

S.MARY THE VIRGIN, KENTON

Petertide 2006

The Record



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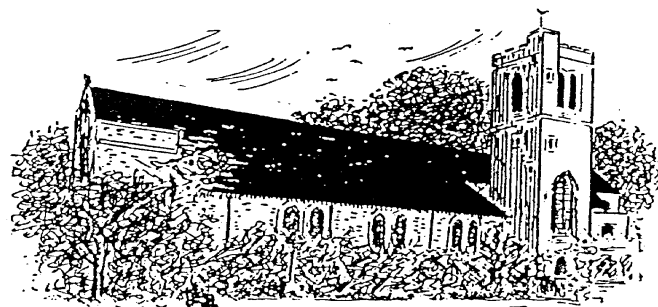
June 1st 2007

[or preceding Sunday]

Please please make my job easier by providing me with copy and submitting it early if possible. It is a time-consuming process producing a reasonable magazine and largely relies on your efforts!

If possible, please send copy electronically to g.a.james@bham.ac.uk text only, Word or WordPerfect formats please

WELCOME TO S.MARY THE VIRGIN, KENTON



In this issue	Page
Churchwarden's update	2
Parish news	4
It's not easy being green	5
Introducing the Pinnocks	6
Parish Pilgrimage	9
Decisions against doubt	12
A message from Fr Michael	15

SUNDAY SERVICES AT S.MARY'S

8am	Low Mass
10.30am	PARISH MASS (followed by coffee in the hall)
10.30am	Sunday School
6pm	Benediction (normally the first Sunday in the month) - followed by CBS meeting

Churchwarden's update

So much has happened since our last issue of the Record - was it only 2 months ago that I last wrote?

Now that the summer is here and the holidays are approaching, it is good to take stock of our time in inter-regnum and make plans for the autumn and an exciting new phase in the history of the parish. David and I are mightily relieved that the end of the inter-regnum is now in sight!

Recent Events and the Appointment of our New Vicar

Although it seems like such a long time ago, it was at the beginning of May that David Collinson and I met Bishop John and the Area Dean to produce a shortlist for interview. Interviews were held on May 24th and at the end of the day we were unanimous in our choice of Fr. Giles Pinnock to be our new vicar.

Fr. Giles writes elsewhere in this magazine, but we can tell you all that he is a family man (married to Mary, with three young children - Gus, Theo and Cordelia). He comes to us from Stony Stratford, near Milton Keynes, where he is completing his curacy. Because he is not an incumbent at present, we were able to make arrangements to announce the appointment quickly, and the three months notice period that he must give is already underway. Fr. Giles and Mary are already planning appropriate local schooling for their boys. Please pray for them all as they prepare to move South to work with us in Kenton.

It is now seems almost certain that Fr. Giles' Induction will be held at Noon on Saturday 9th September. Formal invitations will be sent to all of the Parish as soon as we can. The service will, of course, be a great cause for celebration, with an appropriately grand party to follow!

Our Continuing Spiritual life

Any inter-regnum inevitably leads to some falling away of members of the parish, but we are encouraged that few have left our church family, and that Fr. Michael's efforts to "keep things going" are proving so successful.

The extra services during Lent were well received, and minor amendments to the music during Eastertide have also been popular. As I write, a group are in Walsingham for a few days, and we are most grateful that a parish pilgrimage to Our Lady's home in England has been re-started. With luck this event will

be re-established regularly for years to come.

Building Works

The life of the Church inevitably also includes time and effort expended in keeping our buildings in good condition. David Collinson has been particularly involved in arranging the necessary works, mostly minor, which arose from our Quinquennial inspection of last year. As we can afford it, these works are being tackled by Eddie, a local tradesman who is happy to lay his hand to most of our requirements.

We are all most grateful that David has the time to keep these works on track. Around the outside of the Church you will see the clear results of his efforts, with paths re-laid, garden areas cleared and, less visibly, gutters and roof valleys cleared.

Still more prayers please

As we count down to September there is still much to do, in developing and maintaining what we have...

Please continue to pray for David and myself during these coming weeks, and for Fr. Michael and Fr. John as we all work to keep everything running at St. Mary's for the greater glory of God and for the extension of his kingdom here in Kenton.

Mike

Parish News

Farewell

To Karen, Jamie and Gemma who have moved to Surrey.

And to John Gobey - our resident poet has moved to Chalfont. I'm sure you wish to join me in saying a huge thank-you for all his (ever topical) poems over more years than I've been a member of S.Mary's
His new address is:

Flat 21, Chorleywood Lodge
Rickmansworth Road
Chorleywood
Hertfordshire
WD3 5BY
01923 285166

Congratulations

To Mary and John Haines on celebrating their golden wedding anniversary

And to Alan Anyon for yet another award for his stamp collecting. This one was at a world gathering in Washington!

RIP

Betty Brooks who died after a short illness in Northwick Park Hospital in June.

The Children's Society

Since Mary Haines took over from Audrey Mundy as Secretary she has sent them a total of £1,516.91 made up as follows:
£571.33 (Box and Christingle collection)
£469.60 (Concert by the Griers)
£475.36 (two concerts held at Quainton Hall)

IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN

I'm not talking about the fact that we have just entered the long period of Ordinary Time - from Pentecost through till Advent when the priests wear green vestments and altar frontals etc are also green. No I'm talking about being environmentally friendly.

Yes, Saint Mary's IS trying to be "green". Some years ago now, I spotted someone putting an empty communion wine bottle into the rubbish bin so I said, you should be recycling that. If I recall correctly, at that time, Harrow was not collecting glass for recycling but Brent (where I live) was, so for several months, in fact until Harrow started collecting glass, I took home all the empty bottles. The problem was, I waited until a case (twelve bottles) was empty before taking them and putting them into my box. Living where I do, my recycling box is on view to everyone commuting from Northwick Park Station so you can imagine the various comments I received about the number of bottles!

Then I noticed that discarded pew sheets etc were being discarded into the rubbish bin so I suggested that these too might be put out for recycling. At the

time, Fr David said that he had a spare recycling box at the Vicarage so he brought it round to the church so now, paper is also put out for recycling. Then there are all those brown cardboard boxes that the candles and other altar requisities arrive in. Most of those now land up in my recycling bin!

Where do we go from here? Unfortunately neither Harrow nor Brent collect plastic although there is a plastic recycling skip in Sainsbury's Car Park in Kenton. Every Sunday, the plastic cups we use for coffee and tea are thrown out not to mention the plastic tumblers used at our parties! I would love to see those also go to be recycled. If anyone has any idea how that could be arranged, please let me know. Since I drive past Sainsbury's (well, almost) on my way home, I would be prepared to consign them to the relevant skip.

You will be pleased to know that our Sunday School is doing its bit for the environment. For a modest annual subscription, our Sunday School leaders are able to visit Watford Recycling Arts Project (WRAP) to obtain items for the Sunday School. Industry etc donates its

waste to WRAP and they in turn offer it to the community. They have more from S Mary's than we currently do so please think about it and let me shiny paper, white paper, card, have any suggestions - and I will see cardboard tubes, beads etc. A real what we can do.

Aladdin's Cave! When you arrive, you state the reason/project you are working on and you are allowed to take bits and pieces you need.

Joan Hooton

Introducing the Pinnocks Fr Giles, Mary, Gus, Theo and Cordelia

Mary, Gus and Theo and I are all very pleased to be moving to St Mary's, Kenton; and Cordelia would be too, if she were old enough to understand. What I can write here by way of introduction to us can only be a very brief summary, but it should give you some idea of who we are.

Mary and I are both what are sometimes called 'clergy brats' - the children of priests, who grew up in and around vicarages and parish churches. I was born in the north of New York State, where my father had a mission parish. Via Connecticut and London, some of my most important growing up was done in Cornwall and, after my father's retirement, Oxford and Leicester. Mary was born in Mauritius, although she left there when she was six months old and hasn't (yet) been back. She spent most of her childhood in Leicester, then studying and working in Lincoln and London in textile conservation and art history.

However, it wasn't our similar background, but rather a shared love and sympathy for the peoples and cultures of the Middle East that drew us together

when we met, working in Leicester. Finding work in publishing and computing took me to Oxford, at the Centre for Lebanese Studies, and then for a research and consultancy company. Mary temped and then worked for OXFAM, and with Gus' birth became a full-time wife and mother.

The stability of having answered the call to marriage and fatherhood allowed me to hear another call that had long been there, but rather drowned out by the hubbub of my secular career. As is the case for many men, responding to the call to priesthood wasn't easy - but it would have been harder ultimately not to have responded.

At theological college - St Stephen's House, in Oxford - the return to academic study and immersion in a community whose day, starting at 6.30am, hung on the hinges of Morning and Evening Prayer and the daily Mass was not always comfortable. But it is not meant to be. The Church of England talks too often about 'training' its clergy, as if they are following a management-training scheme for Marks & Spencer. But bishops, deacons and priests, and indeed all of us as God's people need to allow ourselves to be formed by God into what He wants us to be, taken as a potter takes a ball of clay and formed into a pot that the ball of clay could never have envisaged being without the intervention and vision of the potter. And 'formation' can feel very much like being squeezed into a shape we never consciously wanted to take on, but find ourselves fulfilled by because it is what God wants for us rather than what we think we want for ourselves.

In our final months at St Stephen's House, just as I was taking the final exams for my degree in theology, Theo was born. And so the four of us moved to Stony Stratford and I was ordained deacon, and a year later, priest, in the parish church of St Mary & St Giles by the Bishop of Ebbsfleet, serving my Title with Fr Ross Northing SSC, a former Church Army captain, and his wife, Sr Janet, a teacher who continues to hold her Church Army commission.

I have learnt much in my time in the parishes of Stony Stratford and Calverton, parishes in which mission and evangelisation are core priorities that I bring with me to Kenton, and we will miss the people we have come to know there, but the time to move on has come, bringing with us Cordelia, born last summer.

St Mary's Kenton has felt from the first we came to know of the vacancy very much the place where we are supposed to be and of which I am intended by God to be the parish priest. It has a remarkable history and heritage, and through astute stewardship is well-placed at a time when many parishes are struggling financially. But these are not days for complacency, and financial and material stability free us for the task of mission and evangelization.

The Church is rather like a battleship. Everyone on board has to fulfil some specific task in its service - the vocation for which God called us each into being - and the ship has to follow a common course set by its captain. In the context of the one, holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church we are all ratings on the battleship and must follow the orders and directions of Bishop John and all the faithful bishops of the Church as they seek to steer us through the minefields that presently surround us.

We are each called to play our full part in the mission of the Church, responding to the Great Commission at the end of St Matthew's Gospel, to go out and make disciples of all the nations. There are no quick fixes and no magic wands. We are all called to prepare ourselves to be missionaries and servants of the Gospel in our everyday lives and local communities. This will require willingness to be educated in the Faith of the Church. It will demand commitment to formation, to prayer, to worship and to discipleship. It may not be what we are used to, but it is what we must do. And it is a task in which I look forward to joining and leading you in the years to come.

Fr Giles

Parish Pilgrimage June 13th to 15th 2006

Pilgrims

Fr Michael Bedford; Lorna Abbott; Peter Coe; Mary and Jim Haines; Margaret Shand; Fred Windridge. They were joined on Wednesday by Margaret Giffin and Valerie Southwood

Sunday 11th June

There was a short office of Blessing of the Pilgrims around the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham after the Sung Mass.

Tuesday 13th June

The company, who had made their own way to Walsingham during the morning, assembled in the Green Room in Stella Maris House to arrange accommodation and to be given a brief introduction to the programme for the next two days. Lisa of the Walsingham Shrine Staff came in to the meeting to welcome us, and then to show us where we would be staying. At 3 o'clock we made our first visit to the Holy House where Fr Michael conducted a service which started with Luke's account of the Annunciation. This was followed by the recitation of Psalm 84 and then the Litany of Our Lady. This was followed by an intimate Mass for our parish pilgrims in the Holy House at the Altar of the Annunciation. Altogether this was a refreshing hour or so setting the mood for the rest of the programme.

Having received spiritual refreshment we wandered along to the Norton Room for physical refreshment in the form of tea or coffee and home made cakes. This Norton Room is very well designed giving a light and airy atmosphere and it enhances the air of tranquility at the Shrine.

We then met in the Green Room mainly to organize the Intercessions in the Holy House on Wednesday afternoon. We were to share the intercessions; each of the intercessors was to be given notes by each pilgrim and also those from the parishioners so that the intentions would all be offered. The next main event was Supper in the Refectory where there was a choice between a hot and a cold buffet. I thought that the cold was better than the hot. Once again, as with the Norton Room, the Refectory is light and airy and they are both in the same building. I am told that they are a huge improvement on the previous situation.

The main event of the day followed at 8.15 in the form of a Liturgy of Reconciliation and Benediction. The order of service is a sermon followed by sprinkling at the well, laying-on of hands and anointing and Benediction.

At the sprinkling pilgrims receive the water in three ways: A sip of water to drink; The sign of the cross on the forehead and Water poured into the open hands.

When all the pilgrims had returned to their places the Laying-on of hands commenced at the step of the Sanctuary by a number of priests with other priests

performing the anointing to those who required it for themselves or on behalf of someone else.

The service reached its climax in the presence of our Blessed Lord and the receiving of his blessing during Benediction.

After a busy and enjoyable day a number of us sought further refreshment at the Bull, far from the madding crowd of the Kenton Road.

Wednesday 14th June

After a leisurely breakfast and, for some a walk through the village, we met at 9.30am at the Holy House by which time we had been joined by Margaret and Valerie and our first activity was the Stations of the Cross. The stations lead you on the familiar Via Doloroso to the 12th station which is the Calvary - the principal feature of the courtyard and thence to the 14th station which is designed as a tomb. Finally one is led to a 15th station which is the Station of the Resurrection. All the pilgrims at Walsingham then made their way to the Shrine Church for the main Mass of our stay. For me there was and is a special feeling when people from different places in the country come together with no formalities with a common purpose of worship and fellowship. This is the joy of Catholic worship, not only in our time, but a thousand years ago and before that, last week and next week and on and on

The Mass was of course very familiar to all of us and yet special and memorable being in a place visited by the Mother of Our Lord and the Mother of the Church. Saint Mary's was well represented in the serving team as Peter Coe was thurifer at the Mass - a role he thoroughly enjoyed. Unfortunately for him, he would not be thurifer at the Pilgrimage Mass in subsequent weeks except, perhaps, in his own mind!

It was now time for lunch in the Refectory, after which there was a lull in the proceedings. The next official item was to be the Intercessions for St Mary's pilgrims to include the intentions which members of the congregation had asked us to offer on their behalf. This was timed for 4.00 pm and gave us time to do our own thing, such as a visit to the Slipper Church or a short walk or a shopping expedition or, for some, a rest! It is a wonderful bonus that Walsingham is set in a peaceful, tranquil and beautiful part of the country. It is a blessing that the beauty of Norfolk is not widely appreciated and therefore not bespoiled by hoards of tourists.

At 4 o'clock we duly met up again at the Holy House to offer our petitions in a service of Intercessions. The petitions are offered under five headings: thanksgivings; for the sick; for those in need; for the departed; for the parish and community.

Each section had been allocated to one of the pilgrims who prayed the intentions of the other pilgrims.

It was now time for further physical refreshment so once again we repaired to the

Norton Room for afternoon tea.

The Evening Devotion consisted of a Sermon, a Candlelit Procession round the Shrine grounds and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The procession is an enacted symbol of our life's pilgrimage from earth to heaven. We do not travel alone but with Jesus and all who are his. We also travel with the Saints, in whose footsteps we follow.

The procession winds its way around the Shrine grounds where we had earlier in the day walked round the Stations of the Cross. But this time the image of Mary was carried and the pilgrims carried their candles. This was all enhanced by the singing of the Walsingham Pilgrim Hymn with its continual repetition of the chorus Ave, Ave, Ave Maria! Ave, Ave Ave Maria!

On the conclusion of the procession the sanctuary was prepared for Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament which brought to a fitting end a very memorable day. Except, of course, for further refreshment at the Bull.

Thursday 15th June - CORPUS CHRISTI

At Breakfast the pilgrims presented Fr Michael with a Weekday Missal in appreciation of the work and effort he had put into organizing the pilgrimage. We all felt that these days in June would live in our minds for a long time.

After Breakfast we assembled at the Holy House to make our last visit of this pilgrimage, and start our journey back to Kenton to meet again at the Parish Church for the Solemn Mass and Corpus Christi Procession at St. Mary's.

Fred

Decisions against doubt

Reflections on the Christian faith in the 21st century

Seeking: The Mass

The Mass is the primary meeting place of God with his family, the Church. It is the family meal. When we gather on Sunday mornings and in the week for mass, we gather for a family meal together, and yet it is so much more than that.



The Mass is the place where we meet God in a distinct and special way, in the form of the Blessed Host. At the mass the bread and wine that we offer, is accepted by God and transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

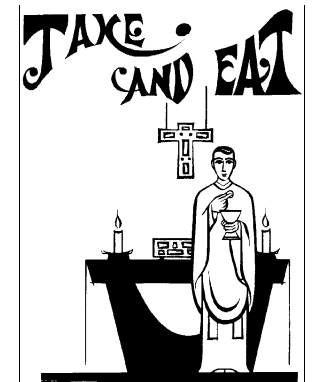
Straight away the importance of the Mass becomes evident. It is where we receive God. It is the 'meat and two veg' of Christian life, our essential food and nourishment.

So why do we have Mass?

The short and simple answer is that Jesus told us to do it.

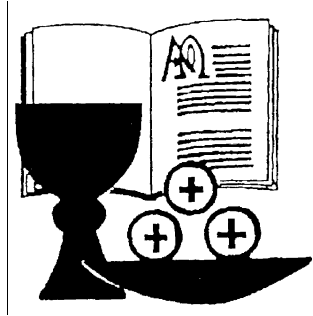
Unless you eat the flesh of the son of man and drink his blood you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day [John 6:53-54]

The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said 'this is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me' [1 Corinthians 11:24]



I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh [John 6: 51].

But the Bread is used not only to represent Jesus who is the bread of life; of which if any man eats he shall not hunger, but also to express the offering of our life to God. Bread is the stuff of life. Once eaten it becomes part of us - our flesh and bones. So in bringing the bread to God we are, in effect, offering our lives to him. It is a gift of love.



The deacon places the gifts on the altar and the priest accepts them. This act represents God accepting our gift. It now passes into his possession. God is so pleased with the gift of our life that he transforms the bread through the Holy Spirit and gives it back to us as his body. So communion with God is the result.

So what happens?

We give ourselves to God and he in turn gives himself to us. We come to the Mass not just to receive Jesus, but also to give ourselves to him. To welcome God who is about to speak to us in the scripture reading and the sermon. We can see how he loves us and how important we are to him. The Gospel book is carried high to remind us of Jesus and his public ministry. It tells us that Jesus is the greatest teacher who ever lived, because he is God.

How much we need to listen to Jesus every day. We have so many questions about life:

Who am I?

Where have I come from?

Where am I going?

All the time Jesus is saying, 'why don't you read my directions for life in the

Bible? Here you will find answers to all these questions; and a couple more!

We discover that the Lord comes to us in a humble way in the form of bread and wine. It is the same humility that we find when Jesus allowed himself to be born in a stable in Bethlehem in Judea. The all powerful Christ, Lord of heaven and earth, who holds the whole world in his hands, who is worshipped by the whole of creation, sheds his divine glory to come to us under the form of bread and wine. So the Lord makes himself utterly approachable, communion is a bit like a perpetual Christmas.

The Mass is a making present today the whole life of Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, therefore:

We are there; for Jesus' teaching in the beatitudes.

We are there: at the last supper.

We are there: as Jesus goes to die.

We are there: as Jesus sends the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

The Mass is, first of all, the Easter gathering of those who are to meet the Risen Lord and enter with him into his kingdom [Fr Schmemmann, The Eucharist, SVP]

The Mass is full of movement of God to man and man to God.

We wake up and get ready for church.

Then we enter into church.

We say sorry for our sins

We hear: the reading of the Old Testament, the epistle and the Gospel and the preaching of the sermon. It shows Jesus coming to speak to us today.

When the gifts of bread and wine are brought to our neighbours through the peace.

We receive the body and blood of Christ.

The movement back to the world to serve as witnesses to the Resurrection.

A Message from Father Michael

A great recovery in the Western Church in the second half of the 20th Century was the revival and development of diverse ministries in the Church - especially lay ministries to supplement the work of those ordained as deacon, priest or bishop. In recent years, many laity have been encouraged in particular roles: reader, intercessor, eucharistic minister, evangelist, pastoral assistant, catechist. In listing these ministries, we must not overlook the generous commitment of those who serve in other ministerial activities as musicians, servers, welcomers, hospitality providers, sacristans, LookOut leaders, visitors to the sick etc.

We reflected on the vital contribution of lay people on Monday 22nd May at the masses on the Day of Prayer for the Guidance of the Holy Spirit in the appointment of the new Parish Priest. The readings provided - Ephesians 4:11-16 and John 15:9-17 - stressed the collaborative nature of our Christian life. We are bidden to work *in harmony so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ* [Ephesians 4:12] *to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of*

Christ himself [4:13]. In the Gospel, we heard Jesus' unequivocal mandate: *you did not choose me, I commissioned you to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last* [John 15:16]. Fulfilling this commission will only be effective when it takes place in the context of obeying the over-arching commandment *to love one another* [John 15:12].

In 1995, the Cardinal Archbishop of Boston addressed an audience of 1400 at an Archdiocesan Lay Congress:

We are the church. Together we are the church; the pastors are not the church; the religious men and women in our midst, who serve with much self-dedication and sacrifice and love, they are not the church, but all of us together constitute the church.

..... *We don't have as many priests as we used to. But the church today isn't the same as it was 50 years ago. Look around. There's vibrancy, there's life here. There is no turning back. So let me tell you, you are not here because there is a shortage of priests. You are here because this is the way the church ought to operate.*

I believe the Cardinal's words more than a decade ago are very pertinent to us now at Saint Mary's. We can look back to a time when there were three stipendiary priests working here. But that is no longer. It is most unlikely that

there will be a second stipendiary priest on the staff in the foreseeable future and the demography of the parish is much changed. This is why one of the priorities identified in the current Parish Mission Action Plan is Increased

Lay Leadership. Doubtless this will be one of the pressing matters foremost in Father Giles' thoughts and prayers when he begins his ministry in the parish later in the year.

for the gift of courage to speak out in Jesus' name, to inspire and encourage the faithful, to be an advocate for our faith, imbued with the Holy Spirit - the spirit of truth, of hope and renewal, as we are promised in the Gospel.

Be assured of my prayers for you all as the countdown to Father Giles' Induction progresses.

Father Michael

Let us pray earnestly for Father Giles -