



by kind permission of Clare Weatherill

# NEWS

No 2 Autumn 2016

news and features from St Margaret's

## ADVENT CONSIDERATIONS

**With attention in the commercial world focused on Christmas from late summer, Advent can be almost overlooked. Its significance for Christians, however, is far greater than chocolates behind the little windows on a calendar.**

Advent not only marks the new liturgical year, but also offers an opportunity for preparation,

reflection and watchfulness

before the celebration of the

coming of Christ in his

incarnation. It also looks

forward to his final advent as

judge at the end of time,

something modern

congregations may find

challenging. The fundamental

Advent prayer remains

'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come'

(1 Corinthians 16.22).

At St Margaret's the season

begins on Advent Sunday (27th

November) and culminates

with our Christmas services,

beginning with the service of

Lessons and Carols (18th December at 6pm).

## A NEW RECTOR FOR ST MARGARET'S Canon Jane Sinclair installed by Dean on 4th September

On behalf of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, the Very Reverend Dr John Hall duly placed Canon Jane Sinclair in her designated stall before a large congregation in September. During the service, Jane was welcomed as Rector by representatives from across Westminster, including Canon Christopher Tuckwell from Westminster Cathedral (below), on behalf of local faith communities; David Beamish, Clerk of the Parliaments; Mark Ormerod CEO of the Supreme Court; Priest Vicar the Revd Garry Swinton on behalf of local schools, and Pamela Carrington on behalf of Abbey staff. The Congregational Forum members stood with Jane to pray 'that all who share in the fellowship of this community may be true to the work committed to them'.



### Canon Jane Sinclair

Jane was previously Canon Steward at Westminster, having been installed there in 2014. In that role, she had oversight of hospitality, education and pastoral care, so joins St Margaret's with excellent contacts and knowledge of the Abbey's internal workings. She came to Westminster from the Diocese of Lincoln, where for seven years she served as Archdeacon of Stow and Lindsey and also had responsibility across the Diocese for lay and ordained ministry.

Jane was among the first women to be ordained deacon in the Church of England in 1987. Prior to that, she had served as a Deaconess in a large parish in Herne Hill, having gained a second BA in Theology from Nottingham University in 1982, following her earlier BA and MA from Oxford University in Modern History. As well as lecturing in Christian worship and pastoral theology in the Midlands, she spent ten years at Sheffield Cathedral (where she was priested in 1994) in posts from Precentor to Vice Dean. From there, she became Vicar of Rotherham in Sheffield Diocese and was very much involved in the local town, bringing a new community centre to fruition, and being nominated as Rotherham businesswoman of the year.

In a multifaceted career, Jane has served on countless local and national committees and boards, including the General Synod and the Church of England Liturgical Commission and has been active in speaking, preaching, teaching and writing, mainly on liturgy and women's ministry.

Her personal interests are almost as varied as her working life. She makes a near annual visit to Orkney for birds, peace, ancient remains and wilderness, and spent a sabbatical studying the Orcadian poet George Mackay Brown. She has a lifelong passion for choral music, and loves walking, reading (novels, biography/autobiography), cooking, and spending time with friends and Poppy, the dog, who, like Jane, has been welcomed with great warmth to St Margaret's.

- Explorations in faith
- St Margaret's choir
- Rector's reflections
- Staffing
- Fabric
- Did you know...?
- Diary dates / milestones

...and more

## EDWARDTIDE

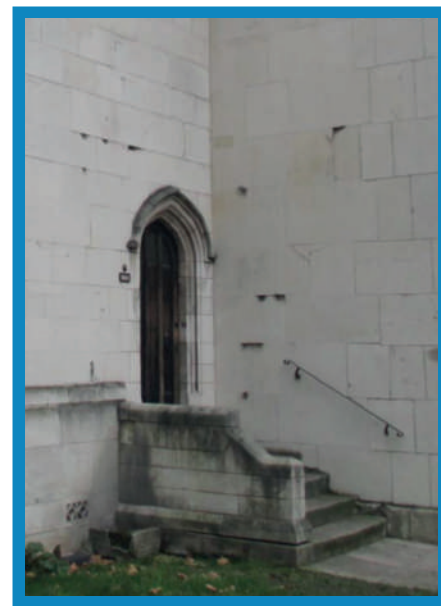
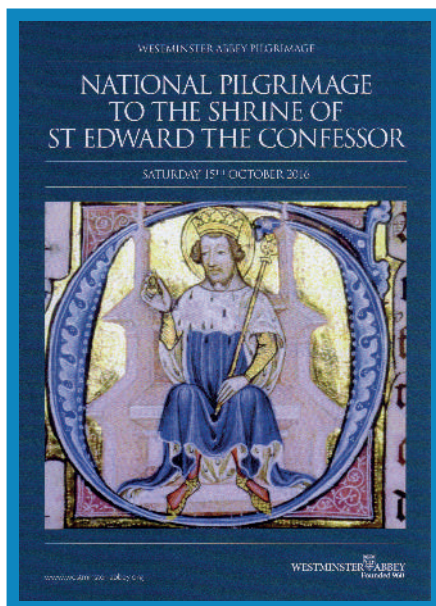
From 12th to 18th October, St Edward the Confessor, King of England 1042–66, and re-founder of Westminster Abbey, is celebrated in services, lectures, family activities and a national day of pilgrimage. See the leaflet or Abbey website.

## REMEMBRANCE

The annual Service of Remembrance at St Margaret's, will be held on 13th November at 10.55am, following the opening of the Field of Remembrance in our churchyard the preceding Thursday. First created in 1928, the field now has 250 plots.

## FABRIC

Significant works to the roof, interior and exterior stonework (prior to repair, below), to the Cavendish window at the south of the west front, and to the interior of the chancel area have been completed. Further works will be planned next year.



## RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS: VALUES AND MISSION

Truthfulness, integrity, empathy and excellence are values which lie at the heart of many people's lives. These are values which are not exclusively Christian, but are distinctively Christian. These are values which members of staff across the Abbey site, including St Margaret's, seek to embody in their work. And they are values which lie at the heart of the gospel; which may help to shape a Christ-like response to our neighbour. What might these values mean to our life at St Margaret's, and how might they inform the ways in which we seek to fulfil our mission together?

St Margaret's occupies a unique place in the life of Westminster Abbey, and of Parliament Square. It attracts various titles - 'the church in Parliament Square', 'the parish church of the House of Commons' - and it serves a wonderfully diverse range of people. The St Margaret's community has a distinctive mission, and special opportunities to serve its neighbours.

St Margaret's shares in the mission of Westminster Abbey as a whole: to serve almighty God by the offering of regular public worship; to serve the Sovereign by prayer, and by a ready response to requests made by or on behalf of Her Majesty; to serve the nation by maintaining a close relationship with members of the House of Commons and House of Lords and with others in representative positions; to serve pilgrims and all other visitors and to maintain a tradition of hospitality. All this is good Christian service, and falls within the Benedictine tradition of our monastic forebears at St Margaret's and Westminster Abbey.

But what shapes the way we seek to fulfil our mission today? As Christians we desire to serve Jesus Christ, and to do so by serving our neighbours in their need, their joys and sorrows. It was a former Bishop of Lincoln, Edward King, who gave pithy expression to this hope: Seek to be more Christ-like Christians - the Christ who put others first; the Christ who was truthful, faithful, and compassionate; the Christ who listened, prayed, inspired, healed, and fed those in need.

It is worth taking time to ponder on what it could mean to become more Christ-like. To help us, a small booklet is being sent to the St Margaret's community, entitled 'The Abbey's Mission and Values'. Do you agree with the core values, and how they are defined in this booklet? Or would you put different values at the heart of how St Margaret's expresses life and mission? If so, what might your preferred values be, and why?

I look forward to some lively discussion ahead!

## DIARY DATES AND MILESTONES

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

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December: 6.00pm**  
Service of Lessons and Carols  
**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December: 6.00pm**  
First Eucharist of Christmas  
**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December: 11.00am**  
Choral Matins, Christmas Day  
All the above services are sung by St Margaret's choir.

### Annual meeting of Sidesmen and Readers

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October: 6pm, Vestry**  
All Sidesmen and Readers are asked to attend this year's meeting if possible in order to discuss new security arrangements with the Abbey's Deputy Head of Security and Emergency Planning, and to hear from our new Rector. There will be a gathering afterwards in a local restaurant.

### Milestones Installation, birthday

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July:** 25 members of the congregation journeyed north for the installation as Dean of Durham of our former Rector, now the Very Reverend Andrew Tremlett. The Dean of Westminster and members of Abbey staff took part in the service.  
**Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> December:** Henry Livingstone, 4th birthday



## EXPLORATIONS IN FAITH

*You are warmly invited to join us in St Margaret's for a bring-and-share lunch, with led discussion, to explore aspects of the Christian faith.*

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November

Following Christ in everyday life  
led by The Reverend Fiona Stewart-Darling

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Faith in retirement  
led by The Reverend Garry Swinton

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Faith in time of need  
led by The Reverend Jane Sinclair

Each session will be held from  
12.45pm to 1.45pm.

Wine and soft drinks will be provided –  
and remember to bring your  
bring-and-share lunch.

## STANDING ORDERS

As noted in last quarter's News, stewardship is to be a focus for activity in the coming years.

Currently St Margaret's outgoings are 60% more than income, with the shortfall being made up by the Dean and Chapter.

Fundraising is being discussed, but in the meantime, the congregation is asked where possible to use Gift Aid and standing orders to make the greatest impact on giving. Forms are available from vergers or sidesmen. The latest figures for congregational giving, in the three months to July are:

May -- £3150, June -- £1818, July -- £2526.

## Contacts for St Margaret's

Vestry / Senior Verger, Nigel Harris:

t: 020 7654 4840

e: nigel.harris@westminster-abbey.org

Rector's Secretary, Pamela Carrington:

t: 020 7654 4847

e: pamela.carrington@westminster-abbey.org

Newsletter queries, suggestions and distribution list matters by email to Becky Wallower:

e: becky.wallower@dial.pipex.com

## ST MARGARET'S CHOIR

### Choristers' return

The boys' choir, seen here at the end of last term, returns to St Margaret's on 6th November. All are currently drawn from Westminster Under School in Vincent Square. Any boy is welcome to audition, regardless of prior musical experience: all that is required is a good ear, a tuneful voice, and enthusiasm for singing. Each boy normally serves a probation period of around two terms to learn the ropes before being awarded his surplice, in a ceremony that marks his confirmation as a fully fledged chorister. Most will spend up to three years in the choir until they go on to their senior schools, or their voices change, whichever is the earlier. Many later pursue singing seriously: one is currently a choral scholar at Kings College Cambridge.



During October, while we await the boys' return, the adult choir will be singing a series of verse anthems by Henry Purcell, organist of Westminster Abbey from 1679 to 1695, including masterpieces such as 'I was glad' and 'Jehova quam multi sunt hostes mei'.

## STAFFING ST MARGARET'S

### Verger and cleaning changes

St Margaret's is gradually being integrated into the various staffing and service departments of the Abbey community. As noted in the last News, the beadles and marshals already provide security and welcome those entering the church, both during the week and for Sunday services.



Cleaning staff have now been integrated as well. Where in the past, vergers have been responsible for the general and specialist cleaning of the church and its fittings, these functions are to be performed by the Abbey's contractors under the general oversight of Senior Verger Nigel Harris, (assisting Bernadette at her marriage to Gregory Meier, left).

Staffing by vergers is also changing. Nigel will remain in his senior role, but John Robinson will now be on a rota with other Abbey vergers.

Normally, only one verger will be on duty. This

means that on Sundays, lay assistants will be required to help administer communion.

Further operational integration, to include visitor services staff, will follow this year.

## DID YOU KNOW...?

### Cornelius van Dun

A colourful monument in the north aisle, the earliest visible in St Margaret's, records the death in 1577 at the age of 94 of Cornelius van Dun, clearly a canny and loyal soldier who served four Tudor monarchs. Born in Breda in the Netherlands, he fought with Henry VIII at Tournai before becoming a Yeoman of the Guard and Usher to Henry, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I.



The memorial also notes that he was 'of honest and vertuous lyfe a careful man of poor folke who in the ende of this town did buyld for pore widowes 20 howses of his owne coste'. With no endowment, the almshouses (left), in the Petty France/St Ermine's Hill area, were appropriated for the poor of the parish. Stow in 1603 notes the nearby chapel, variously known as St Mary Magdalen, St Hermit or St Ermine was 'wholly ruinated'. The almshouses, apparently retaining their 'primitive character' until the 1860s, were swept away in the development of

the underground railway, but Vandon Street off Caxton Street still recalls their benefactor.

Cornelius' wife Gylbarte, who died in 1568, is also buried in the church, and his will survives. Curiously, a 1790 engraving of his monument also survives, created by one Thomas Trotter.

## STAFF PROFILE

### Pamela Carrington, Rector's Secretary



**Pamela Carrington** came to Westminster Abbey as a PA to Canon Trevor Beeson, Rector of St Margaret's, in 1986. She's now on her fifth rector, her fourth director of music and has worked through the incumbencies of three deans and an interregnum.

Born in the US, she was brought up in Watertown, northern New York State, not far from Lake Ontario. Although she remembers being spellbound by the Queen's coronation on TV, the idea of working in one of the world's most significant churches had never crossed her mind as she set off to the State University of New York Albany. She got a licence to teach after her BA in history, but instead went to graduate school for an MLS (library science). Serendipity and a colleague's contact led her to a job in publishing and a UK work permit in 1973. By 1985 she was working in an art dealership

and going to church at the Abbey, where she learned that Trevor Beeson needed a PA...

In Pamela's ensuing 30 years in the post, both the Abbey and St Margaret's have seen significant change. The Abbey community has ballooned to some 300 permanent – and increasingly professional – staff. Services at St Margaret's have migrated from weekly Matins, to a mix of Matins and Eucharist, to weekly Eucharist. And Speaker Weatherill's huge fundraising campaign in the 1980s led to the major refurbishment of St Margaret's under Canon Beeson and then Canon Donald Gray.

Pamela's role too has developed, and now incorporates diary management for St Margaret's and the Rector, involvement in and coordination of events, weddings, funerals and special services at St Margaret's and at the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft in the Palace of Westminster. She liaises with the Rector, the Minor Canons and senior verger, as well as with most departments within the Abbey precincts, from music to marshals. Externally, she works with Parliamentary officials, the Supreme Court, government departments, faith groups and schools.

To get some personal insight, we asked her:

- + **Best thing about St Margaret's?** The intimacy, light and airiness are beguiling.
- + **Top highlights so far?** Princess Diana's funeral of course, but also the 1997 thanksgiving service for Princess Margaret of Hesse and the Rhine, where Yehudi Menuhin gave an address and Julian Bream played Bach: incredible.
- + **Favourite books of the Bible?** Psalms, St John's Gospel.
- + **Wedding or funeral?** Funeral: I can help more.
- + **Tallis or Mozart?** Tallis: early music is a passion.
- + **Still here after 30 years – you must like it?** The jury's still out on that...

## SEEKING SERVERS FOR SUNDAYS



The serving team is looking for regular members of St Margaret's congregation to join them. Gregory Meier (seen above with Paula Flynn, Shan Durham and Bernadette Meier), describes his experience:

"What's it like to serve? Bernadette and I recall that when first asked whether we would like to serve we felt quite daunted by the proposition, but we had nothing to worry about. Canon Ralph Godsall walked us through everything, which was tremendously reassuring, and the rest of the serving team were incredibly welcoming. We soon felt very much at home. It is a real privilege to experience the service at such close proximity and to play our small part."

If you are interested, please speak to any of the Wardens or serving team, or email Greg at [gregorymeier@me.com](mailto:gregorymeier@me.com).

## WESTMINSTER ABBEY INSTITUTE

### Public events and art exhibition at St Margaret's

The Westminster Abbey Institute was founded to work with the public service institutions around Parliament Square to help revitalise the moral and spiritual aspects of work in public service. It draws on the Abbey's resources of spirituality and scholarship, rooted in its Benedictine tradition, and brings a range of experts and senior public figures to contribute to its programme of lectures, seminars, symposia and other activities.

Each season, the Institute selects a theme for its programme: this autumn the theme 'In the public eye' focuses attention on the public

service role of the media. Although some events are aimed specifically at Parliament or other sections of public servants, many are open to the public.

Members of the congregation may be interested in the series of Westminster Dialogues, described right, on aspects of media interaction with those in public bodies. Booking, via the Abbey website, is essential.

St Margaret's also welcomes The Army Arts Society to the church for an exhibition that runs from 10th to 27th November, as part of the Institute programme.

### Westminster Dialogues

*in the Lady Chapel of Westminster Abbey*

#### **Press Freedom; Press Responsibility**

Monday 17th October 2016, 6.30pm  
Dame Ann Leslie, Columnist for the Daily Mail;  
Nick Robinson, Today presenter, BBC  
chaired by Baroness D'Souza

#### **Crowd-Sourcing Opinion**

Monday 24th October 2016, 6.30pm  
Professor Charles Beckett, Director of Polis,  
LSE; Barbara Speed, Comment Editor, The i  
chaired by Mark Easton, BBC

#### **How Impartial?**

Tuesday 1st November 2016, 6.30pm  
Helen Boaden, Director of BBC Radio; Gary  
Gibbon, Political Editor, Channel 4 News  
chaired by Lord Neuberger, Supreme Court