



St Vedast-alias-Foster

Peace and Contemplation in the City

NEWS FROM FOSTER LANE

Newsletter No. 13, 21 March 2021

Important message from Fr Paul

Unfortunately, we are having to close the church for a few days due to the instruction to self-isolate. It is planned to open St. Vedast again on the 25 March when we will celebrate the Annunciation: The Angel Gabriel's approach to Mary asking her to bear God's Son.

Also, by coincidence our organist Jo has tested positive for covid 19. Please keep him in your prayers and we wish him a speedy recovery and return to the organist's loft.

Revision of Electoral Roll 27 March 2021 – 10 April 2021, see separate attached notice

Every year before the annual parish meeting the Electoral Roll needs to be revised. It is not necessary for anybody already on the roll to reapply, but if anyone would like to be entered on the roll for the first time or if anyone wishes their address to be changed, they should contact the Electoral Roll Officer, Valerie James at valerie7semaj@gmail.com."

Service information

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

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

Donate

As with most charities the lockdown has stretched our finances considerably. If you would like to donate, or catchup 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 this Sunday printed below.

Sunday 21 March, Lent 5

Jeremiah 31.31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt - a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Psalms 51.1-13

R A clean heart create in me, O God

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offences. Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin. **R**

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgement. **R**

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb. For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly. **R**

Purge me from my sin and I shall be pure; wash me and I shall be clean indeed. Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice. **R**

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy Spirit from me. **R**

John 12.20-33

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say - "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

This week's article written by Christopher Hurrian

A MYSTERY PLAY

Is among the earliest formally developed plays in medieval Europe. Medieval mystery plays focused on the representation of Bible stories in churches as tableaux with accompanying music performed and produced by guilds. From the guild control originated the term mystery play or mysteries, from the Latin *ministerium* meaning "occupation" (i.e., that of the guilds)

So, when Andrew Parmley – due to be Lord Mayor in November 2017 and a Past Master Parish Clerk - contacted the Clerk of the Guild of Parish Clerks, Alana Coombes (Parish Clerk, St John Westminster) to ask her if the incoming Master in July 2016 – me - would agree for the Company to mount such a play at the Heritage Skills weekend being arranged by the Dean & Chapter at Lincoln Cathedral in June 2017, there was little choice. Andrew said we had done one before – true, before Richard II and his Queen in 1390.

The Clerk marshalled her resources. First, we needed a script. Fortunately, texts of the York & Chester Mystery Plays are still available, so Past Master Jonathan Shiels (Parish Clerk, St Thomas Apostle) volunteered to write one based on the Noah & the Flood story. His wife, Kathy, a chorister at Chelmsford Cathedral, sorted out the accompanying music and dance and Alana and the Company Beadle, Ellis Pike (Parish Clerk, St Michael Queenhithe) put together costumes. I was delegated with the task of building an 18' long ark. This came apart into four pieces and just fitted into the back of the car. Sixteen members of the Company and supporters were sent off to learn their lines.

Two rehearsals took place at St James Garlickhythe and were organised chaos. The ark was transported for the final rehearsal and, to the amazement of all, it actually went together with four nuts and bolts and didn't fall over when erected, which had to be done during every performance.



We duly all drove up to Lincoln on the Thursday before the two-day weekend. A noisy dinner together put us in the mood for final rehearsal in the cloisters of the Cathedral on the Friday morning early. There were two performances on Friday, in between rain showers, and three on Saturday, all directed by Jonathan. Between performances, we processed round the Cathedral nave in costume drumming up customers. It worked; most of the

Livery Masters present came and for months afterwards I was greeted with "Ah, Noah" at Livery occasions. It was during one such procession the Dean mounted the pulpit and said prayers to the

multitude. At one point she said “.and remember God is always with us” and standing nearby was Ellis, dressed as God, who remarked “He’s nearer than you think”. One of our number, dressed as a Friar, was even asked to take confession.

People seemed to enjoy it; we certainly did. A veil should be drawn over the acting abilities of the participants, except Ellis the Beadle, who played God. He has a voice that can easily fill the Egyptian Hall at Mansion House without benefit of amplifier, and he plays Henry VIII at Hampton Court on occasions. Sadly, none of us – except my wife, Mrs. Noah, who, if I may say so was the oldest participant and was word perfect - could remember our lines, so we had them written on our sleeves or inside the ark as an aide memoire. Kathy’s lovely singing and dancing ended the performance, and all joined in the dance including the Bishop of Lincoln and the Lord Mayor.

With relief, we retreated back down the A1 on Sunday, exhausted, vowing never to do it again.