

Vicar



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Sundays:

8 a.m. Holy Communion
10 a.m. Family Eucharist & Sunday
School

Mondays:

6 p.m. Guided Meditation (Side Chapel)

Tuesday - Friday

8 a.m. Morning Prayer
6 p.m. Evening Prayer
6.30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Also on Wednesday:

Holy Communion 12 noon.

Saturday:

Morning Prayer 8 a.m.
Eucharist 8.30 a.m.
Evening Prayer 6 p.m.

Confessions are heard by appointment

The St George's Times

Aubrey Walk, London, W8



St Bartholomew

24th August 2008

WELCOME TO ST GEORGE'S

Come, you who have much faith and you who have little, and you who have not been for a long time, you who have been here often, you who have tried to follow and you who feel you have failed.

Come, not because I invite you, but because God does; and, as you are welcomed, go, and welcome others.

We welcome you to our worship this morning.

We hope God's Holy Spirit will touch your heart and that you may be strengthened by Word and Sacrament.

The Feast of St Bartholomew



In the Gospel of John, Nathanael, who appears synonymous with Bartholomew, is introduced as a friend of Philip. He is described as initially being sceptical about the Messiah coming from Nazareth, saying: "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?", but nonetheless, follows Philip's invitation. Jesus immediately characterizes him as "an Israelite

indeed, in whom is no deceit". Some scholars hold that Jesus' quote "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you", is based on a Jewish figure of speech referring to studying the Torah. Nathanael/ Bartholomew, recognizes Jesus as "the Son of God" and "the King of Israel". Nathanael/ Bartholomew, reappears at the end of John's gospel (John 21:2) as one of the disciples to whom Jesus appeared at the Sea of Tiberius after the Resurrection.

Evening Prayer

Every Monday at 6:30 pm in our sister church -

St John the Baptist, Holland Road.

The format is a mix of **Taize** chants, Bible and spiritual readings with periods of silence.

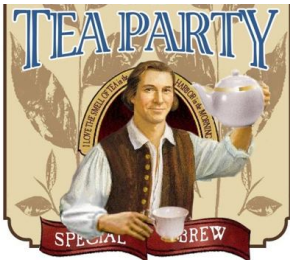
We would be delighted if you were able to join us.

A Time for God's Creation

Sunday 14 September, at 6pm in St Paul's Cathedral.

At the Third European Ecumenical Assembly (2007) official representatives of Europe's Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant churches recommended 'That the period from 1 September to 4 October be dedicated to prayer for the protection of Creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles that reverse our contribution to climate change.' Bishop Richard will celebrate the Eucharist.

Gigantic Tea Party



Advance notice: On the **20th September** we shall host a 'Ritz' style tea party here in **St George's** as part of our initiative to raise funds desperately needed for **Christian Aid**.

Please note this date and book your table now!
Further details to follow.

The Bible tells us so?

Talks to be given at St Luke's Chelsea by Dr Paula Gooder, Canon Theologian at Birmingham Cathedral and Visiting Lecturer at King's College. What the Bible tells us about:

Homosexuality – Thursday 11 September

Finance – Monday 13 October

Work/life balance – Thursday 6 November.

7.30pm at St Luke's Chelsea with drinks from 7pm and supper in the vestry afterwards. To book supper contact Parish Office by 'phone: 020 7351 7365 or email: parishoffice@chelseaparish.org.

Saints of the Weeks



Monica, Mother of Augustine of Hippo, 387

Monica was a citizen of Thagaste, North Africa, and a Christian from childhood. She was married to a wayward husband, Patricus, who after years of licentiousness and abuse was finally converted to Christianity at the age of 40. Her mother-in-law also lived with the family at Thagaste, and contributed to the difficulties Monica encountered there. A devout and strong-willed woman, Monica prayed continually for the conversion of her three children, whom she brought up as devout Christians. However, her eldest son caused her most grief, rejecting the faith at the age of 17. Grieved by his behaviour and company she would ban him from the house. However, after a conversation with a priest, Monica ceased hounding her son to become a Christian and instead prayed continually for his conversion. When the son left Thagaste for Italy (in the middle of the night so as to avoid his mother), she followed him, travelling through Carthage and Rome, eventually catching up with him in Milan, all the time praying for his conversion. There she came under the influence of Bishop Ambrose, and joined his court. Her wayward son was Augustine, who would become one of the most influential and significant Christian theologians in the history of the Church. It was through the teaching of Ambrose, and the prayers of his mother that Augustine recommitted his life to Christ. Monica arranged for her son to marry, but Augustine refused, deciding to remain celibate. On the return journey to Africa, after Augustine's baptism, Monica died. She was 55.

Saints of the Week.



Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Teacher of the Faith, 430

Born in Thagaste, North Africa, of a pagan father and a Christian mother, Augustine was raised as a Christian, but not baptized. He initially studied rhetoric at Carthage, North Africa before moving to Rome to study philosophy. His study of philosophy and especially of Manichaeism led him to renounce his Christian faith. Non-exclusive cohabitation (concubinage) was an accepted way of life and for 15 years Augustine lived with a woman (whose name has not been recorded) and together they had a child, a son called Adeodatus who later died aged 15.

Augustine taught rhetoric and grammar at Carthage before concentrating on philosophy. He was always seeking to break free from his mother's zealous practice of the Christian faith, and in 383, in the middle of the night so to avoid her, Augustine left Carthage for Rome. Undeterred, his mother followed him, eventually catching up with him in Milan, where he had been appointed Professor of Rhetoric. Augustine's long journey back to Christianity is recorded in his Confessions, and reached a crux at Milan, where he heard the preaching of Ambrose.

Less than ten years after his conversion, Augustine was a bishop. He spent the intervening time preparing for baptism, living a monastic life, researching and writing. In 388 Augustine returned to North Africa, and in 391 he travelled to Hippo intending to found a monastery. However, at Hippo he surprised himself by undergoing ordination. He was consecrated coadjutor (assistant) bishop in 395/6, taking control of the diocese in 397.

Augustine's time as a bishop not only saw the production of many books but it was also a time of intense pastoral leadership. He worked unceasingly for the African Church, preaching daily, overseeing care for the poor, giving judgements in cases of dispute and giving much time to the formation and care of the clergy. He was also to be found at the church councils in Africa and beyond, and he was extremely active in the explanation and defence of the faith to those opposed to it.

Augustine was a complex character: a philosopher, theologian, mystic and poet, as well as a highly gifted pastor and preacher. Although often thought of as academic and condemnatory, Augustine came to believe that the Church was a place where outside influences and human weaknesses could be accommodated, and that the unity of the Church was more important than its purity.