

The Parish Church of Saint George



PARISH MAGAZINE

*An open door in the heart of the City
A place of prayer and peace*



MARCH 2023

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Editorial Team: William Odling-Smee, Selby Nesbitt, Tony Merrick.

From the Rector's Desk



Dear Friends in Christ,

By the time you receive this magazine, the season of Lent will have begun. For many people, Lent is a time when they give up something that they have enjoyed. People give up chocolate or forswear alcohol for Lent amongst many other self disciplines or sacrifices, and perhaps give the money saved to a worthy cause. This is undoubtedly a good thing to do as our self denial benefits others less fortunate than ourselves. However, I would also encourage you to think about taking something up as well as any act of self denial. We recently had the funeral of Billy Adair in Saint Georges. Billy was almost 102 and had spent nearly 80 years as a church organist and choir conductor in many different parishes. Billy loved the Anglican choral tradition and felt very passionately about it. My sermon at Billy's Requiem, is printed elsewhere in this magazine. We formed a girls SSA choir in September last year as an addition to our already existing Parish and Chamber choirs. Whilst attendances on Sunday mornings are very good, usually averaging over 100 at 11:00 AM, attendances at Evensong can be very patchy. Sometimes we can reach around 50 people present, but on other occasions we can be as low as 25. Last Sunday, our girls SSA choir sang evensong, including a beautiful anthem and there were only 18 people in the congregation. No matter which choir is singing on Sunday evenings, it would be a tremendous encouragement to them to see a goodly number of parishioners in the pews. This is especially important for the young boys of the Parish Choir and the young girls of the new SSA Choir. The Anglican choral tradition is a rare and very precious thing, a wonderful means by which to offer praise and worship to God in the beautiful liturgy of Choral Evensong or Choral Holy Communion. Please consider taking up attendance at the 5:00PM Sunday Choral Services this Lent, not as an act of penitence or self denial, but as a positive decision to worship God in this time honoured way, to encourage our musicians and singers and to ensure the wonderful inheritance of choral worship, which Billy loved and which we are privileged to have, is preserved and enhanced for us and for future generations.

Yours in Christ.

Brian Stewart

PARISH NOTICES

Easter General Vestry: 2023

Please note, the **Easter Vestry will be held on Sunday, 23rd April at 1:00pm** after the morning service. There will be a sandwich lunch before the meeting.

Soup and Cheese Lenten Parish Lunch Sunday, 12th March

The most recent 'in person' Parish Lunch, a Lenten Lunch, took place very successfully 3 years ago and fortuitously two weeks before the first COVID lockdown. (In 2021 we somehow managed a virtual Lenten Lunch).

It is now time to start these social and fundraising gatherings again. We are therefore arranging a Soup and Cheese Lunch for Lent this year. It will take place on Sunday 12th March in the Parish Hall following the 11:00am Choral Eucharist.

This year we are asking for donations to two organisations. The first is the **Welcome Organisation, Belfast**, which offers support for the homeless, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Its services include a Drop In Centre, Street Outreach Teams such as those that work with the rough sleepers in our churchyard, Crisis Accommodation for Women, a Floating Support Service for those who have been homeless but have now accessed accommodation and a Mobile Health Unit.

The second organisation is **Mary's Meals** which is currently feeding nearly 2.5 million children in Syria, Yemen and South Sudan as well as many other places. It spends 93p in every £ on their feeding programme. It used to take £15.50 to feed a child in a place of education for a whole school year but now it takes around £19.20. Mary's Meals is in urgent need of support.

We invite you to come and join the lunch so please make sure that your name is added to the list of those attending so that we can gauge numbers. The list will be available after our Sunday services and in the church kitchen on weekdays until Sunday 5th March.

PARISH NOTICES

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE – 2023



I will be opening the list of names for those wishing to make the pilgrimage to Walsingham later this year. We will be in Walsingham from 5th to 10th October. Costings for the pilgrimage will depend upon how many pilgrims commit themselves to the pilgrimage and whether we fly to East Midlands and on to Walsingham by coach or go by the ferry and on by car. If we decide the latter then we shall make a two night stop at the Community of the Resurrection in Mirfield. We would also stop off somewhere of interest on our return journey. Because of low numbers in the last two years I have booked only 12 places at Walsingham, but more may become available nearer the time if we need them. If you want to know more please see me at church or contact me by phone on 9065 4868

Fr Graeme Pollock

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

In order to comply with the law on Data Protection, St George's is required to ask for your consent as to how we may contact you; without this consent, you cannot receive any communication from the church.

The GDPR registration process was introduced in St George's two years ago and at that time, parishioners, friends of the parish and supporters kindly completed either an electronic form or a paper form. We are now inviting newcomers to the parish, and any one else who may not have been aware of the process, to complete the GDPR registration.

You can either follow the link <https://bit.ly/sgb-gdpr> for an electronic version of the consent form or alternatively, pick up a paper copy of the form in the Narthex, which can be filled in and handed to a Churchwarden.

By ticking the 'Parish News' section on the form you will be informed of parish events and can be sent a copy of the monthly Parish Magazine.

FESTIVAL FLOWERS



The members of the Flower Guild would very much appreciate your help to decorate St George's for Easter on **Saturday, 8th April at 10:00AM**. They would be grateful for any contributions of greenery and flowers which could be brought on the same day. Please speak to Brenda Claney or Helen Crowe.

Festival Flower envelopes will be enclosed with the Sunday Service Sheet on Sunday, 26th March and Sunday, 2nd April requesting a donation which will enable the Flower Guild to buy the Easter flowers.

PROTECT THE OCEANS - Eleanor Maynard

Plastic pollution, overfishing, habitat loss, rising temperatures; we're pushing the ocean to the brink, and centuries of overuse and neglect threaten to leave us with a vast blue wasteland. It's time to change the way we see our ocean – from a place where we take what we want and dump what we don't, to a shared resource that sustains us and our planet.

That's why we're working to protect the ocean, in turn supporting all who depend on it. **Here are 3 ways you can get involved:**



BEECHY'S BULLET

by Paul McLaughlin



Long ago in the days when a Roy Rogers' watch was a must-have for any boy under the age of twelve, the lone housing plantation that had been our council estate at the beginning of the 1950s was rapidly turning into an urban sprawl. New dwellings were springing up, ironically on Belfast's Springfield Road, and the landmark buildings of a previous century were going under the bulldozer.

I watched with my friends while the developments climbed higher and higher up the patchwork of fields that cloaked the Black Mountain as cottages were levelled and all trace of the linen bleaching industry that dominated these hillsides for a hundred years was erased. Dairy cows still grazed what was left of Brown's Fields, but soon they would be restricted to the upper slopes, munching grass that would become suburban gardens.

A great ball and chain was manoeuvred onto the property of Mister William Beechy, right next to the grey two storey building that had been his home. I remember it as quite a grand place, despite the fact that it had lain derelict for many years, still imposing and individual in a way a council house could never be. A house for a man who had a place in the world and knew it.

Our gang, there were always at least seven or eight of us that played in the surrounding fields, had seen Beechy's overgrown gardens and sadly neglected fields, natural playgrounds for young adventurers, torn asunder by mechanical monsters and the morning of the demolition, I'm sure that was the first time I had heard that word, was bright and dry. Pleasant for spectating, perfect for destruction. The construction workers, hurried and scurried about the site as they called it, their country accents alien to our ears, shouting 'hey' and 'boy' in nearly every sentence like foreigners on the rampage.

I thought of the bees that had buzzed about the nest we had found in the cavity of a fallen tree on the edge of the property just a few weeks previously. There were dozens of them, busy coming and going, ignoring us as we stood in short trousers and cotton tee shirts that we called sloppy Joes. Too intent on their own business to be bothered to take notice.

One of our lads lit a rolled-up newspaper and stuck it into the rotted log. Dozens of angry bees became thousands within a few seconds and a swarming drone like a Messerschmitt attacked us with nearly as much ferocity. I was first to retreat and got stung only twice. Most the others, showing so much daring and bare Summer flesh, had to be doused in calamine lotion for dozens of stings when they

eventually made it home.

The walls of Beechy's house crumbled under the assault of the ball and chain, exposing layers of mouldy wallpaper, coats of Victorian leaded paint and varnished floorboards like so many secrets that had been hidden away for a lifetime. They saw the light of day for only a matter of minutes before being crushed into an unrecognisable mound of rubbish and removed on the backs of a convoy of lorries. Beechy's had been consigned to history, not quietly and with dignity as a 'big house' might expect, but with clamour, disdain and clouds of dust that bit at our throats.

Days later we would find a rifle bullet amid the remains of the foundations of the old house spawning rumours of gun running and the Ulster Volunteer Force of 1912.

Year later I could not resist researching the Beechy household in the Irish Archives of the 1911 Census. The area then was home to small herds of Ayrshire dairy cows, descendants of those brought to Ulster by lowland Scots during the Plantation and the bleach greens of the Springfield Dyeing and Finishing Company that was enjoying good fortune thanks to the linen boom.

As for Mister Beechy, I discovered that he was in fact **William Beattie**, land steward, farmer and small-time linen baron, a man of wealth and influence no doubt, who had been the property owner all those years ago. I thought of the bullet for the first time in six decades and trusted that while his name had been corrupted, the man had not.



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THE LIVING WAGE by Janet Sandikli

First of all what is the Living Wage? At the moment the Living Wage is set at £10.90 per hour and the calculation is made according to the cost of living based on a basket of household goods and services. It is a wage that meets everyday needs.

On the other hand the Minimum Wage set by the government is not calculated according to what employees and their families need to live on and presently stands at £9.18 per hour for under 23s and £9.50 per hour for over 23s. 20.3% of workers in the UK don't earn a real living wage.

For that extra £1.72 per hour workers say they don't have to worry about affording basics and can save a little for emergencies.

Businesses that pay the Living Wage say it has improved their reputation and helped to motivate and retain staff.

You will be glad to know that Saint Georges Parish Church pays over and above the Living Wage and I would encourage any of our parishioners who run businesses to do the same and consider applying online for Living Wage accreditation.

Those of us who do not own businesses can help by promoting this scheme in our workplaces and checking if the businesses we are using have signed up to this.

God's Grandeur

By Gerard Manley Hopkins

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

Submitted by Geoffrey May

Billy Adair - An Obituary - by James Little.



Billy Adair
16th February 1921 to 26th January 2023.

Faith, family and friends. Perhaps those three words sum up what William (Billy) Adair lived for. Most St George's parishioners probably only knew Billy through reading his captivating and perceptive monthly articles on well-known hymns that have appeared in the magazine for the last three years or so. However, despite being a longstanding member of St Mark's, Dundela near where he lived with his family and also occupying the post of organist in several churches in and around Belfast for decades, Billy had a strong affinity with St George's because of what it stood and stands for and held 'dual membership', so to speak since he was a teenager.

The bare facts of Billy's life are easily stated. Born in Belfast on 16th February 1921, he joined the textile firm, William Ewart & Sons Ltd which then employed 2,500 people at age 16, with postponing the world of work to continue studying not a financial proposition. Billy married Dorothy in 1955 and they went on to have two children and two grandchildren. Their marriage was very happy and lasted for 67 years till Dorothy died almost exactly a year ago.

Billy had a successful career in Ewart's and was in charge of American sales at the time of his retirement. An indication of how highly he was regarded there was that when they transferred most of their operations from Belfast to Dromore, they sent a car to collect him and leave him home again every day (Billy never learnt to drive).

For most friends, it's probably for his achievements in the world of church music and indeed music much more widely, that Billy is known. Although born a Presbyterian, it was Billy's first ever visit to St Anne's cathedral when he was 15 that proved to be a 'Road to Damascus' moment for him. He was able to arrange organ, harmony and counterpoint, singing and choir training lessons from the redoubtable organist there, Capt Charles Brennan OBE who was an immediate inspiration and became a lifelong friend.

Billy also had an interest in and an understanding of literature. From the outset, he sought to ensure that people in his choirs understood the significance of the words they were singing, perhaps especially in

the Psalms. For him, the words and music were ‘the handmaid of the liturgy’, not the dominant part. He took up his first organist post in St Michael’s PC on the Shankill Rd at the age of 16, continuing his studies with CJ Brennan, sitting in on the weekly cathedral choir practices and eventually obtaining a Trinity College London external diploma.

Following that and a spell at St Patrick’s PC, Jordanstown, Billy spent 14 years in charge of the men and boys choir at St John’s PC, Malone. This was a very satisfying, though pressured time. Three Sunday services, a demanding schedule required to recruit and train boys, the first years of married life and a busy ‘day job’. The Rector of the Time, Canon FHP L’Estrange was someone Billy described as ‘a solid High Churchman’ and the person Billy respected most of all he had worked with.

Canon L’Estrange retired and it didn’t prove as easy to work with his successor. Billy was then tempted to take over at Lisburn cathedral for three years before a similar spell at what had become the family church of St Mark’s PC, Dundela. That was when business and family pressures were such that there was insufficient time for Billy to devote to a demanding church organist post. However, whilst someone else was appointed as the main organist for the two choral services, Billy was persuaded to play at the weekly ‘congregational’ services at St Mark’s and continued doing so for 15 years, also occasionally filling in elsewhere too.

After retiring from Ewart’s at the age of 65, Billy agreed to help out one Sunday at St James’ PC, Antrim Road. That immediately led to him being appointed to the organist’s position there where he had a devoted and skilled choir and stayed till the church closed in 2008 upon its amalgamation with St Peter’s PC.

Billy’s immense skill, knowledge, kindness, clear devotion to the liturgy and dedication led to strong loyalty from his choir members, in some cases eventually going back decades. He set a good personal example and liked the prevailing environment where most Bishops were men of high calibre and standards of devotion in most Church of Ireland churches were what he felt were appropriate.

Billy knew many Church of Ireland clergy, some of whom went on to become eminent. He sometimes didn’t hesitate to express his disappointment when he had the opportunity at what he considered to be the toleration of what he considered sloppy standards and practices as time went on during his long life. Billy was able to express himself very politely to clergy of any ‘rank’ whilst at the same time explain very lucidly why he felt what was being done was inappropriate.

There’s only sufficient space to mention briefly that Billy had a huge

impact on the Ulster Society of Organists and Choirmasters (USOC). He joined USOC in 1943 so was a member for almost 80 years. He served in every single office including President and wrote the constitution still in use today. Billy rarely missed a monthly meeting of USOC over all those years until ill health intervened. As a tribute to Billy's outstanding dedication, on the occasion of his 100th birthday, USOC re-named its annual members' recital the 'William Adair recital' in perpetuity.

He was also a strong supporter of the Ulster Orchestra and other classical music concerts in Belfast. Billy's views on concerts he had attended were always well-informed, fair and well worth listening to.

In several fields of classical music, Billy accumulated a wealth of knowledge and expertise through self-study and concert attendance over the years. One outlet in which he was able to use this after retirement was as a lecturer for many years in what was then called the extra mural department of Queen's University. People who attended these classes, which were always fully subscribed, on such things as composers, trends in music over time and famous pieces, often told him how impressed they were and how much they gained from having Billy's insights revealed to them. One such person was no less than Sir George Bain, former Vice-Chancellor of Queen's who continued to write to Billy even after moving to Scotland about the positive and long-lasting impact of the classes on him.

At the same time, Billy attended the popular classes on literature given in the same department by the late Dr Edith Devlin, a St George's member for decades and indeed Billy was secretary for her classes. Edith and Billy had great respect for each other.

It also needs to be mentioned that Billy was a talented artist. He often painted Christmas cards for friends and family, spending many evenings painting water colour scenes for his cards. Many have been kept and framed by friends over the years. When organist at St John's, Malone, Billy started an art class which continued for many years even after he left.

And so back to Billy's St George's connection. He was a member of St George's for over 80 years even though he was either sitting at the organ or in the congregation elsewhere on Sundays. At the time when he gave up his post at Lisburn Cathedral, Billy's two children, Stephen and Gill were involved, as was Dorothy in their local church, St Mark's, Dundela, so going there gave them an opportunity to be there as a family. However, Billy had long developed what might be called 'High Church sympathies'. When visiting London, Billy attended that bastion of Anglo-Catholicism, All Saints, Margaret Street. Whilst what happens in neither St John's or St George's was anything like there, Billy admired the tradition that was maintained

in St George's, knew its clergy over the years, and was pleased to maintain a link. Billy quite often joined other like-minded people, most of them members of St George's on pilgrimages to the Anglican shrine at Walsingham in Norfolk. In 2017, Billy completely transferred his loyalties from St Mark's to St George's where his Requiem Eucharist was held on 10th February.

Billy had a triple heart by-pass at the age of 78 but recovered well from that operation. Otherwise, despite a couple of relatively recent spells in hospital his health remained remarkably good and his mind completely sound and his memory very sharp till a couple of days before he died.

Looking back at Billy Adair's long and productive life, of course his family will have their own private memories of a loving, supportive and proud husband, father and grandfather. The memories of others will partly depend on where they encountered Billy. Some think of an inspirational choir trainer who gave them a lifelong love of music and a better understanding of the words they were singing. Others also describe him as an outstanding organist whose improvisations during services truly enhanced the liturgy.

All agree that his Christianity shone through everything he tried to do. Outside the church world, many people found Billy's lectures on music revelatory and full of insights. But all who encountered Billy will have been struck by his polite manners, his twinkling eyes, his intelligence and his deep interest in his friends and everything going on around him.

Billy is survived by his brother Sinclair aged 99, Stephen, Gill and her children, Aaron and Helen. They, particularly Gill, provided immeasurable and deeply appreciated support to Billy, particularly when he became housebound in the latter part of his life. In turn, they are most grateful for the care Billy received in the Ulster Hospital since being taken there in early December.

The Rector's Address at the Requiem Eucharist for Billy Adair

Jesus said "I came down from heaven not to do my own will, but to do the will of him who sent me."

Billy carefully devised, this funeral service, insisting that it would be a Requiem Eucharist with the psalm hymns and music all chosen by him. Billy also asked that there would be no 'eulogy'. I take that to mean that there was to be no hagiographical recitation of the events of Billy's extraordinarily long and full life, and I suspect most of you already know a great deal about him and his many achievements. However, I do believe that an address, reflecting the themes and concerns Billy outlined to me over the last three decades, might be appropriate.

Every time I went to visit Billy at home over many years, or in hospital over recent months, he greeted me with "Hello Brian dear, lovely to see you". I'm sure many of you also received a very similar welcome. Billy was a genuinely warm and engaging person whose deep, deep faith and love for others, shone out of his very core. That love was first of all for his beloved Dorothy, his children Steven and Gill, and his grandchildren Aaron and Helen. To them we offer our love, prayers, and sympathy today.

But 'dear Billy', we also know you greatly loved God and the worship of his church to which you so magnificently contributed. Billy was the epitome of a deeply devout Christian musician who knew and understood that the purpose of sacred music was to enhance and enable the worship of Almighty God. He devoted his life to that end following the words of Christ about not doing his own will but the will of him who sent him.

Billy had strong opinions about worship, liturgy and music and he was not afraid to voice them to anyone who would listen. I was one of those who willingly heard his views because I largely shared them. In drawing up this service and setting out this liturgy, Billy was making sure that it would be as he wanted it within the structure and order of the Prayerbook and the Anglican Choral Tradition. It was as if he didn't quite trust clergy to do it properly, and behave themselves. Guess what? He was quite right, at least as far as a good many priests in the Church of Ireland are concerned today! I wouldn't trust some of them within a mile of a church service either. That's why I've followed Billy's example and set out my own funeral service, exactly how I want it to follow the liturgy of the church. The word liturgy comes from the Greek *leiturgia*, meaning the 'work of the people'. And Liturgy and Christian worship is not the sole prerogative of the clergy but is the duty and responsibility of the whole household of God, priests and people together.

Billy understood and knew this instinctively, as he had absorbed this insight and understanding from his long continuous membership St Georges from 1947 and his over 70 years as a church organist in St Michael's, Shankill Rd, St Patrick's, Jordanstown, St John's Malone, Christ Church Cathedral, Lisburn, St Mark's Dundela and St James's Antrim Road, with occasional stints in St Polycarp's, Finaghy St Aidan's, Donegal Road, St Marys, Crumlin Road, and many others.

Gill was telling me of a card Billy was sent by the Rev'd Lynne Gibson when she was curate at St Mark's. It featured a cat with its back arched and it's

fur standing on end and the caption below it said 'They just mentioned the dreaded words, Praise Band'.

So many of the parishes in Belfast and beyond have either dismantled their liturgical and musical heritage, or ignored them and allowed them to wither and die. They have exchanged their inheritance for a mess of pottage. Sadly, it's the case in some instances that clergy and even bishops have played an active role in such liturgical vandalism. Like the psalmist Billy and I and many others might say 'Am I not grieved with those who rise up against thee'. They have exchanged the deep, rich wine of the liturgy and its music for cheap fizzy pop with their electric instruments, drum kits, video projector screens, acres of carpet and bad imitations of 1970s American FM rock music and all at vast expense to already overburdened parishes. Traditional choirs are side-lined, under resourced or even disbanded and pipe organs silenced and even removed altogether. Talk about throwing out the family silver! The only screen you'll ever see in St George's is the one that was installed in 1927, carved in wood. In recent years Billy sat in one of the front pews in deep devotion at the Sunday Choral Eucharist. The liturgy and choral singing was for him a foretaste of the heavenly courts and the great banquet of Christ with the redeemed. He loved singing the hymns about which he wrote so eloquently and knowledgeably in our magazine and in the magazine of Saint Mark's. As a young man with Catholic sensibilities, he considered becoming a Roman Catholic. It's a well known phase which many Anglo Catholics, myself included, go through who known as 'Roman fever'. It was the beauty of Coverdale's, translation of the Psalms in the B.C.P. and the Liturgy he found here in St George's which saved him for the Church of Ireland. And how we give thanks that he stayed with us and introduced so many generations to a deep love of the very best of the Choral Tradition and organ music. What a wonderful inheritance of faith and devotion he has left us. What an example of a man who was truly devoted to Christ and to enabling the whole church to worship in spirit and in truth.

'Dear Billy', please forgive me if I have indeed eulogised you or if I have said in public some of the things which I know inspired you or exasperated you. Although I suspect that, in many of the points I have raised, I am, as it were, preaching to the converted. Nevertheless, they need to be said loud and clear in the Church of Ireland today, and I am not one to mince my words or hold back on what I know are deeply held convictions of so many faithful and longstanding members of the church who now feel ignored, undervalued and side-lined.

Billy undoubtedly had a vocation as a church musician, as real and significant as any in the clerical or medical fields. A vocation involves a great deal of commitment, self sacrifice and love, exercised with forbearance and good humour. Billy Adair had all of these qualities but above all, it was not about his will but rather the will of him who called Billy to that vocation. Christ has now called Billy to be with him and with Dorothy. We give praise and thanks to God for a life well lived in love and service to Christ's Church. Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of thy Lord. May his soul and the souls of all the Faithful Departed rest in peace and rise in glory to life everlasting. Amen.

A STORY FOR THE BEGINNING OF PASSIONTIDE.

by Keith Suckling

The disciples are all at dinner with Jesus and friends. Judas is sitting a bit to the side, quietly watching what is going on, but preoccupied with his concerns about the growing tensions between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders, all under the oppressive background of the occupying Roman forces. Judas muses....

He likes going to dinner with people. He doesn't mind at all who it is. Today it's with friends, which is nice and relaxed, but more often than not he'll accept an invitation to eat with tax collectors, or go to a well-educated Pharisee's house and have a deep theological discussion. That's always entertaining to listen to. The Pharisees and lawyers think they have everything worked out but each time he catches them out by going beyond their detailed codes of practice. They try to define everything in advance, but he just gets to the very centre of what it's all about. It seems so simple and compelling, but when you try to follow his example, it can be very challenging. Nothing turns out the way you would expect. ...

Actually that's part of the problem at the moment. I'm a pretty practical person. I want to get things done and I want to do them right. And there's no doubt that Jesus does get things done in his healing and preaching. But I'm sure there's more than that behind it all ...

But what's that going on now? There's Mary. It's her house, with her sister Martha, and we're using it as our base at the moment. She's kneeling at Jesus' feet and ... no! .. she's pouring a large bottle of perfume over his feet. And now she's wiping his feet with her hair. That's quite out of order! Far too familiar and personal! The scent is getting overpowering. It's almost making me sick. This is not what we are supposed to be doing. We should be helping the poor and not wasting money on gestures like this. I can't keep quiet about this ... Stop! What's all this waste? ...

Later that evening.

I'm sick of the whole thing. I thought it was quite in order and acceptable to complain about the waste of the valuable perfume and that the others would agree with me. They just kept quiet. Not a word. Why don't they take some action for a change? Jesus told me quite calmly to leave Mary alone. She'd bought the perfume to keep for the day of his burial. There are always poor people around, but he will not always be here, whatever that means. I found the whole

episode offensive. I don't know what Jesus is going on about. I mean I like him. I think he's a friend. We get on well together. But then he does go and do these impossible inexplicable things.

Let's get to the point. There's discussion behind the scenes that Jesus might be the Messiah. A lot of what he does fits exactly what scripture tells us the Messiah will do. And we are under the control of the Romans. Just as has happened many times in the past we need a strong religious leader who will take up a sword against the occupiers. He should be the one. It all makes sense. But ...

But not everything makes sense. He's too kind and forgiving for a military leader. There's no doubt that he has authority. The lawyers won't debate with him any more. They always lose the argument and lose face in public as a result. That's all very well. I'm glad to see the pompous and proud put in their place. But it's not as easy as that. Arguments certainly won't work with the Romans. They are ruthless. They'll crucify anyone caught in rebellion and destroy towns and villages, selling the people into slavery. The only thing that will work is power. We Jews have got enough armed people here in Jerusalem. We just need an incisive leader and organiser and then we'll show Pilate who we are.

Jesus could do it. He could. How can I make him see that? He won't react to any hints that armed rebellion should be the next step. Doesn't seem to be his way. ... But here's an idea. It's dangerous. I don't like it but it may be the only way. Jesus does not seem to plan his schedule very far ahead. He reacts to events. So what if we put him in a corner where he has to react? Now how could that be done? ... What if I talk to my friend in the High Priest's house? The priests are angry with Jesus because he is challenging their authority and power. They want him out of the way. It will be safer like that during the Passover. Less chance of a riot and over-reaction by Pilate. They daren't arrest Jesus in the daytime. ... So what about at night? They'll need someone who knows him to point him out in the dark. I could do that. Then he would have to call upon God to intervene, and the rebellion would start. Yes... it might work. I'll see if I can get away and have a word with the High Priest before Passover. When I go shopping might be a good time. The Palace is right next to Tesco's.

MUSIC LIST March 2023

Sunday 5th March

11:00AM Choral Eucharist

Processional Hymn	At the name of Jesus 338
Setting	Collegium Regale - <i>Howells</i>
Psalm	121
Gradual Hymn	All ye who seek 63
Offertory Hymn	Lord in this thy mercy's day 69
Communion Hymn	312
Anthem	God so loved the world - <i>Stainer</i>
Recessional Hymn	Be thou my vision 339
Voluntary	Fanfare - <i>Leighton</i>

2nd Sunday in Lent

Parish Choir

5:00PM Choral Evensong

Parish Choir

Responses	Rose
Psalm	135
Office Hymn	60
Setting	Moeran in D minor
Anthem	Listen sweet dove - <i>Ives</i>
Hymns	59, 476

Sunday 12th March

11:00AM Choral Eucharist

3rd Sunday in Lent

Parish Choir

Processional Hymn	Christ whose glory 234
Setting	Missa Princeps Paris - <i>Lloyd-Webber</i>
Psalm	95
Gradual Hymn	Gather hear the prayer 357
Offertory Hymn	Come down O love divine 137
Communion Hymn	280
Motet	Sicut serves - <i>Palestrina</i>
Recessional Hymn	Praise the Lord 437
Voluntary	Toccata - <i>Gigout</i>

5:00PM Choral Evensong

Choral Scholars

Responses	Rose ATB
Psalm	40
Canticles	Moore 2nd service
Anthem	I will lift up mine eyes - <i>Lloyd</i>
Hymns	74, 427

MUSIC LIST March 2023

Sunday 19th March Mothering Sunday 4th Sunday in Lent

11:00AM Choral Eucharist

Parish Choir

Processional Hymn	Sing we of the blessed Mother	185
Psalm	23	
Setting	Mass of the quiet hour - <i>Oldroyd</i>	
Gradual Hymn	Jesus good above all other	387
Offertory Hymn	I bind unto myself	159
Communion Hymn	Christ be with me - <i>Rutter</i>	
Anthem	Ave maris stella - <i>Ives</i>	
Recessional Hymn	Tell out my soul	186
Voluntary	Farewell to Stromness - <i>Maxwell-Davies</i>	

5:00PM Choral Evensong

Chamber Choir

Responses	Ayleward
Psalm	31: 1-9
Canticles	Walmisley in D
Anthem	Drop, drop slow tears - <i>Gibbons</i>
Hymns	456, 76

Sunday 26th March Passion Sunday 5th Sunday of Lent

11:00AM Choral Eucharist

Parish choir

Processional Hymn	When morning gilds the skies	473 (omit 2 & 4)
Setting	Ireland in C	
Psalm	130	
Gradual Hymn	All ye who seek	63
Offertory Hymn	It is a thing	83
Communion Hymn	275	
Motet	Christus Factus est - <i>Bruckner</i>	
Recessional Hymn	O sacred head	90
Voluntary	Fugue in B minor BWV 544 - <i>Bach</i>	

5:00PM Choral Eucharist BCP

St George's SSA

Psalm	130
Setting	Merbecke
Anthem	Ex ore innocentium - <i>Ireland</i>
Hymns	82, 83

CALENDAR MARCH 2023

March 4 Russian Orthodox Liturgy: 9:30 am – 1:15 pm

March 5 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

9:30 am Eucharist: The Rector

11:00 am Choral Eucharist: The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings:

Genesis 12: 1-4a; Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17; John 3: 1-17

Sanctuary Flowers: *No Flowers during Lent*

Reader: *Janet Sandikli*

Intercessor: *Pam Tilson*

Servers: *Laura Brannigan, John Callaghan, Tony Merrick*

Tea and Coffee: *Helen Crowe, Valerie Roberts*

5:00 pm Choral Evensong: The Rector

Lessons: Numbers 21: 4-9; Luke 14: 27-33 *Paddy Sloan*

March 12 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

9:30 am Eucharist: The Rector

11:00 am Choral Eucharist: The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: Exodus 17: 1-7; Romans 5: 1-11; John 4: 5-42

Sanctuary Flowers: *No Flowers during Lent*

Reader: *Geoffrey May*

Intercessor: *George Woodman*

Servers: *Laura Brannigan, Joan Calder, Mark Claney*

Tea and Coffee: *Eleanor Maynard, Catherine Hunter*

5:00 pm Choral Evensong: The Rector

Lessons: Joshua 1: 1-9; Ephesians 6: 10-20

Janet Sandikli

CALENDAR MARCH 2023

March 19

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

9:30 am Eucharist: The Rector

11:00 am Choral Eucharist: The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: 1 Samuel 16: 1-13; Ephesians 5: 8-14;
John 9: 1-41

Sanctuary Flowers: *No Flowers during Lent*

Reader: *Paul McLaughlin*

Intercessor: *Fr William Odling-Smee*

Servers: *John Callaghan, Jonny Calder, Agape Laoye*

Tea and Coffee: *Keith Suckling, Steven McQuitty*

5:00 pm Choral Evensong: The Rector

Lessons: Micah 7; James 5 *Fr Tom Layden*

March 26

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

9:30 am Eucharist: The Rector

11:00 am Choral Eucharist: The Rector

Readings: Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Romans 8: 6-11; John 11: 1-45

Sanctuary Flowers: *No Flowers during Lent*

Reader: *Mark Claney*

Intercessor: *Fr Tom Layden*

Servers: *Joan Calder, Mark Claney, Tony Merrick*

Tea and Coffee: *Linda McConnell, Yvonne Doherty*

5:00 pm Choral Eucharist – Order 1: The Rector

Readings: Hebrews 9: 11-15; John 8: 46-59a
Fr Graeme Pollock

March 30

FERIA

1:00pm Eucharist: The Rector & Fr Graeme Pollock

The Walsingham Group meets at this Eucharist – all welcome

