

ST PATRICK'S

SOHO SQUARE
LONDON
W1D 4NR

www.stpatricksoho.org

Advent Newsletter 2006



Often people ask one to describe what goes on at St. Patrick's. Sometimes one may speak of the outreach of the parish to the poor and broken in our world or share about our work with young people and the School of Evangelisation. What I should do when asked, is simply to give them this photograph and say that everything is contained in that. No other words are needed. What this photograph speaks of is that the heart and centre of everything that we do comes from knowing that Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. All the work of the church must begin and finish here. As you look at this photograph and this young person adoring the Blessed Sacrament it speaks of the smallness, humility, love and servant-hood of Jesus and it is that which influences and affects everything that we do. Think for a moment how wonderful it is that God has chosen to be born in the humility and poverty of the stable in Bethlehem to shame the wise, rich and powerful. If we say that we are followers of Christ and give ourselves the title of Christian then we need to go in search of Christ in our world. For all parishes that will mean many different activities. Although the number of residents is

small there are many people who flock here everyday and it is to those that we must respond.

Every Monday at the Cenacolo group we welcome those who are burdened or affected by addiction, both the addicts and their families. Tuesday is a time that we invite the homeless and lonely to our Open House. Then every evening those who help with SOS Prayerline are ready to share the love and solidarity of Jesus with those who phone in. To complete the jigsaw as a parish we hope to welcome into the church those many hundreds of people who flock into Soho looking for entertainment, work or companionship. I hope that the church is a place that above all they will know that they are loved and cared for.

What makes so much of the work here possible are the young people who come and live with us to share our life. They give generously for a year so that they may live this mission at a deeper level. As you will read later, they come from many different parts including one from the persecuted Church in China. What a joy it was to be able to welcome Cardinal Zen from Hong Kong, who has spoken up so bravely for the persecuted Church in his homeland to be with us at the beginning of the year.

As you prepare for Christmas with your family and friends please pray for the work of the parish that we may be faithful to those who have supported and put their trust in us but above all that we will look for the smallness of Bethlehem. I pray that you and your families will be able to find that smallness and humility away from the extravagance and indulgence that is promoted by our world in the name of the Mass of Christ. May this time be for all one of great joy and many blessings for your families and friends and please as you celebrate Christmas, keep this parish, its community and poor in your prayer.

God Bless, Fr. Alexander

General Information

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Who's Who at St Patrick's

Fr Alexander Sherbrooke (Parish Priest)
Sister Dympna (Parish Sister)
Elizabeth Forrester (Parish Fundraiser)

Mass Times

Monday—Friday: 12.45pm
Saturday Vigil Mass 6pm
Sunday: 11am and 5pm

International Mass Times

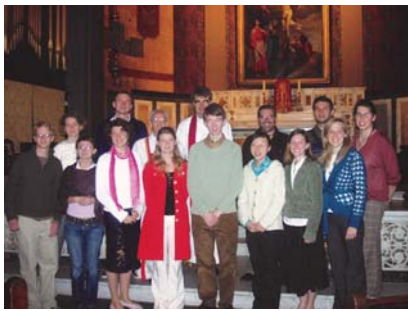
Saturday: 4pm Brazilian
Sunday: 2pm Chinese 6pm Latin American

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Monday-Friday 11am-6pm
Saturday: 7-9pm

Confessions

Monday-Friday: 12.15-12.40pm
Saturday: 5.30 - 6pm



The new school year has had a great start welcoming eight new and enthusiastic students from all over the world. This year we have two students from the United Kingdom, three from Poland, one from Germany, one from America and our first ever student from China!



Sadly we waved goodbye to Maureen Cox, SPES Coordinator 2005-6, at the end of the last school year. She has now entered the Community of St Jean and we wish her many blessings in religious life. Three of the students from last year, Jeanine, Barbara and Anna, are now joint-Coordinator's of the School and are doing a wonderful job.

This is the fifth year of SPES and with it have come some exciting changes. The School has been extended in two ways—the first being that it now covers nine months of formation instead of eight and secondly in that the SPES community has spread to two new homes in the parishes of St. Anne and St. Mary. We have also had seven married couples join the SPES team as Spiritual Companions to the students who offer them support in their discernment of all vocations including married and family life.

The students will be participating in Parish liturgy daily at 8.00am, 12.45 and 5.45pm and you are more than welcome to join them. You are able to follow the students' progress in our weekly Newsletters and on the website at www.stpatricksoho.org/spes and please do come and say hello if you see any of them around St. Patrick's!



Suzanne Filkorn, 21, Germany



Henry Whisenant, 21, England



Angela Danaher, 23, USA



Wadim Ciepalowicz, 28, Poland



Ewa Sokoloska, 28, Poland



Iwona Bachulska, 23, Poland



Xiao Man Chao (Mandy), 22, China



Vincent Gardiner, 21, England

SPES—St. Patrick's Evangelisation School

21a Soho Square London W1D 4NR
Tel: 020 7434 9965 Fax: 020 7287 9844

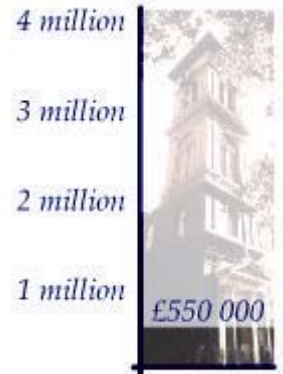
Email: spes@stpatricksoho.org
Web: www.stpatricksoho.org/spes

St. Patrick's £4 million Appeal

The Progress So Far...

In terms of fundraising events the Appeal had a relatively quiet summer, preparing many important documents that will be imperative to our trust applications. This has been time well spent and we now hope to move forward with many of our applications. Since our June Newsletter we have received grants from The Greendale Foundation, The JAR Charitable Trust, The Henry Smith Charitable Trust and a second grant from the Sir Harold Hood Charitable Trust. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their support. In addition we have received many kind individual donations and the number of 'Friend's of St. Patrick's' has almost doubled in the last three week's. It is so comforting to know that so many of you are behind us and it is your help and prayer that will guarantee the success of the Appeal.

To date we have raised £550,000 but we still hope to raise £1million by the birthday of the Appeal on the 25th January 2007! We pray that the Season of Giving will encourage people to open their hearts (and wallets) to the Appeal to help us reach our target and provide evermore support and encouragement for our fundraising efforts.



St. Patrick's receives permission from the Historic Churches Committee!

On the 12th October 2006 all of the contractors involved with the various works proposed for St. Patrick's attended an important meeting with the Historic Churches Committee to apply for permission to go ahead. After much work and discussion regarding the plans for the redecoration of the church, the renovation of the original organ and installation of a new one, a new lighting scheme, sound system and stained glass window, "the Committee approved all five proposals". This was extremely exciting news and the wheels have now been put in motion. It is intended that work will commence in June 2007.

Restoration of the St. Patrick's Gray Organ

One spectacular item that we plan, and have received permission, to restore as part of our church renovation is a Gray Organ dating back to 1793. This organ is one of the very few Roman Catholic organs of its kind surviving in England, and the only one in a public church. There are very few organs of this period in anything like their original condition, and surprisingly few church organs by these notable organ builders. It has musical importance in its association with Vincent Novello, a famous musician and editor, who founded the publishing firm. There is also some evidence to suggest that parts of this organ may have been used in the famous Bach-Abel concerts at Carlisle House, now St. Patrick's Church, between 1765 and 1775. As well as their own works, J.C. Bach and Friedrich Abel introduced the music of

Haydn to Londoners there.



This organ is an important part of the foundations of St. Patrick's and an element of our Appeal that is particularly close to our hearts. It is not only a significant part of the history of St. Patrick's but it is also of substantial relevance to our national history and musical heritage. As there are so few of these organs accessible to the public it is imperative that this organ is restored and used at daily and weekly masses and regular concerts for the public to enjoy.

The cost of restoring the organ as been estimated at £180,000 and so far we have received a grant from the Council for the Care of Churches for £17,500. If you or anyone you know would be interested in supporting this project then please do get in touch and spread the word, we would be eternally grateful.



Making a Donation

There are many ways in which you can donate to St. Patrick's namely, standing orders, single gifts, in legacies, gifting shares and by sponsorship and volunteering. No matter how you choose to give, if you are a UK tax payer please make sure you sign a Gift Aid Declaration so that we can receive an extra 28% from the Inland Revenue, on top of your donation, at no extra cost to you! For more details on how to donate in any of the ways listed please contact Elizabeth Forrester (contact details overleaf) or look online at www.stpatricksoho.org/fund/donate.

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St. Patrick's £4 million Appeal

The Stained Glass Window

The Stained Glass Window has been the topic of many discussions being a brand new, exciting element of the restoration plans; It was even featured on BBC's *The Culture Show* and in *The Times* newspaper earlier this year! It is important to the restoration plans as it is the only new feature to be added and is a way of continuing to beautify the church. Having successfully received permission from the Historic Churches Committee we are now able to reveal the final sketches, beautifully drawn by Vivienne Haig who has designed the windows, which will replace the plain glass window on the back wall of the church, opposite the altar.

This project is unique and a first of its kind as the creation of the window will combine ancient traditions and the most up to date techniques. Vivienne Haig has worked on several other significant commissions, including the Newman window for Oriel College Chapel, Oxford but she is particularly excited about this project as it provides her with "a window of opportunity", a chance to design something completely new.

The rose window will contain a picture of the crucifixion with five portrait windows below, each containing a different Saint namely, (from left to right) Blessed Theresa of Calcutta, Blessed Damian of Molokai, Saint Therese of Lisieux, Saint Francis of Assisi and Mother Magdalene Taylor. These Saints have been specifically chosen to reflect the outreach and mission of this Church in the West-End of London. Please continue to help us as best as you can, your support is invaluable.

"In three years' time, when the project is completed, the communities who flock out of St. Patrick's on Sundays, the passers-by who stop to catch a quiet moment, the addicts who come to visit the on-site drugs counsellor, the drunks who pop in to crack open a beer, will look up and be flooded by a contemporary vision: a luminescence to lift up the eyes and the soul."

Rachel Campbell-Johnston, *The Times*.



Your Christmas Gift to St. Patrick's – Exciting ways you can help!

Become a 'Friend of St. Patrick's'

One way in that we are encouraging people to support the St. Patrick's Appeal is by becoming a Friend of St. Patrick's, costing £50 a year or £500 for life. As a Friend of St. Patrick's you will receive regular Newsletters, tickets to musical concerts and invitations to receptions after major parish events, quiet days of retreat and reflection, talks by eminent speakers and an invite to the annual "Friends Get Together". If you would like to become a Friend of St. Patrick's please find a form in the church or download one online and send it back to us. Alternatively, contact the office on the details below.

Christmas shop online! - Avoid the hustle and bustle of the shops and support the Appeal at the same time!

By shopping online at www.4rchurch.com/stpatricksoho or via the link on our website, the retailer will give us commission on your purchase! This means a donation to the St. Patrick's Appeal at no extra cost to you! There are over 700 major retailers featured to suit all of your shopping needs, albeit a surprise trip for a loved one, that computer game that the kids just have to have or your Christmas grocery shopping without stepping out into the cold! However much you spend will make a difference! Every penny counts so please think of us this Christmas.

Fundraising Contact Information

Contact: Elizabeth Forrester
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