for Lent and Holy Week. I especially commend our celebration of the light flooding from resurrection to new life of Jesus Christ at our Easter Vigil and First Communion of Easter with the Easter Fire at 6pm on 11 April. I am very grateful to Venerable Peter Delaney who will preach at this service as well as share his expertise at our Lenten series of reflections, The Passion in Art.

With blessings, Stephen

Special services + events during Lent

Lent Quiet Hours

Drop in for a time of stillness each Wednesday (8-9am) & Thursday (6-7pm). Resources available to aid prayer & contemplation.



The Passion in Art

How have artists represented The Passion of Christ? Three lectures on Thursdays 5, 12 & 19 March from 6pm by The Ven. Peter Delaney MBE



Start:Stop in Holy Week

Start your day by stopping to reflect for ten minutes. Drop in any time from 7.45am to 9.00am from Monday 6th - Thursday 9th April.



Starring role for our Community Choir



It was a great privilege for members of the Walbrook Community Choir to sing with Cantata Dramatica again, this time in a performance of *Perpetua* by Nick Bicat in aid of the charity Crosslight. The libretto is based on a Latin text, *Passio Sanctarum Perpetuae et Felicitatis*, considered to be the sole surviving intimate diary by a woman from antiquity. It tells the story of Perpetua and Felicitas, her slave, who were the first Christian women to be martyred for their faith.

Please join the Walbrook Community Choir for informal rehearsals every Wednesday from 1pm-1.45pm. No experience needed! Just turn up and have a go!

PARISHIONER PERSPECTIVE : Phillip Dawson

My Altar Call!

Five years ago I was standing next to the altar of a church in North London when, for a moment, it felt as though I was held in a powerful sense of belonging, comfort and love. A year later, the experience was still vivid in my mind so I plucked up the courage to tell someone that I thought I had a calling to the priesthood. Even as I said those words I was not completely sure that was the case - but I was certain that I needed to explore the possibility. They said I should have done so long ago!



The process began with a visit to the Diocesan Director of Ordinands who helpfully made the mysterious "discernment" process very matter of fact. First I completed a form describing the significant moments in my life through the lens of faith. This was used as the basis for meetings with a sort of mentor-priest. After a year - and having been sent to two other clergy and a psychologist - I received a report summarising my life in twenty sides of paper! The conclusion was that I should go forward to a 'formal' interview to determine if I was an acceptable candidate for training as a priest. This took place over three days last November at a retreat centre in Ely which had the ambience of a place you might go on a third-form geography field trip. The format was a bit like the Krypton Factor with interviews with three assessors (the first of whom was an Irish priest who in my nervousness I called Father Ted), written exercises and a group presentation - we were even told we would be observed at mealtimes (which were alcohol free!) Just before Christmas I received a phone call from the Bishop of London telling me that I had passed all the assessments. I am very grateful to our clergy at Walbrook, Reverend Stephen and Jonathan Evens before him, for all their support and the opportunities they have given me. I hope to complete my training over the next two years part time and to continue to help and support this wonderful church! Thank you for all your support and prayers.

Take time out during your commute to or from work

Time and space to reflect

The season of Lent has been set aside as a time of self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study and preparation for Easter since the days of the early church. Take time out during your commute to and from work to spend a few moments in stillness and prayer during our Lent Quiet Hour on Wednesday evenings from 6-7pm (except March 18th) and Thursday mornings from 8am-9am. Images, readings, prayers and poems will be provided each week linked to a particular theme, to aid prayer and contemplation.

"I just wanted to let you know how much I have enjoyed the Quiet Hour on my way into work. It is wonderful to have such a beautiful space in which to reflect"

It was lovely to receive this feedback from Craig who joined us for our Quiet Hours at St Stephen Walbrook during Advent.

A time for stillness, prayer + reflection.
Wednesday evenings + Thursday mornings

Lent Quiet Hour

**Wednesday
6pm-7pm**

**Thursday
8am - 9am**

St Stephen Walbrook, 39 Walbrook, EC4N 8BN



We welcome back The Venerable Peter Delaney MBE for three special talks on Thursdays 5, 12 & 19th March at 6pm

The Passion in Art Three Lectures for Lent

Thursday 5th March - Andrea Mantegna The Agony in the Garden 1460 (Mark 14:34)

Thursday 12th March - Hieronymus Bosch Christ Mocked 1495 (John 19:2)

Thursday 19th March - The Agony in the Garden 1570 (Matthew 26:42)

Saturday 21st March – 3pm – Gallery Visit (Meet Sainsbury Wing entrance of the National Gallery)

We welcome back The Venerable Peter Delaney MBE to show us how artists have attempted to capture the events of the Passion of Christ from their own personal points of view. The images we shall look at are a disparate series of observations based on scripture but endowed with the gift of faith. The three paintings above will be the centre of each lecture, but there will be reference to others seen in comparison. **Join us on Thursday March 5th, 12th and 19th from 6pm for a glass of wine with talks commencing at 6.15pm.**



Everybody needs good neighbours

It is always wonderful to visit your next door neighbour. Last month we were delighted to visit Mansion House to present William Russell the 692nd Lord Mayor of the City of London with a special stave as he was sworn in as an Honorary Churchwarden. Churchwardens have a legal duty to protect the assets of the church and ensure peace and good order. Please pray for the Lord Mayor, the Corporation of London and all the Livery Companies and Clubs who support our City.

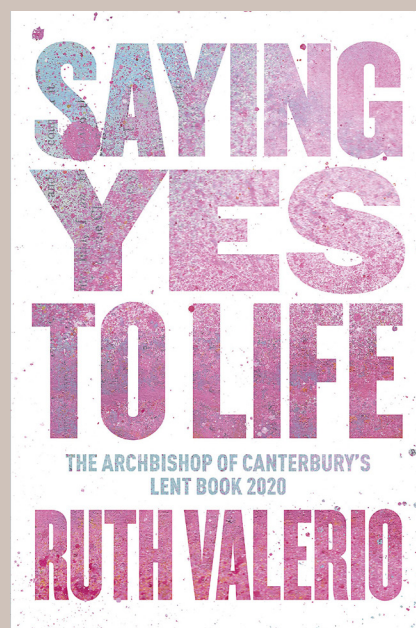
Reviewing The Archbishop of Canterbury's 2020 Lent Book

Saying Yes to Life

It is said that if you don't look back to see where you've come from, you won't know where you're going. That's what we're being asked to do this Lent by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, whose Lent Book, written by Ruth Valerio (a Director of the charity Tearfund) encouraged us to look back to the Creation as we look forward to our Salvation. The book is structured around the Days of Creation and begins by describing the context in which the book of Genesis was written which, although placed at the beginning of the bible, was not the first text to be set down.

The goodness - the value to God of all creation - and the interrelationship between humankind and the rest of the natural world is a recurring theme throughout the book, which contains a description of the abundant diversity of the world's habits alongside data showing how fast these are being destroyed.

Whilst careful to point out that the Bible is full of reasons why we should care for the environment, Ruth Valerio emphasises that through the death and resurrection of Jesus, humankind and the rest of creation are saved – and argues that the new creation that will emerge after the Last Judgement will not mean the destruction of the earth but a transformed creation – so we should care for it in the here and now. A useful website accompanying the book has suggestions on how we can say "Yes to life": <https://spckpublishing.co.uk/saying-yes-resources>



We'll be using "Saying Yes to Life" as the basis for our Start:Stop reflections during Lent. Start your day by stopping to reflect for ten minutes. Drop in any time on Tuesdays from 7.45am-9.00am.

Regular 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 at 9am.

1.00pm Lunchtime Concert
organised by the Walbrook Music Trust.

WEDNESDAY

1.00pm-1.45pm : Community Choir Rehearsal - All Welcome.

6.00pm-7.00pm (Except 18th March)
Lent Quiet Hour

Wednesday 18th March 6pm - 6.45pm
Choral Evensong

THURSDAY

8.00am-9.00am (Except 9th April)
Lent Quiet Hour

12.45pm Sung Eucharist
Followed by light lunch.

2.00pm Prayer Group Meeting
with the London Internet Church

Thursday 5th, 12th & 19th March : The Passion in Art. Lent Lectures. Glass of wine from 6pm. Talks begin 6.15pm.

FRIDAY

12.30pm Organ Recital
Free entry with retiring collection.
Bring your lunch and enjoy the music!

Please visit our website for details about forthcoming concerts and other events

www.ststephenwalbrook.net/events

HOLY WEEK + EASTER at St Stephen Walbrook

MONDAY 6TH APRIL

7.45am - 9.15am	Start:Stop	10 minute reflections starting each quarter hour
1.00pm - 1.30pm	Choral Classics	30 minutes of divine choral music

TUESDAY 7TH APRIL

7.45am - 9.15am	Start:Stop	10 minute reflections starting each quarter hour
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WEDNESDAY 8TH APRIL

7.45am - 9.15am	Start:Stop	10 minute reflections starting each quarter hour
6.00pm - 7.00pm	Lent Quiet Hour	Drop in on your way home from work

MAUNDY THURSDAY 9TH APRIL

7.45am - 9.15am	Start:Stop	10 minute reflections starting each quarter hour
12.30pm-1.45pm	Choral Eucharist	Music will include Tomás Luis de Victoria's Requiem

HOLY SATURDAY 11TH APRIL

6.00pm - 7.00pm	Choral Eucharist	Easter Eve Vigil & First Eucharist of Easter Followed by refreshments
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Start:Stop in Holy Week

Start:Stop offers the chance for busy commuters to start their day by stopping to reflect. Ten minute reflections based on a bible reading followed by prayers start every quarter of an hour.

Start:Stop normally takes place on Tuesday mornings but in Holy Week we will be extending Start:Stop from Monday 6th to Thursday 9th April. Each day we will use words from the Gospel of John to remember the final days of Jesus' earthly life. Drop in whenever you can each morning of Holy Week to start your day by stopping to pray and reflect.

**Start your day
by stopping to reflect**

10 minute morning reflections



Every Tuesday morning

+ Monday to Thursday in
Holy Week (April 6th - April 9th)

from 07.45 until 09.15

10 minute reflections
start on the quarter hour