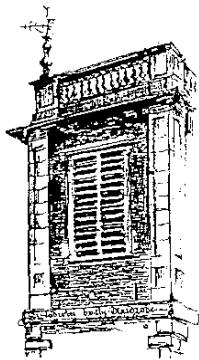


# RIVER VIEWS AND NEWS

The Parish Magazine  
for the sister parishes of  
St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe  
& St James Garlickhythe  
in the City of London



EPIPHANY 2011



THE DIOCESE OF LONDON

## A FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

As many of you know, I have had a difficult year owing to ill health and I am very grateful for the support of parishioners during this time. I am very conscious that both parishes need and deserve strong leadership in the coming few years. I have taken advice from my doctors and from others and have decided to retire on 1st January 2011.

I am in discussion with the Bishop about a sphere of retirement ministry that will be less pressured than I have found the past year to be. I know I shall miss you all very much indeed, for you have become my main family over the past ten years. I shall miss the community life and worship terribly. I am fearful of isolation in retirement and will need to make every effort to prevent this from happening.

I had hoped to be with you for longer, but I plan to remain in London (for I am not yet tired of life, to borrow a thought from Samuel Johnson). I hope to live close to the city.

I have had almost ten very happy years with you here and I am grateful to God and to you for them. May God bless each and every one of you, not only this Christmas, but in the years ahead.

‘While we have time let us do good unto all men, and specially unto them that are one of the household of faith.’

Alan



## MESSAGE FROM LYN STONE (CHURCHWARDEN)

There is a book at St James Garlickhythe for people to leave a message for Fr Alan. If you would like a message to be included but cannot get to the church, please write your message on a slip of paper and send it to the Administrator for pasting into the book.

I bring to your attention a prayer by the late Canon Frederick MacNutt for a vacancy in a parish:

O merciful God, who knowest the needs of thy Church and people in this place: look favourably upon us at this time, and of thy great goodness grant unto us a parish priest according to thy heart, who shall perform all thy will; through our Lord Jesus Christ, the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls.

70th anniversary of the bombing of  
St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe  
in the most spectacular attack of the Blitz  
during the night of 29/30th December 1940



The gutted church of St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe after being hit by an incendiary bomb during the Blitz

St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe was one of several significant churches and buildings to be hit by incendiary bombs during the firestorm on the night of 29/30 December 1940.

The church received a direct hit through the roof of the nave. Miraculously Sir Christopher Wren's outside walls and tower survived.



A service in the bombed out church



War damage in the vicinity of St Paul's Cathedral  
Unluckily, St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe is a few yards off the left side of the photo.  
The bombed-out shell of St Nicholas Cole Abbey along Queen Victoria Street can be clearly seen



The church without its roof

**ST ANDREW-BY-THE-WARDROBE GIRLS' CHOIR**  
WILL BE SINGING AT THE FOLLOWING SERVICES

**THURSDAY 3 FEBRUARY AT 6.30 PM**

## **Eucharist for Candlemas**

### **The Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

Setting: *Leighton in D*; Anthem: *Ave Verum Corpus – Mozart*



**WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH AT 6.30 PM**

## **Eucharist for Ash Wednesday**

### **with Imposition of Ashes**

Setting: *Vaughan Williams in D*

Anthem: *Seek him that maketh the seven stars – Dove*



**THURSDAY 14 APRIL AT 6.30 PM**

## **Evensong**

Responses: *O'Neill*; Canticles: *Wood*

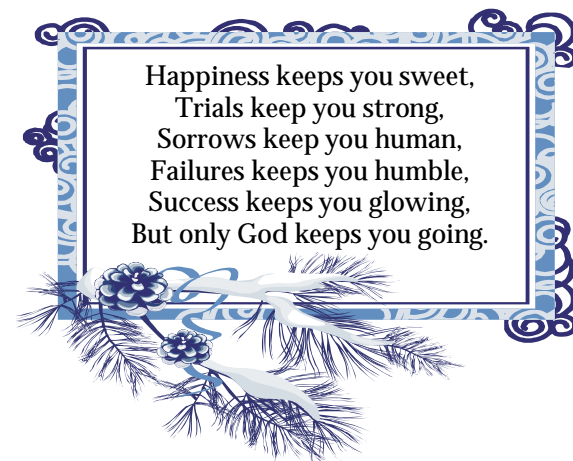
Anthem: *Teach me, O Lord, the ways of thy statutes – Byrd*

followed by refreshments in the Parish Room and

### **A Slide Show of the Holy Land**

by **Maurice De Silva**

*Complimentary tea & biscuits will be served from 5.00 pm before these services*



#### **JUST A TAP ON THE SHOULDER**

A passenger in a taxi leaned over to ask the driver a question and tapped him on the shoulder. The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb, and stopped just inches from a large plate glass window. For a few moments everything was silent in the cab, and then the still shaking driver said, "I'm sorry, but you scared the daylights out of me."

The frightened passenger apologized to the driver and said he didn't realize a mere tap on the shoulder could frighten him so much. The driver replied, "No, no, I'm sorry, it's entirely my fault. Today is my first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years."



#### **THANKS**

The British Legion are most grateful for the £18.13 raised by the St James Garlickhythe Poppy Appeal

Many thanks to Ben Saul, Director of the St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe Girls' Choir, for the concert he organized that raised £100 for the Girls' Choir and £203.78 for St Dunstan's charity for blind ex-Service men and women

Grateful thanks, too, from the Salvation Army for all the Christmas presents which they distributed that had been placed under the Christmas tree at St James Garlickhythe

#### **CONCERT FOR THE BRITISH SLOVENE-SOCIETY**

**Thursday 24 February at 7.15 pm (after the 6.30 pm Eucharist)**  
**Concert by Paul Brisby and the London Renaissance Singers**  
**at St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe**

**THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW ORGAN AND GIRLS' CHOIR  
AT ST ANDREW-BY-THE-WARDROBE BY THE BISHOP OF LONDON  
DURING EVENSONG ON WEDNESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2010**



*The St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe Girls' Choir and the English Chamber Choir in the west gallery being conducted by Guy Protheroe, Director of the ECC*



*The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Dr Richard Chartres, Bishop of London, preaching the sermon*



*The Bishop of London giving the Blessing, seen through the memorial window in the narthex dedicated to Sir Ivor Bulmer Thomas, who masterminded the reconstruction of the church after the war. The detailed etching of St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe can be seen.*

## RIVER THAMES FROST FAIRS



Between 1550 and 1750 the winters in Britain were so cold that the Thames froze over each year and Frost Fairs were held on the frozen river Thames. The first Fair was held in 1608 and it had tents, sideshows and food stalls. The last Frost Fair was held on 1 February 1814 and lasted just four days, and an elephant was led across the river below Blackfriars Bridge (just south of St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe)



A woman goes into a shop and finds God behind the counter. She asks what He's selling and the Almighty replies, "Whatever you want you can get here." Proving herself worthy of this opportunity the woman asks for peace, love and happiness. "But not just for myself. For the whole world." She's expecting great things and can't help but be disappointed when God hands her a small packet. "I forgot to say, We don't sell the fruit, only the seeds," He explains.

In other words, the whole world can have peace, love and happiness, but first we have to sow the seeds.



## ALMA

### Angola London Mozambique Association

[www.almalink.org](http://www.almalink.org)

ALMA is the partnership between the Diocese of London and the Anglican Church in Angola and Mozambique.

The original covenant was signed on 12 July 1998. A renewed covenant was signed on 13 July 2008 at St Paul's Cathedral.

Jill Holmes, Administrator for St James Garlickhythe and St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe, is the new ALMA representative for St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe.

ALMA supports children and schools; theological training; link officers; community and church development; skills-share; poverty reduction; and parish twinning.

*Ministry, mission and mutuality –*

*a growing partnership in the Gospel, sharing joys and sorrows*

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Many would have seen the TV programme screened over four evenings before Christmas called "The Nativity" and giving yet another 'informed' opinion with regard to the birth of our Lord and the visit by the Magi. There is a strong concept in peoples' minds of the manger scene and over the years tens of thousands of cribs have been sold and set up in our homes and churches. However, how many have given thought to Matthew 2: 11? The Evangelist clearly writes "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother . . ." Matthew writes 'house' and not 'stable'. We are indebted to Kenneth E Baily's book "Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes" for a fuller picture. Though born of American parents, Kenneth Baily spent his childhood in Egypt and from 1955 to 1995 taught New Testament Theology in seminaries in Egypt, the Lebanon, Jerusalem and Cyprus. He became well aware of Middle Eastern customs that have not changed over nearly three thousand years. One such custom is hospitality to guests, which goes back to Abraham (see Genesis 18: 1-8).

Bearing in mind Joseph was 'of the house and lineage of David', Joseph was a 'Royal' and Bethlehem was David's city. Joseph had only to tell people, "I am Joseph, son of Heli, son of Amathat, the son of Levi," and most homes would have been open to him *and* Mary whatever suspicions people may have held. How then did the story of a stable catch on? To quote Kenneth Bailey, "The source of this misinterpretation stems from approximately two hundred years after the birth of Jesus, when an anonymous Christian wrote an expanded account of the birth of Jesus that has survived and is called "The Protevangelium of James". James had nothing to do with it." Many pious but simple people wrote such accounts and ascribed them to famous names. One M.R. James has published his collection which he calls "The Apocryphal Gospels, Acts, Epistles and Apocalypses". Reading them will only insult your intelligence but they provide ample 'resource' for Channel 4 and BBC2 producers.

The story in Luke 2: 7 is a mistranslation of the Greek word *katalyma*, which means guest chamber and not a caravansary or road-side inn as the inn in the parable of the Good Samaritan. In Luke 10: 34 & 35, he brought him to a *pandocheion*, which is Greek for a way-side inn, and the innkeeper is called a *pandochei*. Most homes in ancient Palestine had a guest room, which sometimes was on the same level as the one room in which the family cooked, ate and slept. Sometimes the guest room was on the floor above, as in the case of the room given the prophet Elijah by the widow of Sidon (see 1 Kings 17: 19) and also the 'Upper Room' of the Last Supper. The family with whom Joseph and Mary lodged had already given out their guest chamber to some of the many pouring into Bethlehem for the census, so when Mary went into labour the good lady of the house would have cleared the room of men folk and children and comforted Mary until a midwife arrived. This is the case in the East and Middle East to this day. Yes, they had midwives in ancient Palestine, though not as qualified as the midwives of today. One has only to read Genesis 35: 17 of a midwife being in attendance when Rachel gave birth to Benjamin.

.../...

It was the custom in those small and poor homes to bring the ass and the cow into the front part of the room for the night, hence the manger. For “. . . she wrapped him in swaddling clothes . . .” read *esparganosen auton*, which is: “. . . she swathed him.” Then she laid the baby Jesus in the nearby manger. Had Jesus been born in a cold stable the shepherds would have taken Joseph, Mary and Jesus into one of their homes. For Western minds the word ‘manger’ invokes the words ‘stable’ or ‘barn’. In the Middle East this is not the case. With this interpretation we lose the image of the uncaring innkeeper. We have all witnessed ‘Nativity Plays’ in school and church and seen the desperate Joseph being turned away. Nevertheless, in spite of the myth created by the “Ptotevangelium of James”, what other religion made converts by declaring that the Lord and Saviour of this world was born in a stable and died on a cross!

*Maurice De Silva*

## WEEKLY SERVICES

St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe

Thursdays – 6.30 pm

Evening Service



St James Garlickhythe

Sundays – 10.30 am

Sung Eucharist

You are invited to stay for coffee and a friendly chat after the service

Sunday School is held on the first Sunday of each month

The Authorized King James Version of the Bible  
and The Book of Common Prayer  
are used at St James Garlickhythe and St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe

Special services and events as advertised

## LENTEN MEDITATION

Wednesdays 16, 23, 30 March, 6 & 13 April

12.30-1.00 pm

at St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe

Led by Maurice De Silva

## SPECIAL SERVICES AT ST JAMES GARLICKHYTHE

Horners Company service – Wednesday 2 February at 11.45 am  
Fan Makers’ Company service – Thursday 17 February at 5.40 pm  
Ash Wednesday Eucharist – Wednesday 9 March at 1.15 pm

## ST ANDREW-BY-THE-WARDROBE

St Andrew’s Hill & Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 5DE

Tel: 020 7329 3632 (Parish Office)

Website: [www.standrewbythewardrobe.net](http://www.standrewbythewardrobe.net)



## ST JAMES GARLICKHYTHE

Garlick Hill, London EC4V 2AL

Tel: 020 7236 1719 (Vestry – answerphone only)



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Readers: Mr Robin Sherlock; Mr Maurice De Silva

Administrator (for St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe & St James Garlickhythe)  
and ALMA representative (for St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe):  
Miss Jill Holmes (Email: [administrator@standrewbythewardrobe.co.uk](mailto:administrator@standrewbythewardrobe.co.uk))

Hon. Verger (at St James Garlickhythe): Mr Ellis Pike

Organist/Choirmaster (at St James Garlickhythe):  
Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley (Email: [aparmley@btinternet.com](mailto:aparmley@btinternet.com))



The current edition and previous editions of this parish magazine  
can be downloaded from the St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe website.