

## Vicar



**Fr Michael Fuller**

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## Church Wardens

*Angela Lascelles*

020 7229 5504

*Christopher Buckmaster*

020 7229 7508

## Treasurer

*Malcolm Johnstone*

0169 772489

## Hon. Secretary

*James O'Neill*

020 7516 6825

## Parish Administrator

*Piotr Blak*

020 7221 6546

## Organist

*Andrew Wells*

07885 133817

## 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*

## Financial Position of our Church



It looks as if in 2008 we will **just have managed to break even, financially**; this is in spite of very generous giving by some people and a paring of expenses.

Can you please help us to improve this situation by **reviewing your giving** and perhaps if you do not already have one establish a bank standing order, or if you have one perhaps **making a slight increase in**

**your giving.** Standing Order forms are available at the back of the church, on the notice board. For our part we will make every effort to reduce expenditure. Thank you

## Administrative Assistant

We are anxiously looking for someone who could give about an hour a week to the Parish Office on a simple 'office type' task, the requirements are some numeracy and the ability to attend the office regularly. If you can help please let me know.



# The St George's Times

Aubrey Walk, London, W8



## Candlemas

1st February 2009

### 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.

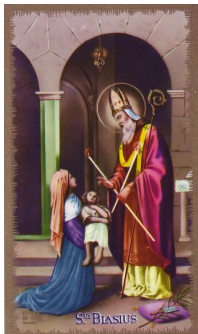
## The Gospel this week

This week marks the **end of the Christmas/Epiphany** season and we see the holy Family enter the Temple to offer sacrifice and to praise God. The temple was the place of worship filled with rites and ritual. These were not empty 'performances' but ways of entering into profound experiences of God. In this way Simeon and Anna inhabited God's presence and readily saw that there is more to life than meets the physical eye, that we need the eyes of our mind opened! In this baby thus they were able to see consolation, salvation, light, revelation, glory and God! What more could one want?

## Forward Warning/notice!

**Lent** is later this year and **begins on Wednesday 25th February**. The **services** will be at **7.30am, 12 noon and a special Sung Eucharist at 7pm**. I wonder if we could make this a special time this year and particularly a time of prayer. It is my intention to **host a group on Tuesdays** in Lent to think about our prayer life and to **restart the Saturday evening prayer time at 5.30pm** immediately before the Office of Evening Prayer. Like everything in life this will require some commitment and discipline and I hope we might be able to see a little of both in our observance of this holy season.

## The Saint of the week – St Blaise



Saint **Blaise** was a physician and bishop of Sivas, Armenia. According to his martyrology, he was martyred by being beaten, attacked with iron carding combs, and beheaded. In iconography, Blaise is often shown with the instruments of his martyrdom, iron combs. He blessed throats and made many miracles come into action. The similarity of these instruments of torture to wool combs led to his adoption as the patron saint of wool combers in particular, and the wool trade in general. He may also be depicted with crossed candles. Such crossed candles (left unlighted for safety reasons) are used

for the blessing of throats on the feast day of St. Blaise, which falls on February 3, the day after Candlemas in the calendar of saints, Blaise is traditionally believed to intercede in cases of throat illnesses, especially for fish-bones stuck in the throat. The blessing is: "May God at the intercession of Saint Blaise preserve you from throat troubles and every other evil".

## Sunday School

One of the most important challenges that we face as a Church Community here in Campden Hill is how best to care for/incorporate/educate our children/young people. Under Minh Tam we have a very loyal small group of leaders, but **we need to strengthen our team** and share the load. We have detailed guidelines to help you prepare the activity-based lessons and you would not be required to on hand every week. Please let me or Minh Tam know if you might be able to assist.

## St George's Church



Did you know that **our Church is open every day from Monday to Friday from 8:00 to 12:30**? It might be a good idea to make a break during the day and come to the church for private meditation. Do you feel pressured, can you not find enough time for yourself, can you not find enough space for yourself? Why not try to come to the church, and spend a little time in silence praying for your own needs as well as for your loved ones and soon you will notice a difference in your life. **Why not give God a chance to speak to you?**

## Gaza crisis & Christian Aid

Firstly a **big thank you** to those who have donated to the Christian Aid appeal. As you will know both Israel and Hamas have now declared a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. Christian Aid's response to the ceasefire announcement can be found on their website. Their local partner organisations responded immediately - distributing food and blankets, reopening clinics shut during the bombardment and getting medical assistance to casualties. But it is only now that the extent of devastation is being revealed. The UN estimates that four thousand homes are ruined and tens of thousands of people are homeless. A number of hospitals and health facilities have been damaged, while the number of wounded is far more than Gaza's health system can cope with. Food supplies are low and 400,000 Gazans are without running water. The message from all those working on the ground is clear: the emergency is not over. It is critical that all crossings into Gaza are immediately opened to deal with the devastating human disaster. Your donations will be vital as our partners in Gaza continue to do what they can for those affected by the conflict.

What next? Christian Aid needs unfettered humanitarian access to cope with the current emergency but we also need to look to the future. Christian Aid and their partners will be there as people start to rebuild their shattered lives over the months ahead. **Your donation will make a huge difference in this work.** A new emphasis on a meaningful peace process is also critical. The international community must not make the mistakes of the past and must now engage with all those involved in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict to ensure a comprehensive, just and viable solution to guarantee peace and security for all involved.

**How to help?** Initially please write to the Israeli embassy, the Palestinian Mission and our Prime Minister urging them to work more earnestly for peace. There is also a plate for donations at the back of the church.

## Confirmation



The sacrament of Confirmation is that moment when we take on, as grown up, the promises made on our behalf at our Baptism. There is a simple period of preparation for this and it can be adapted to suit your/or your children's needs. The Bishop will confirm our candidates at **St Mary Abbots Church on Ascension Day Thursday 21st of May (2009)**. Please talk with me if you feel this is a step you might like to take. If you feel your child might be ready to make their first Communion also please talk with me.