

Fr Hoyal writes

2008 RETROSPECT

As you know, on the whole I encourage people to look forward rather than back in parish life. But we need to look back, too. To forget is to lose the opportunity for gratitude, and there is always much to be grateful for. There can also be lessons to be learned. The big event of the year was of course our September festival to celebrate All Saints' 140th anniversary, partly an exercise in looking back but also very much concerned with identifying and claiming God's future for us here. But much else happened last year, as evident from the following notes:

Guest Preachers

Candlemas (1 February) – **Fr John Bradley** (formerly Vicar of Holy Nativity Knowle, Chaplain of St Monica's Trust)

Annunciation (31 March) – **Fr Simon Fisher** (Asst Curate, St Mary's Bathwick & St John's Bathwick)

Ascension Day (1 May) – **The Rt Revd Geoffrey Rowell**, Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe

Corpus Christi (22 May) – **The Revd Mark Pilgrim** (Vicar of Henleaze & Area Dean, Bristol West Deanery)

Confirmation Mass (22 June) – **The Rt Revd Andrew Burnham**, Bishop of Ebbsfleet)

Fr Brendan Clover's Jubilee Thanksgiving Mass (28 June) – **Canon Carl Turner** (Canon Precentor of Exeter Cathedral)

St Peter & St Paul's Day (29 June) – **The Revd Dr Francis Hoyal** (Founder, Nepali House Project)

Dedication Festival (6 July) – **Canon Donald Macdonald** (Curate of All Saints 1975-78)

Trinity 11 (3 August) – **The Revd Kim Taplin** (Chaplain of Clifton College)

All Saints 140 Opening Festival Mass (7 September) – **The Rt Revd Edwin Barnes** (President of Church Union and former Bishop of Richborough)

All Saints 140 Festival Evensong (7 September) – **The Ven Alan Hawker** (Archdeacon of Malmesbury)

All Saints 140 Closing Festival Mass (14 September) – **Fr Alan Moses** (Vicar of All Saints Margaret St, London)

Michaelmas (29 September) – **Fr Jonathan Baker** (Principal of Pusey House, Oxford)

All Saints Day (1 November) – **Prebendary Bill Scott** (Sub-Dean of Chapels Royal & Domestic Chaplain to The Queen)

Second Sunday before Advent (16 November) – **Tom Handy** (Trinity Ordinand)

Special Events

Mothers' Union children's Epiphany party (10 January)

Parish Growth Plan Workshop (19 January)

Thanksgiving Mass for All Saints Mothers' Union branch, now officially closed (20 January)

Parish Retreat at The Abbey House, Glastonbury (8-10 February) conducted by Fr Paul Spilsbury

Lent Course: *Growing the Kingdom*: [*Going for Growth* Richard Hoyal 12 February; *Growing in Numbers* Mary Benton 26 February; *Growing in Partnership* Anne Bradley 19 February; *Growing in Influence* Roger Hopkins 4 March; *Growing in Commitment* Norman Drewett 11 March]

Lent Appeal: Jessie May Trust and the Good Rock Foundation

Easter Monday parish walk – environs of Stanton Drew circle (24 March)

“Book! Books! Books!” Second-hand sale in atrium in aid of All Hallows restoration (26 April)

Christian Aid Week box collection at Clifton Down shopping centre (17 May)

Day of Prayer for apostolic unity and integrity (19 May) prior to House of Bishops' discussion of Manchester Report on women bishops

“Generations” – Evening of Poems with Music, performed by Jessica Smith and All Saints friends and others at All Hallows in aid of All Hallows restoration (30 May)

All Saints/All Hallows joint coach party to Glastonbury Pilgrimage (21 June)

July – Saturday Soup Run

Thanksgiving Mass to celebrate the year of the 80th birthdays and the diamond wedding of Fr John and Edna Morley Bunker (5 July)

Hour of Prayer at All Saints marking 175th anniversary of the Oxford Movement (14 July)

Garden Party at home of Judy Torrens and Nesta Thomas in aid of All Hallows restoration (19 July)

St John's School End of Year Service with farewell to Mrs Jean Shepherd, retiring Head (23 July)

All Saints parish pilgrimage to Walsingham, jointly with St Gregory's, Horfield (6-10 October)

“Summer Fun” - day of activities for youngsters at All Saints (26 August)

Festival Banner for All Saints 140 – completion and hanging (6 September)

All Saints 140 Hog Roast Lunch and Jazz (7 September)

Festival exhibition of Victorian art (7-14 September)

Festival Parish Businesses Reception (8 September)

Festival Victorian Dinner – Guest speaker: Jonathan Price (12 September)

All Saints participating in Bristol Open Doors Day on Festival Saturday (13 September)

Day Pilgrimage to Tewkesbury Abbey and St Mary's Priory, Deerhurst, with Church Union (20 September)

Kenneth's Smith 80th birthday celebration (28 September)

Church Union Lecture – Fr Henry Wansbrough (Editor in Chief, New Jerusalem Bible) on Can the Bible be used for Moral Guidance? (30 September)

Harvest Appeal for Windhill City Farm

Belgrave School harvest service (2 October)

Mothers' Union harvest lunch for the parish (5 October)

Ecumenical Friends of Fatima Association (EFFA) – annual meeting inc Solemn Mass with the Bishop of Richborough (the Rt Revd Keith Newton) presiding and Fr Spilsbury preaching (18 October)

Weekend art exhibition in atrium in aid of children's hospice (17-19 October)

Church of England “Catholic Societies” Requiem at All Saints (9 November)

Remembrance Day observance at Whiteladies Road War Memorial with St John's School and Clifton College representation (11 November)
Young@AllSaints Lunch (16 November)
Talk for *Affirming Catholicism* by James Patrick on "Why I am not a Member of *Affirming Catholicism*" (27 November)
"Advent Voices" service for Advent Sunday (30 November)
Belgrave School Carol Service (11 December)
St John's School Carol Service (17 December)
All Saints carol singing in aid of Cherry D outside former St John's church (20 December)
"The Great 'O's" – Advent Antiphon service (21 December)
Christmas Appeal for BibleLands
Monthly Walsingham Cell Masses, MU-Plus Masses, requiem Masses and Masses for healing

Occasional Offices

5 children's baptisms – 5 All Saints members confirmed (3 adults, 2 children) – 2 weddings (inc Alison Rundle & Stewart Edwards) – 1 marriage blessing (Tony & Lesley Wood's 25th anniversary thanksgiving) – 5 church funerals – 1 memorial service – 3 other crematorium services for parishioners

Over the year we had to bid farewell to several All Saints members, friends and close family members, among them Tom Davison (father of Ella), Kenneth Biggs (father of Brendan), Rosalind Brennand (mother of Vicki Gordon), Dennis Cleeve, Barbara Sharpe (Carlton Mansions), Alan Seager, George Deverson (father of Ruth), Tony Crabbe, Winnifred Babb, Kenneth Phelen (All Saints old boy), Michael Morgan (husband of Jill Morgan Edwards), Geoffrey Rickards (brother of Jean Thawley), the Revd John Weller, Diane Henderson (sister of Moira Henwood).

Music

The monthly Saturday Concert Matinees at 4pm continued to be popular, with a varied programme of contributors from All Saints and beyond, both instrumentalists and singers. They included:

Paul Fletcher, bass & Edna Blackwell, piano (26 January); Steven Kings, piano (26 February); Spring Concert with Charlotte Newstead, soprano, Pamela Rudge, alto and John Marsh, piano (20 April); Shelley Ezra, clarinet and Jennifer carter, piano (24 May); “Gypsy Fire” guitar jazz followed by tapas (21 June); “Summer Concert” farewell by Graham Davies with Hazel Fox, organ piano, oboe (26 July); University of Bristol Madrigal Ensemble (25 October); St Cecilia’s Day Organ Recital by John Davenport (22 November).

Other concerts have included:

“Ancient Inspirations” Passiontide music with David Bednall and lay clerks from Wells cathedral (9 March)

Passiontide Concert by Colston Girls School (15 March)

Bristol Grammar School Choral Society (29 March)

Blagovest Ensemble from St Petersburg (19/20 April) – Saturday concert of Russian church and folk music; they also sang at the Sunday Solemn Mass

“King of Kings” – C B DeMille’s great film to organ accompaniment by David Briggs (7 June)

“Music for a Summer’s Evening” Bristol Cabot Choir (27 June)

Eve of Festival Concert Matinee – Ian Yemm singing Faure & Vaughan Williams (6 September)

Festival Concert “Organ Fireworks” with Mark Lee (10 September)

“Sanctuary” with Christian Forshaw – major festival concert (13 September)

Concert & Curry Evening with Anup Biswas, international cellist (11 October)

“Northern Harmony” concert by visiting US students (2 November)

“Celebration for Easton” concert evening by Clifton College musicians in aid of All Hallows restoration (19 November)

St Cecilia’s Day concert “Appeared in Visions to All Musicians” – renaissance music sung by Armonia Apprezzata and Clifton Baroque Singers (22 November)

“O Magnum Mysterium” – music for Advent and Christmas sung by Fitzhardinge Singers in aid of Cherry D (5 December)

Christmas Carol Concert (7 December) – University of Bristol Chamber Choir

People

Richard Pedlar was appointed our new church architect in. In July Graham Davies took up the post of Director of Music at All Saints, High Wycombe. We remain grateful to him for all his work on our behalf. In November we were delighted to be able to appoint John Davenport, who had already done so much for us in the interim. In June Laura Williams took part in the Blenheim triathlon for BLISS, the premature baby charity. She and Kenneth Dalglish also announced their engagement during the year, as did Steve D'Evelyn (another choir member) and Rachel Blythe. Brendan Biggs and Tina Line were married in Salisbury in December. On 16 December Vera Price reached the age of 104.

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These notes are far from comprehensive. They omit mention of many regular activities, and of invaluable contributions made by among others our assistant clergy, parish readers, wardens, treasurer and assistants, choir, directors of music, assistant organists, servers, cleaners, sacristy helpers, PCC and committees, family service and children's helpers, children and young people's committee, parish growth committee, social and welcome committee, and other parish organizations and church groups. But they give some idea of the breadth of activities at All Saints. Nor must we forget those who hire All Saints premises for groups diverse as Alcoholics Anonymous, the Soroptomists and Kindermusik, among others.

Please give thanks for all who work so faithfully to make All Saints what it is. We are not promised an easy year politically and economically. All the more reason to pray that we do our best for God, for our parish and for one another in 2009, not least as we see to implement more of our parish growth programme.



THE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 2008 - A Day of Pilgrimage

I celebrated the Conception of Our Lady at a day of Pilgrimage in Coventry Cathedral. It was a day that was hosted by Affirming Catholicism, and Catholic Fresh Expressions. Although it was arranged by these bodies there were many members of Forward in Faith present and some workshops were led by SSC priests, it was truly inclusive. It was a day of contemplation and of sacramental worship in a fresh way. For me it was a day of exploration and revelation and joy.

It is some 30+ years since I have been to Coventry Cathedral and the space and sheer majesty of the place impressed me yet again. I was a young girl of 7 living in Coventry when the foundation stone was laid, so the ruins of the old Cathedral are in a way more a home to me.

We arrived and registered at 10 am, had coffee and looked at the bookstall. I bought another of Rowan Williams' books and also a second book of Ian Mobsby's on 'The Becoming of G-d', an Emerging Church exploration into Trinitarian theology and its meaning and deep spirituality in the 21st century.

I have been fascinated for some time in the Emerging Church movement, and having experienced some Catholic Fresh Expressions worship at the 2006 Affirming Catholicism Conference, I have wanted to become more involved. Sadly there is nothing in this Diocese, so this day of Pilgrimage (advertised on All Saints notice board for 2 months) was a chance not to be missed.

I will try and give you some feeling of the day. We were called to start our pilgrimage at the font by some African drumming and chanting. I had heard about this and was pleased to find it quite calming and not the headache inducing noise I thought it might be. The sanctuary party arrived with crucifer, thurifer and acolytes followed by the bishop of Coventry, the Abbot of a Benedictine order in Burford, and the Archbishop of Canterbury. We were called to prostrate ourselves fully on the ground before the font as a sign of our subjection before God. With over 300 people this was most impressive. There was music and members of the choir sang. We then knelt and renewed our baptismal vows. Then we were sprinkled with holy water. This took about 10 minutes, then the sanctuary party moved to seats below the chancel steps in front of a huge screen. Chairs were gathered in the round and half way down was a plain table and at the other end was another table with a basket of bread and flagons of wine. In silence we filled the seats, in the front row at various intervals, seated with the laity, were various bishops (the only one I recognised was +Stephen Cottrell) in albs with folded chasubles on their laps. At this point Archbishop gave a wonderful address, which I hope will be reproduced on their website. There was about 10 minutes silence as we sank deeper into stillness. PowerPoint images were projected onto the screen (and screens around the side aisles) of images of Our Lady, each melting into the next. Then we started to sing alleluia very softly and the Mass began. Always there were images on the screen. There were 2 Gospel processions, 2 deacons. The gospels were held high and shown to every corner of the congregation. Then they were read carefully, reverently. The female deacon read from Luke and the male deacon read from John 1, they read each verse antiphonally so the humanity of Mary, the Virginal Conception of Jesus and the Mystery of the Word were intertwined and became so real. During the gospels there were images on the screen of the moment of conception, of an

embryo in the womb, of icons of Mary, and of people hurrying about their daily business, and this was repeated over and over again while the Gospels were read to the background of the beating of a foetal heart, and the incense filled the nave. The intercessions were silent, they were our contemplation, the Lord's Prayer was said slowly and reverently using our hands first in the symbol of prayer, then opening our arms wide.

At the Offertory the basket of bread and the flagons of wine were passed from hand to hand through the congregation to ++Rowan for blessing. The altar was dressed by 2 women clergy in albs. There were lights in the space under the table and lengths of transparent material were passed to them (again coming through the congregation), these were put over the altar so a subdued light shone through and then a white altar cloth was placed on the table top. In the space in front of the front row there were bowls of burning charcoal with smaller bowls of incense and we were invited, if we wished, to come out and put some grains of incense on the charcoal. There were clouds of smoke filling the place, it was wonderful. The actions here showed that the whole was owned by the community. The bishops put their chasubles on at this point while remaining in the body of the people.

During the Eucharistic Prayer the bishops concelebrated from their places around the front row of the people – it was a sense of us all celebrating. Here the images on the screen were of Christ on the Cross. There was singing from the choir, sometimes it was plainsong, sometimes it was polyphony, and on occasions it was some wonderful modern chanting. The Mass 'finished' as we received communion, there was no dismissal here as the day had not ended and the whole day was a sacrament.

At this point we had a very good buffet lunch and caught up with friends. Then at 1.30 pm a bell rang and we moved back into the body of the Cathedral for an hour's silent contemplative prayer. For this there were stations around the sides with various ways of contemplation and we could move freely around. The Blessed Sacrament was exposed in the Chapel of Gethsemane, which is where I went for awhile, there was an overflow into the Lady Chapel next door. It became very crowded as people wanted to join the Archbishop in prayer, so I went back to the nave and sat and faced the high altar and that wonderful tapestry of Christ in Majesty. I found myself reflecting on something the Archbishop had said in his address, that we as Christian disciples must 'pray Jesus's prayer, live Jesus's life and walk in step with him even, if necessary, to hell and back.' This is something I can understand, our Christian discipleship is a costly struggle and we make many wrong turns.

At 2.30 pm a bell rang again and we went into our chosen workshops. I chose to go into 'Catholic Mission,' which was the biggest. We had 50 minutes which really was not anywhere near enough time to start a discussion. However, we heard about 2 communities in London which were part of Anglo-Catholic parishes.

At 3.30 pm we all gathered in the darkened choir for Benediction and Departure. By the time I got there the only space was on the black marble floor. The altar was ablaze with candles and we waited in silence for the sanctuary party to process in. +Stephen Cottrell was the celebrant here. We sang a version of the Magnificat to the tune of Amazing Grace. The accompanying musical instruments were saxophone, organ, drum, harp and guitar – and it was good. Then as the Blessed Sacrament was brought in from the Gethsemane Chapel we knelt and sang that wonderful hymn 'I cannot tell how he whom angels worship'. There was so much incense that the priest who

brought the Sacrament in was lost in it. Bishop Stephen led the prayers and the praises and we joined in the Lord's Prayer. Then as he blessed us we sang 'We bow down and confess'. Lights blazed from the centre of the cross on the high altar and beams reached every corner of the darkened choir. We remained kneeling before the altar until the Sacrament was taken away, then we stood and followed the cross and the bishops back through the Cathedral to the font where we had started our pilgrimage, singing 'Christ Triumphant, ever reigning'.

Here we gathered for the Sending Out. A cantor sang a plainsong hymn and we said some prayers finishing with us all saying,

God our Father,

The angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary

That she was to be the mother of your Son.

Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy.

help us whom you call to serve you to share like you in your great work

of bringing to our world your love and healing.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,

The light who is coming into the world.

AMEN

After this again we were sprinkled by Archbishop Rowan with holy water in the Benedictine tradition of the Abbot before they retire after Compline. We were then sent out.

As we left the Cathedral Archbishop Rowan stood at the door and said goodbye to everyone as they left.

Catholic Fresh Expressions is sacramental and contemplative. It is not a case of re-inventing the worship, it is using new ways of worship within the boundaries of the existing worship. I and a few

others are hoping to put a day or afternoon next year to explore this from a catholic point of view. We also hope to form a group of people who will worship together, perhaps, once a month. Are you interested in joining us?

Liz Badman, Parish Reader

MIDNIGHT MASS 2008

Sermon preached at All Saints Clifton by Fr Hoyal

The Birds *Hilaire Belloc*

When Jesus Christ was four years old
The angels brought Him toys of gold,
Which no man ever had bought or sold.

And yet with these He would not play.
He made Him small fowl out of clay,
And blessed them till they flew away:

Tu creasti Domine **Thou has created [all things], O Lord*

Jesus Christ, Thou child so wise,
Bless mine hands and fill mine eyes,
And bring my soul to Paradise.

“Godolphin Horne was nobly born. He held the human race in scorn”

So begins one of Hilaire Belloc’s delightful *Cautionary Tales* about young people with bad habits or defects of character who all come to a sticky end. Of young Horne we learn: “So now Godolphin is the boy who blacks the boots at the Savoy.”

Or there is the famously mendacious and ill-fated Matilda: “Matilda told such dreadful lies; it made one gasp and stretch one’s eyes.” But tragedy strikes because at the end no one will believe her: “For every time she shouted fire, they only answered ‘Little liar!’”

Then there is young Henry King with his dangerous eating habit: “The chief defect of Henry King was chewing little bits of string.” Be warned, not an example to follow, as Henry’s last words tell us: “Oh my friends be warned by me, that breakfast, dinner, lunch and tea are all the human frame requires...with that the wretched child expires.”

But Belloc, a devout Christian, wrote other thing, among them the little poem inserted in your service booklet. [*see above*] These lines have charmed many. Benjamin Britten, for example, famously set them as a carol. Certainly, I find them captivating, even enticing.

Of course, the poem is completely fanciful, though a verse in the Koran picks up on the poem’s basic idea, also to be found in the Apocryphal Gospel of Thomas, for instance. The canonical gospels have nothing to report of Jesus until he is 12.

But it is a wonderful picture that Belloc gives us, and it helps a lot in understanding why Christ came and was born for us in Bethlehem. Even to-night, as we gaze on the infant who lies in the manger, think for a moment of the child as Belloc sees him, now four years old already.

What would the four-year old Jesus want to play with? Well, the angels bring him wonderful toys, miraculous toys, toys never seen on earth, toys fashioned out of the most costly gold. You’d think the

young Jesus would be delighted. But these amazing and very precious angelic toys mean nothing to him. “And yet with these he did not play – he made him small fowl out of clay.” Jesus is happier fashioning little birds from the dust of the ground. He takes the most ordinary material and makes it into something very charming, very attractive. ... But he isn’t just wonderfully artistic. He is creative. “He made him small fowl out of clay, and blessed them till they flew away. In other words, he is anxious to create beautiful things, and what he creates he gives life to, so that his creatures can enjoy the gift of freedom.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is always creative - whether he is changing water into wine, or dull clay into living birds. “Tu creasti” is a quotation from the vision of heaven in the Book of Revelation: “Thou hast created all things, O Lord, and for thy pleasure they were created.” The Lord has made us because he delights in us. And like the little birds he so loves in the tale, he wants us to be free, to be able to fly. Christmas gives us a loving Saviour who always acts creatively – Behold I make all things new. Jesus hasn’t come to tell us off and curb our spirits. He hasn’t come to wear us down with having to behave properly all the time. Our Saviour has come to bless us with his life and love, so that in our hearts we can fly like birds and joyfully rise up to heaven.

And so with Belloc we pray...[*see third verse above*]. Yes, Jesus is the Wisdom of God, the all-holy power of divine love in a little child. And we rightly pray: Bless mine hands and fill mine eyes. That is: Lord Jesus, make us creative too. Bless what we do. Show us how to create beauty and kindness, and freedom for others. And fill our eyes with the full vision of your gentle glory. Help me to see as you see. Help us to see what you want us to see. That’s why you have come. That’s why we love you and trust you. That’s why we know that you

can indeed bring our souls to paradise. Your saving love gives us new life. Because you have come, we shall never die!

Perhaps you will get a quiet moment to return and kneel before the crib. You could do worse, by way of devotion, than recite Belloc's little poem in the presence of the little Saviour. It will do your soul good!

Advent Sunday marks a new initiative for younger members of All Saints

The children and young people's committee has been planning a new start for Sunday

school aged children. We have hoped to bring together children from both our Sunday morning services for several teaching sessions through the year and, also, to give them the chance to get to know each other.

Advent Sunday seemed an auspicious day for a new event and more than a dozen children (with some accompanying parents for the younger ones) met upstairs at 10.00 am. We started with a lively introduction featuring questions yes/no answers and much running about!

After this we circulated drinks and biscuits and Janice Callow talked about what Advent means to us and the visit of the Angel Gabriel. Despite the ongoing munching, the audience were attentive and interested.

Now came the sticky bit while each child made and decorated their own version of Angel Gabriel and soon the piano was full of them. We finished with some singing and came downstairs in time for 11.00 Mass.

We hope to plan another similar happening on 1st February.

Many children and families from the above gathering stayed for Mass afterwards (some for the first time). They were, therefore, offered a splendid opportunity to learn about what was happening. Enormous thanks are due to Father James who guided us all through the Mass and explained the procedure. I know many of the usual congregation found this very helpful and fascinating and I am sure that even the longest serving of us learned something new, or maybe forgotten.

Father James' research for this service has led him to more insights and helpful details and we do hope he may be persuaded to repeat this experience at some future time.

Many members of the congregation, both seasoned All Saints worshippers and new visitors have commented very positively on this opportunity for learning and understanding more about our faith.

**PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD
*CANDLEMAS***

**FRIDAY
2ND FEBRUARY**

**10.30 am
LOW MASS**



**7.30 pm
CANDLEMAS CEREMONIES &
FESTIVAL MASS**

***GUEST PREACHER* Fr John Hadley**
Rector of Holy Trinity Horfield

REFRESHMENTS AFTERWARDS

IN THIS MONTH ... JANUARY 1987

An extract from the *People at All Saints'* column, prepared for the Parish Magazine by Fr Bill Brunner, then our Curate, and Margaret Hunt, former member of All Saints' Choir.

‘Oh wasn’t his mitre high!’ was the spontaneous refrain after Bishop John Klyberg barnstormed his way into the affections of the All Saints’ congregation on an otherwise dismal November morning. No chasuble could be found big enough for the 6’2” Archbishop of Lusaka, but even the most impeccable fit would have failed to match the elegance of his own purple-piped soutane by Gamarelli of Rome and his wide cincture of breathtakingly pale magenta watered silk. Once the mitre was off, though, he didn’t mince his words from the pulpit, more than fulfilling the promise of his previous night’s slide lecture on Zambia organized by Stella Shute and Richard Harding. All Saints’ loved him, and he seems to have returned the compliment – after a fashion: looming over Fr Bill in the vestry afterwards, he pontificated: “Young man, you gotta five-star Mass here: appreciate it!”

[Rt Revd John Klyberg was Dean of Lusaka before he became Bishop of Fulham from 1985 till 1996, when he retired. He was a Guardian of Our Lady of Walsingham. After retirement he became a Roman Catholic and is now styled Rt Revd Monsignor.]