



Open Door

November 2022

THE OCASIONAL MAGAZINE OF ST MARY-AT-FINCHLEY

One World Week 2022



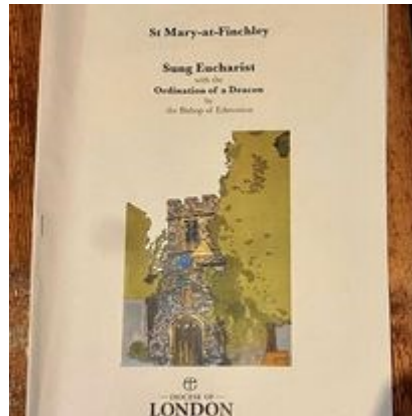
The 45th anniversary of One World Week in Finchley, celebrated at our church on October 29, with special guest the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Alison Moore, who has supported the event for the past 15 years.



*Turn to page 5 to read
an article about One
World Week*

St Mary at Finchley Patronal Festival and the Ordination of Francesco

11th September 2022



On Sunday 11th September, we were finally able to share the wonderful occasion of Francesco's ordination. The day was to be extra special as it coincided with the annual celebration of St Mary at Finchley's Patronal Festival.

Although it was a joyous day, it was also tinged with sadness as Queen Elizabeth II had passed away on the 8th September. We remembered the Royal Family in our prayers and at this service many of us sang "God Save the King" for the first time in our lives.

We wish Francesco and Felix every happiness in our Parish.

Cost of Living

The cost of living is very much in the news at the moment with the addition, whether spoken or unspoken, of “crisis”. Fuel prices are rocketing, food prices are increasing, all the elements for that simple daily essential a cup of tea are rising. There are many responses to the cost of living crisis. Locally Churches Together in Finchley are working together to provide a weekly Warm Space at St Margaret’s URC Church on Victoria Avenue. We have also had a very encouraging response to the appeals to support those who are homeless both actively and financially through the Winter Shelter, Homeless Action Barnet and the Barnet Refugee Service (New Citizen’s Gateway). Through our Pastoral Group and always through the clergy there is support available for members of our own congregation including some limited ability to offer financial help.

All these things are very good in our response to the Cost of Living Crisis, but the current use of that phrase “cost of living” leads to the observation that although there is a crisis in the cost of living now, there is always a cost of living for it to be able to go up or down. There is no cost free living. There can be no irresponsible freedom – there is always a cost because everyone and everything is linked to and depends on someone or something else.

Cost is often described these days in terms of footprint whether it is carbon or some other legacy of our consumption. The same image has been used in poetry for many centuries – trading lightly on the earth.

At the heart of our faith we learn that the cost of our life and our freedom is the death of Jesus Christ. The cost of real living is sacrificial love. It is for us to work out what that means for us today.

The Rector



From the Pastoral Group

What shall we call our pastors?

When George Fox was setting up Quaker groups around the country in the 1650s he wanted people to be appointed as leaders but he also wanted to avoid the words that the other churches at the time used, because he believed that everyone, including women, had direct access to God and was equal in value and status. For him there was no hierarchy of power or influence. So, using alternative translations of New Testament words, he appointed ‘overseers’ rather than bishops and ‘elders’ rather than presbyters or priests.

Similarly they met in ‘meeting houses’, rather than churches and had ‘meetings for worship’ rather than services

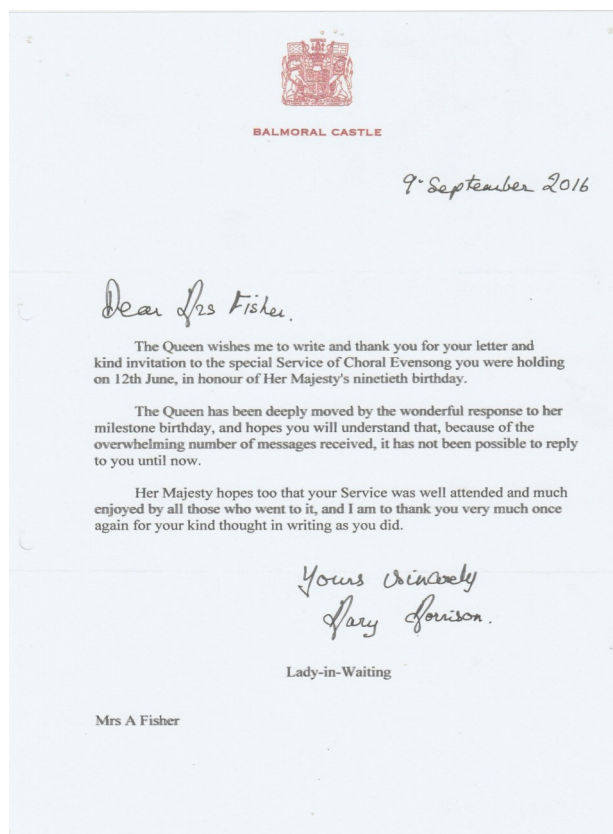
Overseers were responsible for what we would now call pastoral care of the meeting and elders for its spiritual health. Any member could be appointed to these roles but they were always temporary – usually three years - so that no one becomes defined by their role in the meeting.

Quakers in the UK today are questioning those words. As we have become more sensitive to racism in our society the word ‘overseer’ is now seen to connect very unhelpfully with slavery, and so with brutal, authoritarianism. Some think that telling a new Quaker who will be their overseer could be very alarming. Many are happy to move to the idea of pastors or pastoral care teams or groups, but some say the connection with sheep and shepherds is equally unhelpful in the modern world.

In the Church of England we have moved recently from the word ‘readers’ to the words ‘licensed lay ministers’ which better describes what we do and I think we are all happily getting used to it. Words are important, but I think we at St Mary’s are happy with the name ‘pastoral group’ for the gathering of people who meet to pray for those who specially need our care and to turning those prayers into actions wherever we can.

Claire Disbrey

Remembering Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II



Remembering Coronation Day 1953

I had been a fan of our much-loved Queen Elizabeth since the day of her Coronation – June 2, 1953, when I was six years old.

Brother Dave was just one year younger when we celebrated in the streets of London.

Our fun-loving Mum had taken us to stay with friends in the East End so you can imagine the kind of street party we enjoyed.

I vividly remember the races which were held for all ages. Everyone who took part was given a Coronation red, white and blue ball and there were better prizes for the winners.

Dave and I ran our socks off but still only managed the consolation rubber ball. We had high hopes for our Mum.

She was a great sprinter and led the ladies race from the beginning and we knew she was heading for the main prize.

We were jumping up and down like crazy as she approached the finishing line with a smile as big as her heart.

Then something dreadful happened: Mum was running so fast, she tripped over herself and sprawled across the road as others overtook her.

Dave and I burst into tears as we saw her bleeding knees. But she was still laughing as she

hobbled to the race HQ to receive her consolation prize – a red, white and blue Coronation ball! It was one of many occasions on which Mum defied the fact that she had only one kidney.

She completed a sponsored walk for the elderly when she was 65 and, having served in the ATS during WWII, never missed taking part in the annual Remembrance Day walk in Tipton.

Mum was naughty and irreverent and left us bereft when she died suddenly aged 73. Friends in Tipton still remember her as “Rene with the heart of gold”

Lynn Radnedge



One World Week - Working together for a just, peaceful and sustainable world

On 29 October, as part of One World Week, St. Mary-at-Finchley played host to a multi-faith event, entitled 'Taking Care of our global family'

The event included prayer, poetry, music and art and was a collaboration of the many faith groups and denominations in Finchley, including Finchley Methodist Church, St. Philip's RC Church, Finchley Quakers, All Saints CE Church and New North London & Finchley Progressive Synagogues.

The Mayor of Barnet, Alison Moore, addressed the event and spoke of the assistance given by Barnet Council to refugees from around the world. Sarah Sackman, a local barrister specialising in Environmental Law, also outlined the ways in which the people of Barnet are "caring for our global family".

One World Week's call to action was particularly timely given the war in Ukraine and the forthcoming climate change conference taking place in November. The event served as an urgent reminder that war, food insecurity and the devastating effects of climate change disproportionately affect the world's most vulnerable communities and highlighted the critical need for the planet's resources to be shared more justly. It emphasized how closely connected we are to our neighbours in other parts of the world, and how each of us can take action in our daily lives to mitigate the immense challenges of poverty and climate change. Fairtrade Christmas cards and other products were on sale at the event as well as Fairtrade and home-made refreshments. The afternoon concluded with the Mayor cutting the One World Cake for all to enjoy.

Many thanks to Lynn Radnedge for all her hard work in organising this very special event.

Lindsay Hettrick



A Pandrop

Every summer holiday my parents, sister and I went to stay with our grandparents in Scotland. We travelled from Kings Cross to Aberdeen on the 7pm sleeper train in a 4-berth compartment, we children climbing up a ladder to sleep on the top bunks.

After an early morning stop at Edinburgh the train continued North over the Forth Bridge. It was a family tradition that we would stay awake from this point until we were on the bridge, when we tossed a few coins out of the window. This must have chipped the paint on the bridge, which is probably why it was painted once a year.

On arrival in Aberdeen at 7am, after the steward had brought our tea and biscuits, we had time for breakfast in the Station Hotel before getting the train to Macduff. Then the walk down the hill to the house on the shore, where I had a first-floor room looking North over the rocky beach and the North Sea. At that time of year, it was daylight for more than 18 hours, the night time Northern horizon still lit by a faint glow. In the long winter nights I saw the Northern Lights several times.

On Sunday the family walked up the hill to the Church of Scotland Kirk for the morning service. Being a fisherman, grandad normally wore thick woollen trousers and sweaters, but on Sunday he wore a dark 3-piece serge suit, a shirt with a collar fixed with studs front and back, a pearl-coloured silk tie and a rather jaunty Fedora style hat. His boots were polished to a guardsman shine. Grandma wore her best coat with a small straw hat, decorated with artificial cherries.

The granite Kirk was bare and austere with hard walls and a considerable echo. The minister was equally austere and was prone to long and boring sermons. To keep my sister and I quiet during the sermon grandad gave us a pandrop each – a very hard mint sweet, larger than a mint imperial but smaller than a gobstopper. The intent was that we would suck these silently throughout the sermon – no crunching!

During an even longer than usual sermon, the minister paused for breath at the very moment when my willpower failed. I bit into the now reduced

pandrop. The resulting crunch was spectacular and echoed around the now silent Kirk. I looked across at grandad, expecting admonition, but he was shaking with silent laughter, and I thought that I saw a tear trickle down his cheek. Not a word was said, but we giggled all the way home to Sunday lunch.

Iain Lyall

Barnet NHS -Fundraising Concerts Update

From the Facebook page: -

A massive thank you to everyone at St. Mary-at-Finchley church! Their latest fundraising concert has brought their fundraising total up to £1578, helping to support staff and patients at [Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust](#).

Manny and the team aren't stopping there and will be back with a Christmas concert on 3 December. Find out more on their page: [St Mary-at-Finchley](#).



Music News

Organ and Choir News



Our new Organ Scholar, Lamgie Yip, has started her year with us and is doing really well. It's great to have you, Lamgie, as a member of our music ministry here at St Mary-at-Finchley. We wish you a happy and creative time here as Organ Scholar while you are also studying for your Music degree at Royal Holloway College, University of London.

We welcome Richard Leung (bass) to the choir. It's great to have you singing with us!

Many thanks to Francesco for his visit to talk to the Youth Choir about the Psalms. He asked Youth Choir members to try their hand at writing a psalm!

Alison Fisher

Voice for Life awards

In addition to the 2 silver awards (Luna and Kenyalyn) and 2 bronze awards (Agata and Mariam) from earlier this year, we now have a further 4 Bronze Voice for Life awards from the July and October exams: Ali, Leon, Angelina (youth choir) and Ann (adult choir). Congratulations to you all!

This has been a record year and we're so proud of your achievements. Thank you for all that you give to our choir and to the wider church family.

I would like to thank Penny and Philip for preparing the candidates for their Choir in Context questions



Christmas carols

Please contact Alison if you'd like to sing in the Carol service which is on ***Monday*** 19th December at 7.30pm.

Rehearsals for this start on Thursday 17th November at 8pm. plus on the day at 6pm.

We'll also be singing on Saturday 3rd December and Saturday 17th December. So please do join us if you can!

Alisonsmartfisher@gmail.com

Being an Eco-Church - Reusing

Have you put 6th May 2023 in your diary yet? In case you don't know, it is the date for King

Charles's coronation. There has been much talk of a scaled down coronation, at the king's request. Whether it is a streamlined occasion or maximum extravagance we can be sure that it will involve a fair degree of reuse.

There will almost certainly be some famous music, there will be some old jewellery and some even older artefacts and furniture. Reusing may not sound grand enough for such an occasion but reusing is what it is. Rather than being a second best reusing connects us to our heirlooms and to all the things we consider precious.

Reusing is good. And if we are not reusing our own things and extending their life, we can choose things that are "new to you" or "pre-loved". When it comes down to it the whole concept of new is only a relative thing. There is only one creation of something from nothing "ex nihilo" and that is God's creation of the universe. Everything else is by definition reused.

Scientifically all matter comes from something else including ourselves. It takes quite an imaginative leap to recognise that even our bodies are made from atoms that have been around for an extremely long time (and which will continue long into the future).

The creative process is one of constant reuse. It is the noblest of things to do. To love reusing is to put ourselves in tune with God's creation.

The Rector

Remembering Frank Williams



Dad's Army vicar Frank Williams was always a great friend of St. Mary-at-Finchley. He spoke of his love for our church when he was guest of honour at our Platinum Jubilee Party this year. Sadly just a few weeks after his memorable appearance, Frank died. His funeral was held at the church where he had worshipped for much of his life – John Keble in Mill Hill. Frank's association with our church was the result of his long friendship with one of our late parishioners, Betty Camkin. When she died, Frank placed a bench outside the bus stop of St. M's where Betty would wait for her bus home from church and from the Wednesday Women's Fellowship Group which she ran.

They were very special friends for more than 30 years and every Christmas Betty would accompany Frank wherever he was performing in pantomime. Frank, who attended Hendon School, began his career at Watford Palace Theatre and appeared in many television series and films, including *Ivanhoe* in 1952 with Elizabeth Taylor.

He served three terms as a member of the General Synod of the Church of England and was always a keen supporter of events at our church. One year, he planted a fine oak tree in the grounds of Stephens House in honour of Finchley's One World Week activities.

At his funeral, Frank was described as a "laughter maker" who saw laughter as "a heavenly gift". In his address, Bishop Edward Holland said: "He was a man of faith and integrity. The three most important people in his life were his mother, his father and his God."

Lynn Radnedge

John, I have asked to interview you because we did not have the opportunity to say goodbye to you before you moved to Suffolk. Your erudite articles to the Open Door magazine have always made interesting reading and we hope they will continue. We want to celebrate the large contribution you have made over many years to the life and ministry of St Mary's Church.

Interview with John Larkin



I was born in 1946 in the city of Derby and was christened in All Saints' Mackworth parish church where my father had been vicar's warden for five years during the Second World War. My sister Anthea was born three years later. Our early years were spent happily in

the area. Both my parents, as well as several members of my family worked at the London Midland Railway headquarters in Derby.

When I was ten years old my father was promoted to the British Transport Commission headquarters in London as its first Director of Work Study and we moved to Surbiton in south-west London. I attended King's College School in Wimbledon before going to Queens' College at Cambridge University to study law, whilst also joining the Middle Temple in London, the inn of court where I was later called to the Bar as a barrister.

My mother, Freda, and my father, Edgar influenced me positively and taught me from my earliest days to begin to know God and to pray. We initially attended St Peter's church in Littleover in Derby, before moving to Christ Church on Surbiton Hill. It was here that I joined the Surbiton branch of the non-denominational Crusaders Union.

I was also influenced by my broader family circle and by my schoolteachers, particularly Frank Miles who was my senior English master. I was confirmed via the school chaplain, Richard Kinghorn, at Christ Church in West Wimbledon in 1961.

My working life began with an extensive gap-year experience of solicitors' offices in Kennington in south-east London. I then joined the Home Office, working on a range of law and order matters including police, criminal justice penalties and prison building, whilst completing my legal studies for Bar Finals, as well as attending courts from common law chambers in Inner Temple and Lincoln's Inn.

I had a varied career first working for the multinational Bowring Group parent company in the City of London, which included appointments as Company Secretary of numerous subsidiary companies in insurance, shipping and property and involvement with All Hallows-by-the-Tower Church's Business Houses Council. This was followed by a move across the City into the international banking environment of the London office of Swiss Bank Corporation. I later joined the construction industry with a firm (now known as Galliford Try) which included a wide spectrum of construction related legal responsibilities for all of the group companies. Subsequently, I also had several appointments in various care-based and healthcare organisations in the charitable and voluntary sector including several trustee boards.

My mother died in 1974 and we moved home three years later to the Hampstead Garden Suburb. I became an Assistant Leader at Finchley Crusaders which met regularly in St Mary's Church Hall Hendon Lane. This link helped to introduce me directly to St Mary-at-Finchley Church and in 1979 I joined Mick Nolan's team as a server. In 1987 I moved home to Woodside Park with my father who died in 1994.

I was invited to become a Churchwarden in 1986, initially with Betty Campbell and then alongside Irene Gardener from 1987 until 1991. This was a busy time for two main reasons. In December 1986 St Mary's CE Primary School was awarded capital funding from the government to build a new school on a site at the bottom of Dollis Park. The old school site, which is now the court building at the junction of Hendon Lane and Regent's Park Road had to be sold. This involved investing the St Mary's church share of the proceeds (from its use as a Sunday School), prior to transferring the trust funds to the London diocese as custodian. **Secondly, during this eventful period the Rector, Patrick Brock** retired. St Mary's entered an interregnum of more than a year with the curate, John Hannah, as priest. After many consultations and meetings with the Bishop of Edmonton, Brian Masters, a new Rector was appointed and inducted - John Barnett from St Matthias, Colindale. I also took on the role as titular Church Treasurer before Jeff Nettleton fully qualified as an accountant.

When my term of office as Churchwarden ended, I was very happy to continue to support the worship of the church through serving as a Eucharistic Minister, server, reader and intercessor. On the administration side I served for many years as a member of the PCC, working over the years as a member of the Mission, Social and Finance committees as well as the Standing Committee and the Pastoral Group.

I have always recognised the hierarchical structure of the church and for six years I was a member of the London Diocesan Synod and, further, as a member of the Central Barnet Deanery Synod. I have always been interested in inter-faith matters and was pleased to be able to represent St Mary's Church on the Finchley Council for Christians and Jews.

I have been a regular contributor since the late nineties to the parish magazine, in its various forms. Anne Rowland, the then editor, discussed how this might be developed. It occurred to me that there might be some scope for initiating a regular magazine article, inspired by a broad range of themes drawn from Christian heritage, to be launched during the run-up to the millennium. Accessing diversified subjects ranging through Christian history, biography and theology has proved to be both motivating and satisfying.

I have a long friendship with Father Alexander Dyagilev of the Russian Orthodox Church and his family. This developed after the Rector, Andrew Williams, met Father Alexander on a London Diocesan visit to St Petersburg in 2002. I joined the visit the following year in May 2003 which coincided with the tricentenary of the founding of the city. At that time Father Alexander was a curate at the Church of the Epiphany and he arranged for me to meet him there with his wife, Liuba and their newly born son, Sacha. Most of the rest of the week was spent at their home in St Petersburg and at the family dacha some 120 miles to the east in the deeply rural village of Zagubie near the shore of Lake Ladoga. I have been able to reciprocate their hospitality by accompanying them on visits around Britain on several occasions.

I am pleased that St Mary's Church community were able to visit St Petersburg twice and to enjoy the riches of the company and country that I had experienced. I have visited Russia eleven times mainly spending time with Father Alexander and his family, including visits to Novgorod, Moscow, Karelia, the Solovetski islands in the White Sea and Pskov near the Estonian border, but not since 2013.

From 2014 it has seemed to me that President Vladimir Putin's annexation of Ukrainian territory in the Crimea was inevitably contentious, notwithstanding Soviet and post-Soviet confirmation of Ukraine's ter-

ritorial integrity. The international situation has been greatly exacerbated by Russia's war in Ukraine in 2022. I remain in touch with Father Alexander and Liuba and have occasionally met up with them in the UK in recent years, including ascertaining Russian perceptions of Ukraine and Ukrainians as a Russian-speaking people.



John, this article is based on the weekly back page of The Church Times. The final question is always 'who would you choose to be locked in the church with'. You have responded "I am not sure how or whether this suggested scenario might actually take place, but I would hope and expect it would be Jen- nie, as my soulmate of ten years in Bury St Ed- munds, who would be the first to come into church to be with me. Yet I would hope to be welcoming and amenable to anyone who might choose to be locked in church with me. If granted unfettered ac- cess to the captive company of one or more Biblical characters or other historical characters of faith, this 'lockdown' could evolve into a transforming pilgrimage!"

Gladys Vendy