

St Vedast-alias-Foster



Peace and Contemplation in the City

NEWS FROM FOSTER LANE

Newsletter No. 17, 18 April 2021

Message from Fr Paul

A date for your diaries. One of our very dear parishioners Desmond will be 90 years young on the 1st May. If on Sunday 2nd May, we shall be able to have a gathering in the courtyard after Mass he would like to offer members of the congregation a glass or two of fizz.

St Vedast is open

We open every Sunday for our 11 am Parish Mass along with opening Monday to Friday 11.30 am - 2 pm - including our weekday 12.15 pm Mass.

If you are vulnerable to COVID-19, please consider remaining at home until you have had both vaccinations and a period of three weeks has passed - especially if you are using public transport.

If you would like to discuss coming to church, please call my mobile 07877211307.

Service information

You can join us for live weekday masses & our Sunday Service

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq5Plrgy_zMhluHu-ZePfRQ?view_as=subscriber

After the Sunday Service

Paul Kennedy is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Post Eucharist coffee

Time: This is a recurring meeting each Sunday after Mass

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89210467362>

Meeting ID: 892 1046 7362

Donate

As with most charities the lockdown has stretched our finances considerably. If you would like to donate, or catch up on your giving, the easiest way is online at:

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/3020d4c5-77d2-4718-8e2c-d9047a66f720>

Or alternatively you can make a bank transfer to: CAF Bank LTD, 40-52-40, acct name St Vedast alias Foster, acct num 00024014

Readings for Sunday 18 April 2021, Easter 3

Acts 3.12-19

When Peter saw the lame man walk, he addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.'

Psalm 4

R Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness; you set me at liberty when I was in trouble; have mercy on me and hear my prayer. How long will you nobles dishonour my glory; how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood? **R**

But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness; when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me. Stand in awe, and sin not; commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. **R**

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness and put your trust in the Lord. There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?' Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us. **R**

You have put gladness in my heart, more than when their corn and wine and oil increase. In peace I will lie down and sleep, for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety. **R**

Luke 24.36b-48

Jesus himself stood among the eleven and their companions and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you - that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead

on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.'

Master of Etruscan Baroque!

If you find yourself looking for an interesting but not too extended an outing, once we are all allowed to travel again, then you might find the church of St Botolph, Shenleybury intriguing. Sadly now the church is no longer open but is instead a private house. The churchyard, however, which is now a garden is accessible. Near to the east end of the former church is a headstone of black marble with an unusual and singular inscription, which runs: 'Hic Jacet **Nicholas Hawksmoor** Amr **Architectus** obit vicesimo quinto die Martie Annon Domini 1736 Aetatis 75.

Here then lies the architect, who almost certainly designed our spire here at St Vedast. The singular nature of the inscription captures something of the nature of the man. He remains an illustrious enigma: Peter Ackroyd has written a fascinating novel provoked by Hawksmoor's memory. Born in Nottinghamshire, and following a good early education, young Nicholas first became a justice's clerk in Doncaster. After a short time he moved on to work for Edward Gouge, a celebrated plasterer. It was he who sent eighteen year old Hawksmoor to London where he caught the attention of Sir Christopher Wren. He joined Wren's office and was ultimately responsible for the final presentation drawings of St Paul's Cathedral. Later, he worked with Sir John Vanbrugh on both Blenheim Palace and Castle Howard.

It was, however, with London churches that he reached the pinnacle of his achievement. Not only did he design your spire, the west front of Westminster Abbey, and indeed the tower of St Michael, Cornhill, where I was Rector for three years, but he was also built six of the most distinguished buildings, commissioned in the Act requiring the building of fifty new churches in London.

The nearest example to you here is St Mary Woolnoth, at the western end of Lombardy Street. Also not far away is the remarkable church of St George, Bloomsbury, near the British Museum - this church recently received a generous donation from the Mellon Foundation which allowed it to be restored as Hawksmoor intended. The other churches he designed were equally innovative and include Christ Church, Spitalfields, St George-in-the-East, St Anne's Limehouse, and St Alfege, Greenwich. A tour around these churches, once they are all open, would be a treat in itself.

Interestingly enough for us, living in Berwick-upon-Tweed, Hawksmoor produced the original designs for the Barracks here, the first purpose built infantry barracks in England. Hawksmoor's architecture is a unique take on the baroque, probably influenced by Etruscan architecture. The boldness of gables and the originality of much of the detail, marks out

Hawksmoor's genius . What an amazing inheritance for St Vedast - a stunningly beautiful church by Wren, crowned with a spire by his most celebrated pupil, Nicholas Hawksmoor!

Stephen Platten