

The Newsletter

Number 108 – November 2022

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FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

A very warm welcome to the latest edition of the Newsletter from St George's, Paris, which marks a number of milestones.

First, this edition is the second to appear in this calendar year – something which hasn't happened for almost a decade, during which only one Newsletter managed to make its appearance each year. This was much to the chagrin of its late Editor, Pamela Lake, who was working towards providing a more regular publication of news and opinions from our Church community. This is now reality: I'm delighted that we have been able to keep faith with Pamela.

Secondly, this is the third of our new-style St George's Newsletters which appears in modern online format, with a few printed copies for those who prefer to have a print edition or who cannot download from the net. Reports seem to indicate that this hybrid format is appreciated. And then, with this edition, the number of contributors has reached a record high: I've counted no fewer than fifteen! This is a splendid testimony to the willingness and ability of so many of you to put metaphorical pen to paper; I have every expectation that our readers will find the contents at least as interesting as I have done.

Finally, my own thanks to everyone who has expressed a opinion on what has appeared thus far. Up until now, only positive opinions about the contents have been received – surely that can't last for ever (although we have high hopes)! But do feel free to let me or the clergy know what you think. There's nothing so good that can't be improved even more, after all!

Now, if you're one of those folk who are inclined not to read things through online as thoroughly as you might a paper version, can I encourage you to take time to peruse

all the talented writing on display here? After all, it's probably the best way of getting to know how a representative sample of your sisters and brothers in the Chaplaincy are thinking and experiencing their life among us.

And finally, finally... If you would like some writing of your own to appear in the next edition, please get in touch, at john_crothers@hotmail.com: I'll be only too happy to look at what you have to say. We're in the 'market' for articles (concerning the Chaplaincy or about a wide range of other topics), poetry and news items. Photographs are welcome too. And if you can write something "In the style of..." another author, please do: our last contribution, "in the style of P.G. Wodehouse", was extremely well received! My thanks to Fr Mark for his judicious formatting of the Newsletter, which makes it look as handsome as it does each time. A blessed Advent and a very Happy Christmas to you all.

John C



FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S DESK

'Time marches on' gives a good indication of the way in which the calendar can feel like a remorseless machine trampling on our delicate plans. Here at St George's, we have had a full rentrée with the unexpected death of HM Queen Elizabeth II. Ten days of national mourning in the UK gave us the window here at church for marking this important shift in British life; and it was very good to welcome HE Dame Menna Rawlings, the British Ambassador, to give the address, and the Ambassadors of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Zambia and the Irish Republic to the Solemn Evensong. Whilst the choir, flower arrangers, sidespeople and Churchwardens, Anne in the office and Fr Jeffrey in the French media, all gave endless hours to prepare for the Solemn Evensong on Saturday and the Requiem on Sunday morning, some of the most significant parts of that time seemed to be the moments people spent saying thank you for what St George's had provided: a space to come together, a moment of well-ordered liturgical commemoration, beautiful and uplifting music, a moment for them to mark the passing of someone who gave so much, unstintingly, for so long. I felt very privileged to be present in one more significant moment in the long history of St George's

Calendars are fascinating insights into the way humans divide up time, marking what is important and making space

Marion Rushworth:

23rd October 1933—3rd April 2022

Christopher Chantrey, with much-appreciated contributions from Marion's sister, Hilary, and Fr Martin Draper, remembers another true stalwart and real personality of St George's...

When you're as regular a parishioner as Marion was, you knew she'd pretty much always be at the Sunday Eucharist at St. George's, unless of course she was off on one of her many cruises. So one Sunday last November when friends of hers noticed her unexpected absence, they tried to telephone her. When she didn't answer her telephone, and her gardien said he had not seen her for several days, they began to get worried. The aid of the pompiers was enlisted to gain entry to her flat, and it was discovered that Marion had had a fall and was unable to move. She spent the last four months of her life in various hospitals, sustained by regular visits from her friends from St. George's and the other organisations she belonged to, notably the Paris Fine Arts Society (PADFAS) and the British and Commonwealth Women's Association (BCWA).



Marion spent most of her life in Paris, and was a stalwart of St. George's from her arrival in the 1960s. But before that, she had already had a varied international career, with positions in the British Consulate in Vancouver, Canada, then in San Francisco, before a short period in Hong Kong. Perhaps this reflected the mobile nature of her (military) family: she was born in Cairo, and from one of her army officer father's postings to another, lived in Farnborough, then Felixstowe, in Somerset and later Chislehurst in Kent.

She was educated at Berkhamsted School for Girls and, later, the Institut français in Kensington, before reading French and Latin at Southampton University. With her interest in France and French, and her international background, clearly Paris would beckon her sooner or later. In the early sixties she joined UNESCO as a secretary in the educational section. She prepared all the papers for her boss to present at meetings until, one day when he was off sick, he asked her to do the presentation on his behalf. A decision he probably regretted, as that day he lost a good secretary! Marion attracted the attention of someone high

for what their community cherishes. From the beginning of human history humans have marked the turning of the seasons, celebrated the hearth and home, and set aside communal times for rest, refreshment and celebration. Critics of Christianity are obsessed with the way in which the Church has taken over pagan rituals and re-tooled them to celebrate the Incarnation. We might remember – for ourselves or our children – the rituals of 'Back to School': new shoes, new books, a new pencil case promising neat handwriting, homework done without tears, an exciting new beginning. France has its own set of markers including, in almost every diary, the saints commemorated from time immemorial in local corners of the country.

The marking of the All Saints, All Souls and Remembrance-tide in the Kingdom Season surrounds us with a sense of the smallness of human time set against the vastness of human history. Christ the King, with its attendant confirmations, celebrates that, no matter what is going on in our lives or the community(-ies) in which we live, God is fully present. We look forward to Advent with the same sense of anticipation that Christ will come among us again.

Whilst Her late Majesty might not have had to balance many of the mundane things that fill our lives: laundry and baking for the Bazaar probably didn't feature in her diary - she did ensure she would be in church on Sunday morning. Putting being a disciple of Jesus Christ in a quiet, unshowy, way undergirded her ability to serve her people. The media was full of accounts of the ways in which people had met the Queen. Universally they were nervous; protocol, excitement, and wanting to demonstrate what they were doing meant her late Majesty was adept at putting people at their ease, even in the grandest circumstances.

Our faith is about both: putting God 'front and centre' in our priorities – whatever they are and working on being at peace with ourselves. Both of these are challenging! St George's puts the worship of God at the heart of our common life but it also tries to help each of us become fully the person God longs to know – in book groups, musical evenings, retreats and holidays, but above all by eating together. Celebrating the saints means looking at their lives and emulating the bits we can in order that we might be brought closer to God. The best way of celebrating Queen Elizabeth might be to mark our diaries with her priority of worship and the living out of her vocation in order to be the person God called her to be.

Fr Mark



up in the organisation who wanted to know who had prepared the papers in question, and when she confirmed that she had done so herself, he immediately insisted she be promoted to an executive position.

From that point onwards, her career flourished, mainly in the African sector, but for a brief period, in the Indian sector. She travelled extensively and had the satisfaction of setting up many educational establishments all over Africa. She found that the job could be very frustrating with all the bureaucracy of a huge organisation run by different nationalities, but in reality the work was rewarding. She took a year's sabbatical in the seventies, when she added to her qualifications a BEd from Oxford.

During her time at UNESCO and especially after retirement, she enthusiastically took up amateur dramatics (both with the Fontenoy Players at UNESCO, and at St. George's), as well as singing and painting. She joined the BCWA and PADFAS, thus enlarging her circle of friends. She always enjoyed travelling and cruising the seven seas, particularly on ships where they held singing competitions! She took a great interest in her niece and two nephews, never forgetting a birthday, and was generous to a fault. As the years passed and their families grew, she was Great Auntie to ten. In recent years she had regular visits from her great-niece Claire, while the latter was at university in Paris.

But as for so many of us, Marion's 'family' here in Paris was St. George's and her many friends.

We remember her insistence on order and clarity, and her frustration when (for example, in her dealings with computers and websites) values such as order and clarity were not to be had. She was not of the most patient nature (!) **

Fr Martin remembers Marion as being faithful and devout, in addition to being an extremely generous giver to St George's. She was always matter-of-fact and often very amusing: "She was 'head sidesman' in my time, a nomenclature whose absurdity amused her. She was very far from politically correct and her opinions were strongly held, in spite of the fact that she was rather a self-effacing person and never ever pushy. I was very fond of her. Her membership of the congregation at St George's embraced her with a community and gave her great comfort. She made many good and genuinely Christian friends there, to whom her family are indebted."

** Fr Mark remembers how, despite her reluctance to appear too keen, she was very glad to have Zoom installed on her computer during Covid-19!

Jean Cyril Valéry: 6th April 1941 – 17th July 2022

A familiar and well-liked figure around St George's for many years, Cyril Valéry died during the summer. His son, Rouben Valéry, one of our long-time servers, remembers his 'papa'...

My father left us on the night of 17th July, 2022, after a long period of hospitalisation, during his sleep, and with a smile on his face. Until the end, he had been faithful to his motto: SMILE!

Cyril was born on 6th April, 1941 in Plaine Williams, Mauritius. He came to France in September 1970 to work as a mechanic; it was through his meeting with my mother, Grace, that he discovered Saint George's Church in 1974. Although baptised a Catholic, following their marriage he chose to join the Anglican Communion and become involved in the life of the parish, both in the old church and the new.

For thirty years, he welcomed both Parisians and visitors as a sidesman. He considered it an honour to be in contact with people and placed at the service of the church his concern to ensure that everything was the best it could be when they attended mass, especially at the great feasts of Easter and Christmas.



He felt he should do just the same each time the Christmas Bazaar came round. For almost forty years he would approach anyone he considered a potential purchaser, whether in church, in the schools where he worked – anywhere, in fact – with his collection of pens and bundles of tickets in his hands, promising that they were just about to buy "le ticket gagnant". His nickname, "Monsieur Tombola", was certainly justified!

The Christmas period was also his favourite because of its meaning, its atmosphere, and the joy that this holiday brings to children. It was seeing the children smile that inspired him to take pleasure in decorating the parish hall when the children of the Sunday School gathered for their Christmas party.

A very large part of Cyril's life was thus linked to the story of St George's Church. Suffering as he did from serious heart problems from the beginning of this year and being hospitalised, he regretted not being able to return to 'his' parish. But he never missed an opportunity to recall certain memories dating back to the time of Frs Roger Greenacre or John Livingstone. Thus he left us with peace of mind, perhaps knowing who would be the next holders of the "winning ticket" but definitely leaving us this message: "Whatever happens, keep smiling!"

Obituary: Monsieur (Lucien) Gaspard

Fr Martin Draper remembers a loyal, yet self-effacing member of St George's, who left us a year or so ago...

When I arrived as Chaplain, Lucien ('Monsieur Gaspard' to all of us, of course) was described to me by Fr Livingstone as 'the father' of the Mauritian members of the congregation. That was not strictly accurate, because Grace Valéry told me that when she arrived at St George's in Fr Greenacre's time, there were no other Mauritians there!

But Monsieur Gaspard was certainly the oldest, and it is easy to see why he has been described as being some sort of father figure, and one who had built up the Mauritian presence at St. George's. I knew he was already retired, because every year the Chaplain had to write a one-line letter to whoever was responsible for paying his pension, declaring that 'he was alive and had appeared before me this day'. It was a novel request for me, and it was by telephoning Fr Livingstone, who had previously done it, that I found out what I had to do. Nobody really ever knew how old he actually was, and if we had tried to guess, we would probably have guessed wrongly.

During my first years as Chaplain, Lucien still organised a New Year's Party in the Church Hall. It was open to all but attended particularly by very large numbers of the Gaspard clan. It didn't even begin until midnight, and I remember having to open it by taking the first dance with Madame Gaspard! There were cauldrons of food and a well-stocked bar, both of which made a lot of money, all of which was always donated to church funds. Fortunately, as far as occupants of the building were concerned, if not for the Chaplain, New Year parties are considered to be such a normal part of French life that no one would ever complain about the noise! I tried both the studio flat and begging a bed from parishioners in order to get some sleep, particularly in those years when New Year's Day fell on a Sunday and, going down to celebrate the 8.30 a.m. mass, you would spot Lucien and other family members still clearing up in the church hall.

Lucien was also a member of the PCC for a number of years, after we made an effort to ensure that every community at St George's was represented. At those meetings he rarely spoke, if at all, but there he was, steadfastly representing the Mauritian community with dignity and discretion, as always.

I had not realised that he had returned to Mauritius, by which time he must have been a great age. We will remember him as a strong, discreet and stalwart presence at St. George's, always elegant at his place at the back of the church, Sunday after Sunday. We owed him a wonderful send-off, but the pandemic confinement would have made a proper funeral in Paris almost impossible. May he rest in peace.

THE ADVENT ANTIPHONS

At this time of year, as we begin our preparations for the great feast of Christmas, Fr Jeffrey reflects on those ancient verses which uniquely can help us prepare: The Advent Antiphons...

Everyone knows the 'hymn, 'O Come, O come Emmanuel', but not so many know where it comes from. It's based on seven short verses called the 'Advent Antiphons' which are said or sung at Vespers or Evening Prayer on the seven days running up to Christmas Eve.

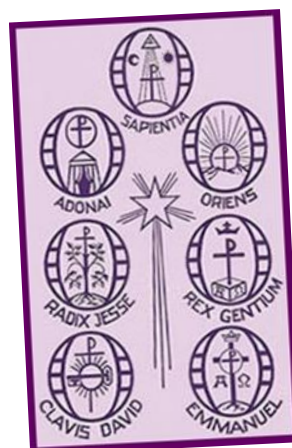
They are at least as old as the sixth century, since Boethius refers to them in his Consolations of Philosophy. Each verse is based on a different title for Jesus: 17 December: O Sapientia ('O Wisdom'); 18 December: O Adonai ('O Lord'); 19 December: O Radix Jesse ('O Root of Jesse'); 20 December: O Clavis David ('O Key of David'); 21 December: O Oriens ('O Dayspring'); 22 December: O

Rex Gentium ('O King of the Nations'); 23 December: O Emmanuel ('O God with Us').

All these titles are taken from scripture, in particular from the Old Testament prophecies that looked forward to the day when God himself would come as Saviour to lead us home to him. So Jesus is

- ◆ the Wisdom of God, through whom everything was made (1 Corinthians 1:24)
- ◆ Jesus Adonai, the Hebrew for 'The Lord' (Philippians 2:11)
- ◆ Jesus the Root of Jesse and King of Kings, the last and ultimate king in David's line (Jesse was David's father) (Isaiah 11:10)
- ◆ Jesus the Key of David, who opens up the kingdom of God to all people (Isaiah 22:22; Rev 3:7)
- ◆ Jesus the Dayspring or Morning Star, who brings in a new dawn of salvation for the world (Isaiah 14:12; Rev 2:28)
- ◆ Jesus the King and Desire of the Nations, the one who holds the ultimate answer to the yearnings of all peoples for peace and harmony (Haggai 2:7; Rev 19:16)
- ◆ Jesus Emmanuel, meaning God With Us, God as one of us. (Matthew 2:23; Isaiah 7:14).

It's that ages-long period of preparation that we remember in Advent, when we look forward to celebrating how those promises were finally fulfilled in the birth of Jesus, God With Us, at Christmas. The sequence of the Antiphons is



not accidental. They make a sort of acrostic. If you read the initial letters of the Latin titles of Jesus in reverse order, they spell ERO CRAS – 'Tomorrow I Shall Be There' – an appropriate culmination on Christmas Eve. This year, despite what the commercial world does, don't let Christmas come too soon and crowd Advent out. Preparing spiritually is important - and meditating on the titles of Jesus in the Advent Antiphons is a good way to do it.

CHOIR CORNER

Perhaps the longest-standing (and longest-singing) member of St George's Choir, Paul Willenbrock, reflects on what it means to 'stand in the corner'...

As I have been singing at St George's for 42 years, I have accepted the challenge of contributing a few unashamedly personal reflections on singing at St George's, even though my participation in the choir was until recently sporadic, as I always had to prioritise paid work, whether on tour or singing at Notre-Dame or the American Cathedral.

With advancing years and declining health (various close encounters with the Grim Reaper having undeniably taken their toll), I definitively retired from the music scene earlier this year. Consequently, as I can't recall any moment in my life when I haven't sung (except perhaps during a week-long coma after cardiac arrest), I'm glad now to be able to sing regularly with Dr Hicks' happy band of singers, which gives

me the impression that I am not yet completely ready for the scrap-heap and can perhaps still be of some use or service.

I particularly appreciate their good-humoured tolerance of my attempts (if not always successful) to insist on singing Renaissance music at the pitch presumably intended by the composer – not so much to satisfy the pedant in me, but simply because, at my age, the lower the music the more comfortable I feel... and over the years I have increasingly come to the not altogether disinterested conclusion that, if the bass is happy, then all is well with the world!

As from my youngest years I have always had an insatiable desire to discover composers and music that I have never sung or heard before - or even heard of - I am glad that choir members on the whole share my curiosity and are willing to try out at least some of the music I find in the many hours I spend hunting obscure treasures on the internet. Ever since Covid hit us, the choir has often been quite small-scale, not to say intimate (which personally I quite like), and we also had to sing masked for a good (or rather, bad) year. Sometimes we don't actually have a full standard quartet, which has found us trying out small-scale, sometimes simpler music, including some refreshingly "cheap and cheerful" masses and motets from little-known but none the less charming Bohemian, Bavarian (etc.) composers, which fortunately seem to have gone down fairly well with clergy and congregation alike. In my arrogant youth I admit that I would have dismissed such works as worthless, but now in my twilight years I relish their honest, practical, devotional simplicity.

I cannot emphasize enough how very fortunate we are to have the clergy very much on our side, with Fr Mark showing a degree of interest and enthusiasm in our musical offering, such as I have never experienced before from any priest anywhere, and poles apart from what I experienced when singing at Notre-Dame, where the Archbishop, Cardinal Vingt-Trois (his actual name, not his number!) was reputed to have said to the wonderful music director, Lionel Sow, "Si vous saviez à quel point je m'en fous de votre musique!" Mark's enthusiasm is a constant encouragement, stimulating us in turn to be as attentive as possible to the specific needs of each service, whether festive or meditative, happy or sad, sophisticated or simple, long or short.

I find it healthy that members of the congregation feel free to express their opinions on our efforts; their spontaneous, frankly expressed reactions - even if at times (politely) negative - help me feel that getting up at the crack of dawn on Sundays in order to get body and soul (?) sufficiently into shape to get me to church (more or less) on time for rehearsal is not altogether in vain. With the eclectic range of repertoire we like to offer (perhaps the most eclectic of any church in the whole of Christendom!), inevitably we can't please everybody all the time, but such is life!

It is so nice that the congregation appreciates that the organ voluntary is part of the worship, listening in silence right to the very end... such a difference from the American Cathedral where only a tiny handful of eccentrics bother to listen to their wonderful organist, Andrew Dewar, apparently regarding his impressive performances

as mere background music to their very loud conversations - even though the titles of his pre- and post-service voluntaries are actually printed in the (40-page!) "Bulletin", as they call it there.

A final thought, on service sheets: I know St George's doesn't have the luxury of being able to provide 40-page "Bulletins", but it would be wonderful if the text and/or translation of the communion motet could somehow always be squeezed into them. Much thought usually goes into choosing these motets and it's a pity if nobody can understand what we're singing. Does anyone agree? I do know that, ideally, some people would also appreciate the inclusion of the names and dates of the authors of the hymns*, though it must be said that they could always find them in the hymnbooks. It is so difficult making everybody happy, isn't it!

* And the name of the tunes! – Ed.

OUR CHAPLAINCY RETREAT, OCT 2022

This year's Retreat took place in a new location in the north of France. Jill Whitman gives a flavour of what it was like to be there...



From the second floor of the guest wing of the Mont des Cats Abbey where a dozen of us met for a weekend retreat in early October, it is possible to get a bird's eye view of the interior of the church.

Whether from there or in the nave of the church, watching and participating as the Cistercian monks perform their daily round of monastic services is thought-provoking indeed. How committed would one need to be to embrace their lifestyle? We are fortunate to be able to worship together in such an environment, even if only occasionally.

The Abbey may not be the easiest place to reach, but it is well worth the effort. Those of us dependent on trains are in the debt of friends who kindly chauffeured us to and from the site. The setting, high on a hilltop near the Belgian border, is immensely peaceful, with beautifully landscaped grounds.



Notwithstanding the nip in the air, the sun shone when we needed it most.

The Abbey's current buildings are fairly recent, largely due to the ravages of war. Outside the gates, the Chapelle de la Passion, easily as full of grace as the main church, is an intimate spot for private prayer and meditation. On the wall beside it is a touching memorial to the 60,000 Canadians who died fighting in WWI. Small world!



Undoubtedly the greatest draw outside the monastery gate is the open view of the landscape, disrupted by relatively few joggers and tourists. Then there's the giftshop that offers, along with much else, the local cheese and beer of which the Abbey is rightly proud. The bar/café across the road proves that point at incredibly low prices by Paris standards, but the simple meals we shared in silence in the Abbey were just as enjoyable.

Unsurprisingly, the major benefit of the weekend was our sessions with Fr Jeffrey, who enlightened us on "what the Bible is and is not" in a stimulating series of addresses that had us eager to ask questions and share comments. He and Fr Grant are remarkably erudite, and I hope they know how much we appreciate them. I'm sure I'm not alone in already looking forward to the next Retreat.



PRAYING (EVEN FURTHER) AWAY...

From his experience of travelling, Fr Grant offers us some thoughts on the 'baggage' we might bring with us on pilgrimage...

You may already be aware of my lifestyle as a retired but peripatetic priest.

After an initial honeymoon period when we first arrived in Paris and I could worship Sunday by Sunday in St George's,

my sacramental life soon became given away to other Anglican communities; namely St Mary's, Caen, and then St Luke's, Fontainebleau. With the creation of the Rural Deaneries of Northeast and Northwest France, my journeys to Caen ceased as the Archdeacon of France took over as acting Rural Dean for the northwest and became responsible, alongside the Churchwardens at St Mary's, for the provision of a sacramental ministry there. My plan was to continue to help out at Fontainebleau whenever possible but to reserve at least one Sunday a month to be in St George's. Odd though it may seem, I miss you all!

But that plan hasn't quite come to fruition. Instead of one Sunday a month, it looks like being one Sunday in thirteen weeks. I have had to offer two Sundays to St Mary's as they've been without a priest for most of the time since the new Deanery came into being, although Bishop Robert and the Archdeacon were both there on Sunday, 9th October. So I will be in Caen for 'Christ the King' and for Advent III as well as my Sundays in Fontainebleau.

But I have during September been 'praying away' even further afield! I was the replacement priest for a party of Americans who were on a "Faith & Heritage Pilgrimage" to the UK. The trip meant we visited London, St Albans, Canterbury, Tetbury, York and Edinburgh in a matter of fifteen days; quite a whirlwind trip, with much packing and unpacking of cases.

I have to say that these American cousins of ours didn't grasp the concept of 'travelling light' and some even bought extra suitcases as the pilgrimage progressed; I think that two of them managed to keep the UK economy out of recession for the last quarter single-handed! As an attempt to moderate the pace of life imposed on the pilgrims by the distances we were intending to cover, I produced a "Thought for the Day" for every day of the pilgrimage, even for the initial packing day and the trans-Atlantic day. Here's what they were given to read on 'Packing Day'. It may have something to say to you, as it did to me even as I sat writing it.

“

Ask yourself this question: "Is there any difference between packing to go on holiday and packing to go on pilgrimage?"

I am an obsessive packer! I take great care to pack properly, so that

things will not move about in the case during transit. What is the point of ironing and folding everything, only for it to emerge from the case crumpled and creased? So I fold and re-fold, I pack and re-pack, so that every level is correct and all the spaces perfectly filled. I draw the zip around, knowing that this half of the case is safe, secure and solid. The journey and the baggage handlers will leave it blissfully unchanged...

Then there's the other half of the case: the section where the shoes, the wash bag and the things that move about are packed. Even here I am careful. I put the weightier things at the bottom near the wheels. Those useful spaces within the shoes are filled with belts, with socks, with electric cables and plugs. And finally I cover the whole unsatisfying jumble with something that gives the appearance of safety, security and solidity. The case can be locked and labelled.

That's the luggage that'll be weighed-in and checked-in. But there's more that you get to take with you on a pilgrimage. You

get to take your “personal baggage”, and packing that needs careful thought too. The guide to packing “personal baggage” for pilgrimage comes in the form of questions.

“Why am I going on pilgrimage?”

“What am I hoping to find?”

“Will there be space for it in my already heavy baggage?”

Surely you’ve learned something from other pilgrimages about what you will and will not need on this one. Take a good look at yourself and shed a few useless spiritual pounds. But do pack the questions.

Why? Because you’re hoping to hear the whispers of answers in the holy places you visit and on the lips of your fellow pilgrims. Pack the jumble that is you and leave some space around it, because this time you do want the journey and the baggage handler to have an impact on the contents. The baggage handler is God, so don’t lock this case. Give him easy access and pray that when you bring your ‘personal baggage’ home it will be less of a jumble and far lighter than you’d ever thought possible.

UNE GRANDE RÉUSSITE POUR TIMOTHÉ

Readers of the Newsletter have been following with interest the progress of Timothé Razafindratsima, as he works his way towards the top in the world of competitive chess. Here, Stephen and Holi, Timothé’s parents, give us a flavour of the latest competitions and the results he has obtained...



Après être passé au Journal de France 2 au mois de mai 2021, et avoir obtenu sa première norme de Maître International (MI) à Gihón, en Espagne la même année, Timothé a gagné un tournoi important en février 2022. Les gains de ce tournoi lui ont permis de progresser plus rapidement qu’auparavant. Comme je l’ai écrit dans la dernière Newsletter, « Nous rendons grâce à Dieu qui lui donne le talent. Il continue à travailler en gardant la foi, en effet «la foi sans acte est chose morte» (Jacques 2 :17) ». Le travail a payé, puisque Timothé obtient sa deuxième norme de MI au mois de juillet 2022 au tournoi de Maître de Juvisy. Un mois plus tard (août 2022), il obtient sa troisième et dernière norme à Spilimbergo, dans la province de Pordenone en Italie. Timothé est désormais Maître International. Gloire à Dieu!

Timothé participe alors au Championnat du Monde des moins de 16 ans à Mamaia, en Roumanie au mois de septembre 2022. Il mène le tournoi à quatre rondes de la fin !

La Fédération Internationale des Echecs publie sur Facebook sa photo avec le texte : « Le Regard du Gagnant – Le Français Timothé Razafindratsima est le seul leader dans la catégorie Open U16, avec 6,5 points/7 ».

Mais le jeu d’échecs n’est pas seulement technique, il y a une grande partie du « mental » qui fait partie du jeu. Peut-être que Timothé a appréhendé porter le titre de Champion du Monde ou que la pression a été trop forte. Il commence par faire match nul à la ronde suivante, il a ensuite enchaîné deux défaites avant de gagner la dernière ronde. Ce qui le place au pied du podium (4ème place) lors de ce championnat du monde 2022 des moins de 16 ans. Comme disait Saint Paul, « Nous savons que toutes choses concourent au bien de ceux qui aiment Dieu, de ceux qui sont appelés selon son éternel dessein » (Romains 8 :28). Nous croyons que Dieu a un plan pour Timothé. Le chemin est encore loin pour obtenir le titre de Grand Maître International d’Echecs (GMI)...

BIBLE QUOTATIONS QUIZ 2

For those of you who like a challenge, here is another Bible Quiz, set by ‘A Parishioner’. The answers will be found near the back of the Newsletter.

All quotes are from the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations, which uses the Authorised (King James) version of the Bible. Simply name the Books from which the excerpts are



taken. Please note that quotations are not necessarily in Book order, and that some Books may feature more than once!

1. Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.
2. Touch me not.
3. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord.
4. O foolish ***** , who hath bewitched you?
5. I appeal unto Caesar.
6. Though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.
7. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites.
8. Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin.
9. Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked with us by the way?
10. What I have written, I have written.
11. Get thee behind me, Satan!
12. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

L'INSTITUT SUPÉRIEUR D'ÉTUDES ŒCUMÉNIQUES

Natacha Tinteroff explains the key work of this important institution, not always well-known, but part of the ecumenical involvement of St George's...

St George's Paris enjoys a long-established ecumenical tradition. It has had an importance in the history of Christian unity in France out of all proportion to its size. Successive chaplains have contributed to Anglican-Roman Catholic dialogue. However, at St George's, ecumenical work is not confined to the clergy. Several members of the congregation are involved with various initiatives, like "French ARC" and teaching at the Institute for Advanced Ecumenical Studies of Paris, commonly known as ISEO in French.

Since its beginnings in 1967, ISEO has been an academic institution supported by the Catholic University of Paris, the Protestant Institute of Theology, and St Sergius Institute of Orthodox Theology, which are the main educational theological foundations in Paris. ISEO is also under the patronage of the Council of Christian Churches in France (CECEF). This enterprise brings together scholars from various Christian denominations and institutions while maintaining a close co-operation with many other bodies like the Ecumenical Institutes in Bossey and Jerusalem or the Istina Centre.

ISEO was set up to train not only ecumenical experts but also a wider audience, while not neglecting scientific research. Its annual international colloquium brings together about 250 attendees each year. Today, ISEO welcomes many students, ordained or not, who study for advanced degrees, while also educating committed Christians who are beginners or just attend various courses as external observers. Not being submitted to assessment, the latter seek to deepen their understanding as well as experiencing cooperation and genuine dialogue with students and teaching staff. Indeed, the quality of relationships established is an essential dimension of the experience at ISEO.

One of ISEO's hallmarks is "multiple voices" - seminars taught by several scholars from different denominations. Another is that it offers one of the very few courses on Anglicanism which can be found in mainland Europe and which helps local audiences acquire a better understanding of the Church of England and the Anglican Communion. Details on the Institute can be found at:
www.icp.fr/a-propos-de-licp/decouvrez-licp/facultes-et-instituts/institut-superieur-detudes-oeumeniques-iseo-1

LE MAGAZINE ANGLICAN

The topical and varied radio programme continues on the fourth Saturday of every month on 100.7FM and DAB+. Newsletter Editor, John Crothers, who, along with Laurence Moachon, co-presents the programme, brings us up to date...

The June 2022 edition introduced listeners to the Anglican presence in Rome. Alongside Archbishop Ian Ernest, the Director of the Anglican Centre, the young seminarist and missionary Joris Bürmann spoke about his spiritual journey and his work which is currently divided between Rome and the Eglise française du Saint-Esprit in New York City. This place of worship, known locally as "the Huguenot Church", welcomed many French Protestants who crossed the Atlantic to flee the persecution that followed Louis XIV's Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685.*

Joris, who is fluent in a number of languages, holds qualifications from the Ecole Normale Supérieure (rue d'Ulm) and Harvard University. He has been accepted for study for the Anglican priesthood. Born and brought up in Brittany in a Roman Catholic milieu but in a secular environment, in this edition he tells the story of how he came to a living Christian faith. Listen between 10'10" and 16'00": <https://frequenceprotestante.com/events/les-anglicans-a-rome/>

The September edition dealt at length with the Lambeth Conference, held during the summer. Featuring extracts of recordings from the Conference, the programme examined the challenges experienced and the future prospects for worldwide Anglicanism:

<https://frequenceprotestante.com/events/le-magazine-anglican/>



In October, the work of the great English composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams, who edited the music for The English Hymnal of 1906, was celebrated. As 2022 is the 150th anniversary of his birth, a number of musical examples of his work featured prominently. (The English Hymnal was the forerunner of our New English Hymnal, from which we in St George's sing each Sunday, and the Revised English Hymnal, due to be published in 2023.)

Vaughan Williams, an agnostic, was one of the least likely people to be chosen as music editor of a hymn book – something he himself firmly believed – but in the end he did such a splendid job that he almost single-handedly changed the face and the future of church music in England and far beyond. Listen here: <https://podcasts.audiomeans.fr/le-magazine-anglican-a6440b83/ralph-vaughan-williams-et-lhymnaire-de-leglise-dangleterre-95497cad>

The November edition deals with Anglicans and the environment – a 'hot' topic, given the Church's growing

concern about climate change and ways in which we can do our bit to help slow down global warming.

As is now customary, the December edition will introduce listeners to Christmas Carols as heard in Anglican churches around the world. This year, Carols “heard in unusual places” will take listeners on a voyage of discovery right around the Anglican world, including those places where they celebrate an “upside-down Christmas” – on the beach under a blazing sun!

Do feel free to make a regular date with the programme on the fourth Saturday of each month: after all, no other radio programme (in France at least) deals in such detail with matters of genuine concern and interest to all who worship in a church of the Anglican Communion.

* Personal Footnote: I myself found it a place of welcome – and refuge – last July when, in the torrid humidity of a New York summer, I found myself in need of somewhere to sleep that had air conditioning! The Chaplain of Saint-Esprit in New York City is Revd Nigel Massey, a former Pastoral Assistant in St George’s in the 1990s. As the first person from Fr Nigel’s Paris training chaplaincy to turn up at Saint-Esprit when he was in charge, I was given the honour of reading the First Lesson (in French) at the Sunday Eucharist. Fr Nigel sends his affectionate thoughts and prayers to the clergy and people of St George’s, Paris.

OUR BIG ‘200’ – a Hymn (and Tune) for St. George’s

A new hymn, together with its tune - just for us - will be premiered at the Bicentenary celebrations of our Chaplaincy in 2024. First, however, both text and tune have to be sourced. John Crothers explains how...

When the Bicentenary Planning Committee were thinking about how to mark this milestone (borne kilométrique?) in the life of our Chaplaincy here in Paris, one idea that was mooted was of a ‘hymn search’ – a quest for words that would express who we as a Chaplaincy are, allied to a tune which would enable all of us to sing them and make them our own.

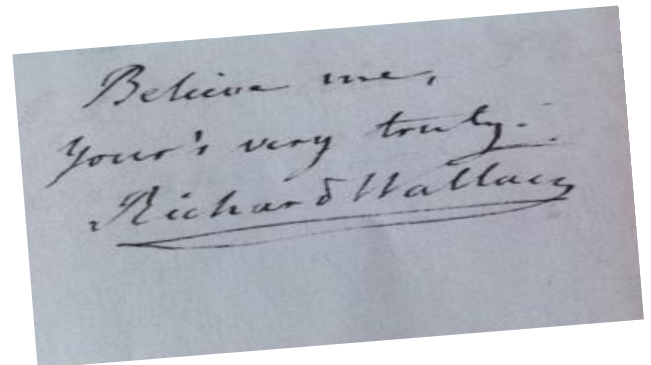
At the September 2022 meeting of the Chaplaincy Council, it was subsequently agreed that, as part of the Bicentenary celebrations for St George’s, a Hymn Search (or Hymn Competition) should be organised, the winning entries in the categories of text and tune to be sung for the first time at our Festival Eucharist in 2024.

As a result, from November 2022, entries have been invited from across the world, and a Panel of Judges will decide on the most suitable entry in each category. The winning entrants will be invited to attend the Bicentenary Festival Eucharist.

If you go to the Church website, you will find a link which will take you to the Rules for the Search/Competition, a copy of which is available on the internet to all interested parties. We would encourage you – even if you’ve never before tried your hand at writing verse – to think about what you might say and to submit an entry in either category – or both. Who knows? The winner might be a member of our own Chaplaincy community!

OUR GREAT BENEFACTOR

*In just over a year’s time, we shall be celebrating the Bicentenary year of the founding of St George’s Church. In a special letter, **Anthea McWilliams**, Founder-Director of the Richard Wallace Trust, introduces us to someone without whose generosity the fourth church would never have been built... Believe me, yours very truly ... a little something on Sir Richard Wallace and his fountains*



Dear Friends at St George’s Church, Paris, I am writing to you from the R-Space Gallery in Lisburn, Co. Antrim, where we already know something about Sir Richard Wallace, but this year, in 2022, we have learnt quite a bit more. The last time I was with you was in 2018 when I visited Paris with members of Lisburn Historical Society, all in celebration of the Bicentenary of the birth of Sir Richard in 1818.

That was the same time that pupils from Lisburn’s Wallace High School choir also happened to visit St George’s, where they contributed to the worship. A wonderful coincidence. Whilst in Paris, we also attended an event at the British Embassy, a first for me; my delight knew no bounds on discovering a Wallace Fountain in the grounds!



Fast forward to 2022, and lots has happened in recognition of Sir Richard and his famous fountains. I had the pleasure of meeting a new American friend, Barbara Lambesis, who has been travelling between Arizona and Paris since 2014 and who, during that time, had launched herself into the pulsating pastime of fountain finding. She has formed the Society of Wallace Fountains, published the bi-lingual book: *Find the Wallace Fountains: Find Paris*, now in its second edition, and connected with organisations and agencies across Paris to put *Les Fontaines Wallace* firmly on the map www.wallacefountains.org

She even made time to visit Lisburn and Northern Ireland for the first time in August this year, and we hit it off, as I have something of a passion for the fountains too. During annual visits to France in the 2000s, I would find and photograph as many as I could. Why was that? Because Lisburn has two Wallace Fountains (of the original five

donated by Wallace in the 1870s). London has only one, albeit at The Wallace Collection in Manchester Square. Also, I focused my research as part of my Masters in Cultural Management at the University of Ulster in 2000 on the Historical & Cultural legacy of The Great Man!



Photos of Wallace Fountains throughout Paris and France...just a sample.

It was with delight, then, that in September of this year I came back to Paris to attend a special dinner at the British Embassy to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Wallace Fountains. It was back in 1872 when Wallace donated fifty drinking fountains to the people of Paris, something which is now the stuff of legend. I was so pleased to attend, that I even arranged for the chocolate fountain molds that I had commissioned in 2005 in Belfast to be available for the chefs at the Embassy to make their own version. A piece of cake, as it were!

Another wonderful event was scheduled last September at the Château de Bagatelle in the Bois de Boulogne, where I was to be a guest of the *Fondation Mansart*, who were hosting a reception to celebrate the first phase of the restoration work that has been completed on this historic building. There was also a book launch and the unveiling of a new bust of Sir Richard. The champagne was wonderful, as was your Editor's company. That said, we were both in great company!



Anthea & John with the new books: *Sir Richard Wallace* and *Le Roman de Bagatelle* both by Audrey de Montgolfier

Meanwhile, back in Lisburn's R-Space we scheduled an annual exhibition entitled *Re: New_Wallace*, which sees a selected Northern Irish artist spend a week in residence at the Wallace Collection in London. Thereafter, they will create a new body of work to be exhibited for a month in Lisburn. The next exhibition will be in June 2023. Our most recent commission in April 2022 (delayed, as a result of the Pandemic) was a first



Anthea in Castle Gardens, Co. Antrim and Barbara Lambesis 2022

animation involving a Northern Irish animator, Meg Earls, and two composers: Parisian Nelson Santoni and Neil Foster from Co. Down. Entitled *Oh, l'eau, l'eau!* (see the link on the Gallery website), the short work reveals the story of how Richard Jackson came to Paris as a boy to be brought up by his paternal grandmother, Mie-Mie. He grew to manhood and served as his father's secretary, buying art at European art auctions, just as his predecessors, the Third and Forth Marquesses of Hertford, had done. After the Paris Siege in 1870-71, he designed and delivered the Fountains, thus providing safe drinking water for the people of the city.* In Lisburn, we are proud of this story and thrilled that we have a little bit of Paris in our public gardens. The foundry, GHM, now located in the east of France, still make the fountains, but we need to find around €40,000 to pay for a new one, a dream of mine. Any offers?

Believe me, yours very truly, *Anthea M. Willoughby*

* The munificence of Sir Richard in Paris was not limited to providing drinking water, opening a hospital and creating a fund for impoverished British people; it also extended to providing funds to allow the opening of the original St George's Church building. Look out for much more about this in future editions of the *Newsletter* and during our Bicentenary year. – Ed.

CECILIA

In late November, we are drawn to think of Saint Cecilia, patron saint of the musical arts, whose festival falls on the 22nd. In recalling her, Malcolm Guite has penned these lines... (Our thanks to Church Times.)

Cecilia, give way to grace again,
Transmute it into music for us all:
Music to stir and call the sleeping soul,
And set a counterpoint to all our pain,
To bless our senses in their very essence
And undergird our sorrow in good ground.

Music to summon undeserved abundance,
Unlooked-for over-brimming, rich and
strong;
The unexpected plenitude of sound
Becoming song.

GOING PLACES (as a Senior)...

Taken from an article by Rebecca Paveley, these journeys may be all too familiar for some of us...

I've been to many places in my life, but I've never been in *Cognito*. I hear no one recognises you there. According to my friends and family, I've been in *Sane*. There's no airport, of course, so you have to be driven there. That figures...
I would like to go to *Conclusions*, but you have to jump, and I'm not too hot on physical activity these days...
I know I've been in *Flexible*, but only when I felt it was important to stand firm.
Now and then I know I'm in *Capable*, and I seem to go there more often as I get older...
Sometimes I fondly imagine I'm in *Vincible*, but life rudely shows me that I'm not...
People keep telling me I'm in *Denial*, but I'm positive that I've never been there!
I have been in *Deep*... The older I get, the easier it is to get there.
So far, I haven't been in *Continent*, but my travel agent says it's on the list...

BIBLE QUOTATIONS QUIZ 2 – Answers

Here are the answers to the Quiz found towards the middle of our Newsletter...

1. Luke 1:28
2. John 20:17
3. Revelation 1:8
4. Galatians 3:1
5. Acts 25:11
6. I Corinthians 13:2
7. Mark 12:42
8. Matthew 6:28
9. Luke 24:32
10. John 19:22
11. Matthew 16:23
12. Matthew 19:24

The *Church Times* is the world's leading Anglican newspaper. It generously allows us to use material in our Newsletter – you might like to browse a paper copy (available at the top of the stairs).

CHURCH TIMES

the world's leading Anglican newspaper

The *Church Times*, founded in 1863, is known for informed and independent reporting of Church and world news. Each issue includes wide-ranging features and interviews, Bible commentary, lively debate on current affairs, cartoons, book reviews, and more. The *Church Times* was a family concern until 1989, when ownership passed to Hymns Ancient & Modern, a Christian charitable trust. It has

always been independent of the Church of England hierarchy.

The *Church Times* was started to campaign for Anglo-Catholic principles, which it did with vigour and rudeness. But in the 1940s and '50s the paper began the move to broaden its outlook and coverage. It now attempts to provide balanced and fair reporting of events and opinions across the whole range of Anglican affairs. The rudeness we now leave to our readers. New readers can subscribe from just £10. Stay up-to-date with the church and world news that matters, wide-ranging features and interviews, lively debate on current affairs and much, much more.



They preferred traditional worship music

FROM THE CHAPLAINCY REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

28 Aug 2022	Raphael RAHJONSON
3 Sept 2022	Marley Rose Françoise GUILLAUMENT-SHAW
2 Oct 2022	Ruby Alexandra Frances MOORE
23 Oct 2022	Anjaratiana Prisca RANDRIAMIFIDY
23 Oct 2022	Meghan Soa RAKOTOARIMIANDRA
23 Oct 2022	Kenso Avo RAKOTOARIMIANDRA
20 Nov 2022	Alexandre Jean André HUILLET-RAFFI
20 Nov 2022	Alice Monique Marie-Beatrice DÉCAT-JAILLAT

Confirmation by Bishop Nicholas Reade on 20 Nov 2022

Adults	Alexandre Jean André HUILLET-RAFFI
	Alice Monique Marie-Beatrice DÉCAT-JAILLAT
	Samson Emmanuel Gabriel BREDÁ
	Marie Louise BERG
	Tsiaro Andriamaheta RAMALA
	Hobiniana Fabiana RAMALA

Teenagers	Nathan Dimbiniana RAZAFINDRATSIMA
	Lucas Aroniaina RAZAFINDRATSIMA
	James Tancred Christopher HAMILTON
	Jason John HAMILTON

Weddings
20 Aug

Paul Felix Emmanuel **Morigny** and
Eva **Lawrence**
at the *Château de Dangu*

Funerals
5 Sept 2022

Douglas PASEA
funeral and burial at the parish church of
Flagy, Seine et Marne

GIVING TO ST GEORGE'S PARIS

Membership of St George's isn't like subscribing to any other organisation and the benefits might not be like those below, but...

Now is the time to consider if you would like to top-up your giving to St George's for this tax year. **Good news for taxpayers in France!** The fiscal deduction on identifiable donations has been increased from 66% to 75% for the period from 2/6/21 to 31/12/22 (within the limit of 20% of "revenu imposable".) This means the net cost to you of a €100 donation would be reduced to €25 instead of €34. For example, increasing the donation to €130 would result in same net cost of €34 previously! Please consider increasing your giving if you can, to cover our increasing operating costs.

There are new ways for you to give – making it easier and more straightforward!

- 1) Setting up a *virement permanent* with your bank. You'll find all the details below – this allows your church to budget your giving effectively.
- 2) Giving online via HelloAsso. This method allows you to claim your fiscal deduction from the French tax authorities. You can give regularly or make a one-off donation via this method.
- 3) If you **don't** pay French tax or are visiting St George's you might like to use the new ACTOLL contactless giving baskets in church. You choose the amount you want to give 2€ for a candle or from a range of 5, 10, 20 or 50€. Simply pass your debit card over the reader and you'll receive a simple message indicating your gift has been received.

Relevé d'identité bancaire-IBAN

CIC **Crédit Industriel et Commercial**

Ce relevé est destiné à être remis, sur leur demande, à vos créanciers ou débiteurs, français ou étrangers, appelés à faire inscrire des opérations à votre compte (virements, paiements, etc...).

This statement is intended to be delivered, to those of your creditors or debtors who have transactions posted to account (credit, transfers, payments, etc.....)

Code Banque	Code Guichet	Numéro de Compte	Clé RIB
30066	10481	00010389701	91
IBAN International Bank Account number			
FR76	3006	6104 8100 0103 8970	191
TITULAIRE DU COMPTE			
ACCOUNT OWNER			
10481 00010389701 1344621 GUO			
EGLISE ANGLICANE			

Cadre réservé au destinataire du relevé

Domiciliation
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