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# NEWS

No 10 Autumn 2018

news and features from St Margaret's

## GIVE US GRACE

*Almighty God,  
give us grace that we may cast away the works  
of darkness  
and put upon us the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in  
great humility;  
that in the last day  
when he shall come again in his  
glorious majesty  
to judge both the quick and the  
dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal.*

The weekly collects of Anglican worship are a gift to each of us. A short pithy prayer, used by worshippers for hundreds of years, each collect helps to articulate the worshipper's deepest feelings in the context of the church's year.

The rich language, rhythm and resonance of the Advent Collect invites us to prepare ourselves for God's coming among us. The prospect of judgment is set alongside the promised hope of divine mercy

and resurrection.

Try learning the collect by heart. Let its sonorous phrases become familiar as you make them your own. It can be a wellspring of prayer for you in weeks and months to come.

### Inside...

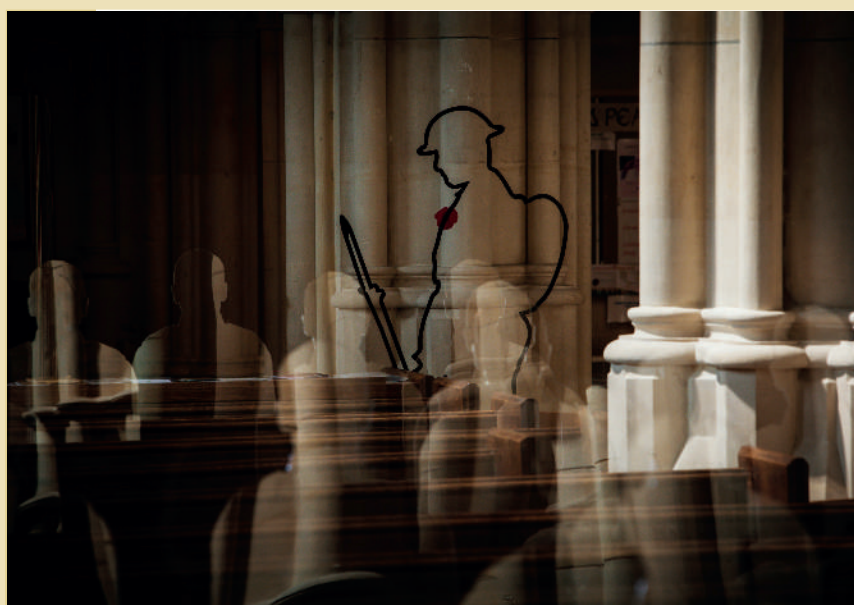
- Rector's reflections
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...and more

## THERE BUT NOT THERE

Commemorate. Educate. Heal.

This year St Margaret's is adding another aspect to its traditional marking of Remembrance Day in November. We are taking part in the *There But Not There* campaign, an initiative from the charity Remembered that commemorates 100 years since the end of World War I and supports vital charities helping the soldiers of today.



Through *There But Not There* we will be hosting an installation of seated silhouettes around the church. These figures are representations of the rolls of honour, in our case those of St Margaret's choir, MPs and Parliamentary staff. The silhouettes are a means of taking names off memorial walls

and returning them to the spaces they left behind, putting them back into each community's psyche once again. The installation will be in place between 1<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November, and will therefore be in place for the opening of the Field of Remembrance in the churchyard on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

Hundreds of other communities have taken part already ahead of the remembrance period. As well as these silhouettes, six-foot Tommies (such as the one in the background of the photo above) have appeared across the country as councils, local groups and private companies have come together to commemorate the end of the First World War. We will have two of these at St Margaret's. While the six-foot Tommies provide an opportunity for groups to come together and remember those that gave their lives a century ago, the public is also being encouraged to purchase 10 inch versions of the figures – haunting Perspex models that can be engraved with the name of a loved one or local hero who served in the conflict.

All money raised from the sale of the Tommies, which are made by military veterans, will be distributed evenly between The Royal Foundation's Armed Forces Programmes, Walking With The Wounded, Combat Stress, Help for Heroes, The Commonwealth War Graves Foundation and Project Equinox: Housing Veterans.

## CHRISTMASTIDE

We begin to celebrate the season with our neighbours, holding 13 carol services during Advent, for organisations from schools to professional institutes. Our own service of Lessons and Carols is on 16<sup>th</sup> December. Details of St Margaret's services are in the box at the foot of this page.



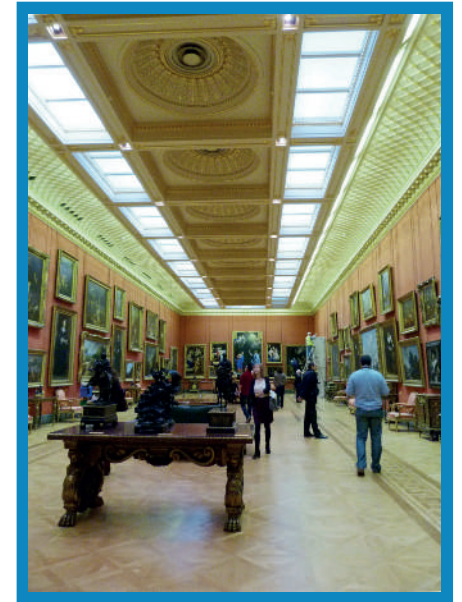
## NIGEL HARRIS

Our Senior Verger, Nigel Harris, celebrates 30 years at St Margaret's on 2<sup>nd</sup> October this year. We mark this milestone with him at refreshments following the Eucharist on the 7<sup>th</sup>, with great thanks for his dedication through four Rectors, four Directors of Music, and thousands of services.



## POETRY AND ARTS

For its December meeting, St Margaret's Poetry and Arts Group will visit Marylebone for *Christmas at the Wallace Collection*, featuring a guided tour by Alan Stourton and optional lunch afterwards. Watch for details and the date in the weekly service sheets, and see the Diary on p3 for other dates.



## RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS: DO NOT FORGET THE LORD

*When the Lord your God has brought you into the land that he swore to your ancestors...to give you ...take care that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.*

*(Deuteronomy 6. 10 – 12)*

On the verge of entering the Promised Land, Moses warns the Israelites of its dangers. Its ease may make them forget that they owe it all to the Lord. To be God's people, they must remember.

We are not the Israelites; and yet at this time of year we, too, are tasked with remembrance – we remember those killed in war; those whom we love and who have died; and we remember those stories have shaped our families, our local communities, our churches, our nation, the

world in which we live.

We remember birthdays, wedding anniversaries, the Coronation, 9/11, anniversaries of terrorist attacks, natural disasters, Grenfell Tower, and the repeated anniversary of Armistice Day every November. We share photographs and re-tell stories; we marvel at fireworks and celebrate with parties; we stand still in awed silence for solemn commemorations. All of these help to cement our sense of common identity. But more important still, they serve to remind us of our very purpose, and of God's continued activity among us, of his enduring love and mercy.

The Israelites were commanded regularly to repeat the story of what God had done for them in the past. Remembering encouraged continuing

commitment to living by God's commandments then and later. This was their purpose, the source of their hope. Remembering, they lived under God's protection; forgetting, they were lost in a hostile world.

How we remember affects who we are now. To forget what God has done in our lives and in the life of this world, is to forget our identity and purpose. That's why we celebrate the Eucharist regularly, commanded to "do this in remembrance of me". As we remember our salvation we are strengthened to live Christ-like lives, working for justice, peace and truth in our time.

We forget the Lord at our peril: we remember the Lord and live.

~ Canon Jane Sinclair

## SEASONAL SERVICES AND CONGREGATIONAL MILESTONES

### Advent and Christmas services at St Margaret's

#### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December

11.00am: Sung Eucharist with hymns  
6.00pm: Service of Lessons and Carols

#### Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Eve

6.00pm: First Eucharist of Christmas

#### Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Day

11.00am: Choral Matins

### Quiet day: O come, O come

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December:** St Margaret's congregation are invited to a Quiet Day of poetic reflection on the seven great 'O' Advent Antiphons, led by The Reverend Malcolm Guite. It will take place at the Royal Foundation of St Katherine in Limehouse, from 10.15am to 4pm. Booking is essential, through the RFSK website: <https://events.rfsk.org/events/quiet-day-malcolm-guite/>.

### Memorial services

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 12.00:** Memorial Service for Lord Sutherland of Houndwood, Scottish academic and philosopher of religion.

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 12.00:** A Service of Thanksgiving will be held for Lord Crickhowell, former Secretary of State for Wales

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November, 12.00:** A Service of Thanksgiving for Sir Edward du Cann, former Chairman of the Conservative Party.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Explorations in Faith

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October**  
12.45 pm – 1.45 pm

All are welcome as we explore Christian attitudes to the Holy Land.

### St Margaret's Congregational Forum meetings

**Mondays 12<sup>th</sup> November and 21<sup>st</sup> January**  
both at 6 pm

### St Margaret's Poetry and Arts Group

**Saturdays 27<sup>th</sup> October, 24<sup>th</sup> November, December (date TBC), 26<sup>th</sup> January**  
all at 7 pm

Details of these sociable meetings can be found in weekly service sheets, or from Alan Stourton. All are welcome.

### Annual meeting of readers and sidesmen

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 6.30pm: vestry**

### Commemorations of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of death of Sir Walter Raleigh

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October, 11am:**  
service of commemoration

Preacher: the Dean of Westminster

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October, 4.00pm:**

*Symposium* on discovering Raleigh's impact in the Americas

**6.30 pm:**

*Lecture* on the life and times of Sir Walter Raleigh

by his biographer, Dr Mark Nicholls

*Use these short links for free registration on the Eventbrite booking site:*

Symposium – <https://tinyurl.com/y998uh2w>

Lecture – <https://tinyurl.com/y73gvnsv>

## ROCHESTER VISIT

### St Margaret's pilgrims explore cathedral and city

On 18<sup>th</sup> August, 12 members of St Margaret's congregation journeyed to Rochester under the guidance of Priest Vicar The Reverend Ralph Godsall, on a pilgrimage to the Cathedral, founded in 604, that has many historic links to Westminster.



The Dean of Rochester, The Very Reverend Dr Philip Hesketh, led a personal behind the scenes tour of impressive Norman and Gothic architecture; ancient doors and tombs; and recent renovations, including the library, crypt and a 2004 Russian fresco. Also spotted was a faint medieval wall painting of St Margaret of Antioch and her dragon. Although shrines to medieval saints were destroyed in the Reformation, the heavily worn steps evince the knees of earlier pilgrims, and the Lady Chapel still welcomes visitors to prayer.

## CONGREGATIONAL VISITS TO NEW GALLERIES

### Dates set for special access to Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries

Special access has been arranged for members of St Margaret's congregation to visit the new galleries in the triforium of Westminster Abbey.



Formerly used mainly for storage, the triforium space has been transformed. This stunning display area is the first to be custom-designed in the Abbey's history, and has required construction of an equally impressive new access tower just outside Poet's Corner. Vistas have been opened up, both through the nave (said by John Betjeman to be 'the best view in Europe'), and outside to St Margaret's and Parliament. Many artefacts are displayed for the first time, from Christopher Wren's 2.4m high model of the Abbey, to medieval shoes discovered in archaeological investigations. From St Margaret's

can be seen objects from church plate to Catherine of Aragon's portrait from our east window.

Our visits will cost £5 each (entry to the galleries only) and take place on Saturday 17th November (10am–11.30am), Wednesday 5th December (5.30pm–7pm) and Saturday 8th December (10am–11.30am). To join, sign up on sheets on the congregational bulletin board at the east of the church, or contact Pamela Carrington (details in box below left).

## DID YOU KNOW...?

### Remembrance vignettes

At the centenary of the end of the first World War, we remember two soldiers of different backgrounds whose memorials can be found in the church.



In the north porch under a memorial glass window dedicated to Sir George Bartley KCB, is a brass (top left) remembering one of his sons: 'In memory of Stanhope Cole Bartley Captain R.A. [Royal Artillery] youngest son of the above and Lady Bartley killed in action in France 12th March 1916.' Stanhope's father Sir George helped found the National Penny Bank, was an assistant director of science and a writer on social questions.

In the south aisle, fixed to the rear of the choir stalls, is a brass (bottom left) to Frederick Ramsay, also killed during the First World War. In 1908 he had married Eleanor Bird in the church where she acted as Vestry woman. The inscription reads: 'In memory of Frederick Henry Ramsay a Chorister and Sidesman of this Church and Clerk from 1907-1917 killed near Gentelles France while serving with the Royal Irish Rifles March 31st Easter Day 1918 aged 35.' His father, Alexander Ramsay, was an engineer at the Houses of Parliament.

## STEWARDSHIP

The latest available figures for congregational giving and donations in the three months to end of August 2018 are:

	collections	donations
June	£1,584	£1,501
July	£1,076	£1,576
August	£575	£626

## Contacts for St Margaret's

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**Newsletter:** suggestions for content, queries and distribution list matters to Becky Wallower:

e: [becky.wallower@dial.pipex.com](mailto:becky.wallower@dial.pipex.com)

## STAFF PROFILE

### Suzanne Wilson, Music Secretary

Suzanne Wilson clearly feels that she's working in a dream job. But the story of how a talented young oboist found her way from Adelaide to St Margaret's owes perhaps less to fantasy than to sheer passion.

At the Church of Christ where her mother was an imaginative director of music and her father a choir member, she remembers regularly taking part in rehearsals as a child – an alternative to a babysitter that suited them all. Although the church was evangelical, one of Suzanne's earliest memories was singing in a service of Nine Lessons and Carols performed at la Kings College Cambridge. 'Despite the organ ciphering in the 40 degree heat,' she recalls, 'I got the bug for English choral music.' Aged 17, she heard the King's choir sing the Duruflé *Requiem* on tour in Adelaide. Transformed by the experience, her future was determined.

From the age of 13, she was fast-tracked through a special music school on oboe. Having scored 100% in her finals – highest in the state – she entered the Elder Conservatorium, going on to play in a staff wind quintet as an undergraduate – a first. She also played regularly with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. Making her way as a professional musician, she was urged to join the full-time South Australia Police Band, an idea she scorned until the pay rate was mentioned ... It was the police band (where she earned the soubriquet Oboe Cop) that finally provided the chance to visit the UK, when they were engaged to play for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in 1990.

That trip gave her the confidence to take a

two year working holiday in Britain, when she was at last able to sing with her beloved English church choirs. In 1992 she sang her first service with the Westminster Abbey Special Service Choir under Martin Neary on ANZAC Day – 'a tremendous honour'. Having met her future husband through the BBC Daily Service Choir, London soon became a permanent home.

St Margaret's then Director of Music, Simon Over, first recruited Suzanne as a deputy in 1995, and as a permanent choir member in 1997. Asked twice to be Music Secretary, Suzanne was finally able to say yes just after the choir's last US tour in 2001, a three week, coast-to-coast marathon, and still a career highlight.

Over 20 flexible hours a week, she's responsible for booking the organist and singers and getting them paid; organising the music and maintaining the music library; working with the boy choristers, their schools and families; and liaising with the Abbey music department.

She values the stability of the music department highly. 'It's a miracle to have a consistently high standard of musicmaking, in such a beautiful church, beside the Abbey and Parliament,' she says. 'I just wish thousands could hear it every week.' She's welcomes the prospect of outreach, and would love to see more musicmaking at St Margaret's.

In addition to singing with many other church choirs and ensembles, she remains one of the 18 singers who make up the pool from which Aidan Oliver selects the choir for Sunday and special services. 'It needs to be a large pool,' Suzanne



explains, 'as they're all top professionals, busy with concerts and tours with groups such as Monteverdi Choir, The Sixteen, Tallis Scholars and BBC Singers.' And on hearing her pure soprano voice in a solo from the choir stalls, we're very glad that Suzanne is one of that 18.

To get beyond Suzanne's public face, we posed some of our quick fire questions...

- ✦ **What's your favourite hymn?** *My God, I love thee*, Tallis First Mode Melody **Setting?** Duruflé *Requiem*. **Service?** Good Friday Matins: I love joyous music, but sombre is good sometimes.
- ✦ **And your favourite passtime?** Rambling – Black Mountains, Peak District, South Downs...
- Music (other than church)?** Is there any??
- Film?** Vicky Christina Barcelona **Food?** Italian.
- Holiday?** Adelaide, every January.
- ✦ **And who is your greatest influence?** My mum – she's generally fabulous, introduced me to church music, and is the kindest person I know.

## 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF SIR WALTER RALEIGH

events at St Margaret's, in London and around England and the US



This year marks the 400th anniversary of Sir Walter Raleigh's death, and his burial in the church, on 29th October 1618. In advance of two days of commemoration, Terry Riggs and others are putting together an exhibition that will be on display at the east end of the church from 19<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October featuring images and objects connected with Raleigh. The Abbey's

4 Learning Department will present a further small

exhibition at the west end. Raleigh's memorial brass in the south aisle is also being restored by Abbey conservators.

Our commemorative Sung Eucharist, to which people connected with Raleigh from North Carolina to Greenwich have been invited, is on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October, with the Dean of Westminster preaching. On Monday 29<sup>th</sup>, we host scholars from North Carolina, the location

of the 'Lost Colony', for a symposium, before recent biographer, Dr Mark Nichols, gives a lecture on Raleigh's life and times. See the listings in the Diary column on p3 for details of St Margaret's events and booking links to register free for the symposium and lecture.

Elsewhere in London, the National Maritime Museum has opened a new Tudor and Stuart Seafarers gallery coinciding with the anniversary (see: [www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/four-new-galleries](http://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/four-new-galleries)) and Royal Museums Greenwich are sponsoring a lecture on Raleigh by Anna Beer at University of London's Senate House, on 23<sup>rd</sup> October (for details see:

<https://www.rmg.co.uk/see-do/exhibitions-events/oceans-love-sir-walter-raleigh-and-sea>.)

The Tower of London is refreshing the suite of rooms where Raleigh is thought to have been imprisoned, and introducing a new planting scheme reflecting Raleigh's New World interests.

From Fairlynch in Devon, Raleigh's birthplace, a blogspot has been designed to outline activities not just locally, but also in London and across England (see: <http://raleigh400.blogspot.com/>).