

T H E B U L L E T I N .

The Annunciation Marble Arch

NOVEMBER 2014

EDITORIAL BY FR GERALD BEAUCHAMP

One of the strangest events in World War 1 was the unofficial truce declared by some British, French and German forces around Christmas time, 1914. The troops ventured into no man's land. They exchanged food and souvenirs as well as playing football. Far from the war being 'all over by Christmas' the savagery had only just begun.

Yet human nature never buys-in completely to what authority tells us. Whatever the propaganda ordinary people know that if we cut we bleed. That happens to everyone irrespective of our race or background.

As we look towards Christmas and the New Year I wonder what the future will bring. The conflicts raging throughout the Arab world are intensifying and could spread. President Putin is increasingly like a bear with a sore head and some wonder if the unrest in the Ukraine may be the start of something big. The world's silence over the annexation of Crimea is ominous.

I try not to be a prophet of doom but I suspect that continuing economic uncertainty is going to be coupled with more war. God forbid that we should get into a global conflict but no one apparently saw it coming in 1914. We have even fewer excuses.

So as we prepare to sing 'Peace and goodwill to all men' yet again we need to think how as individuals, as a nation and as church we are going to achieve that. It's a powerful image: walking into no man's land bearing gifts to play with strangers who are supposed to be enemies. What might our version of that be today?

Yours in Christ

Fr Gerald



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Another centenary year triumph

Read more about The Jamie Lonsdale concert on Page 3



IN CONVERSATION WITH...KEVORK ASHDJIAN

My family and I love the buzz and cosmopolitan lifestyle that comes with living in Marble Arch, so it is also refreshing and wonderful to find such a warm and welcoming place of worship right at our doorstep. We enjoy attending mass at The Annunciation, appreciate the traditions that are maintained along with an amazing choir, and having the sense of belonging to the community.

Christian values and having faith have always been very important to me and my family, so I felt really grateful when I was asked by Father Gerald if I would like to be a server. At first it was quite daunting because as a regular church goer my whole life I was quite surprised by how many server activities I actually took for granted.

Thankfully a great camaraderie exists amongst servers who were very helpful and welcoming towards me. It took me quite a few attempts to get things right and feel confident of the tasks with timing being crucial. Server tasks include carrying the candles, incensing with the thurible, carrying the cross, holding the book of prayers, help with preparation at the altar, administering the chalice and bell ringing.

Since becoming a server I have gained a much better understanding and appreciation of the whole church service, along with a sense of pride and responsibility in being part of a team that ensures the smooth running of mass. Most importantly I now also feel that I get to serve God in a special way.

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CONFIRMATION SERVICE ON 1ST NOVEMBER

On All Saints Day (1st November, 2014), two members of the Annunciation, Jethro Kruger and Quyen Chu (along with approximately 90 people from other churches) had their confirmation by the Bishop of Willesden at St Paul's Cathedral. Prior to being confirmed, Quyen and 8 others were also baptised.

When asked to describe their experience, Quyen said: 'Being baptised and confirmed as an adult felt like I was being given a second chance – to start again – a new life, with a totally clean slate.'

For Jethro, what stood out in his mind was "the feeling of becoming something else, not just going through the motions, although there is a very stylised feel to things but more like making a decision to become more complete as an individual and more integrated into a community of

good people." "Journey is the word I hear most when I speak to fellow 'confirmationers' and if we chose journey as a baseline I could say that it is another step on the journey to wholesomeness and closer to simplicity."



THE JAMIE LONSDALE CONCERT

The concert on Thursday 23 October was another centenary year triumph. Nearly 200 people were in the audience to hear Jamie Lonsdale with sopranos Mary-Jess and Alexandra Kennedy, and the mezzo-soprano Flora Mcintosh. Robert Emery was the musical director who conducted the 15 piece orchestra from the piano. His gusto matched the light show that accompanied the music.

The programme ranged from Mozart to 'Les Mis' with a highlight being Flora Mcintosh's flirtatious rendering of Kurt Weil's 'The Saga of Jenny'. The most moving part of the evening was Jamie Lonsdale singing some of his own compositions beside the statue of St George. The statue commemorates Norman Somerset, his great uncle who was killed aged 20 at the Battles of Ypres 100 years ago to the day on the evening of the concert. It was also Jamie's birthday so he feels a strong affinity with his forebear.

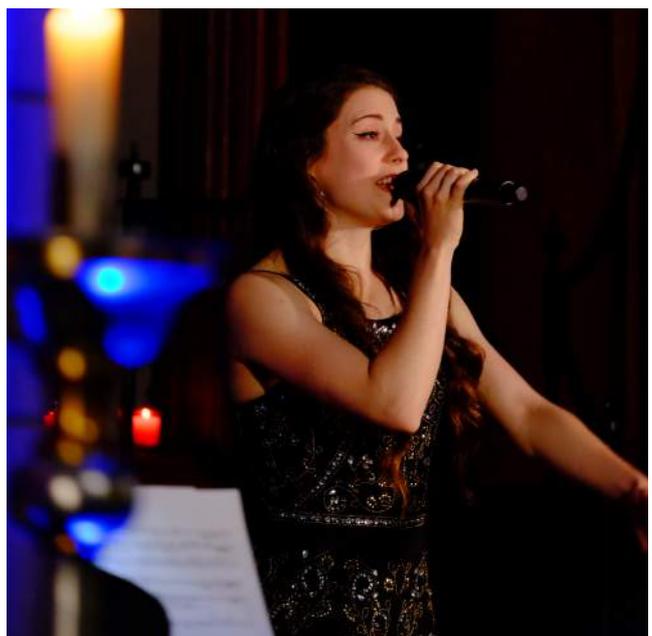
The catering for the evening was kindly supplied free of charge by the Cumberland Hotel. Their delightful staff was on hand to serve drinks. Alan Martin and Andrew Prior kindly gave their services to take photographs and Laura Royde kept everyone in order with her enormous charm.

The Annunciation owes a huge debt of gratitude to Jamie and his team for a magnificent evening. Jamie underwrote all of the expenses. These must have been considerable. The parish has kept the receipts and the donations that came in during the evening. With gift aid these amount to around £6000 and will be put towards the restoration appeal.

Thanks to everyone who supported this magnificent evening.



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DECEMBER EVENTS

06 DEC. Saturday 6 December, 3.00pm Chaplaincy Among Deaf & Deaf Blind People Christmas Service & Licensing of Rev Catherine Carlyon as Chaplain

13 DEC. Saturday 13 December, 7.00pm Traditional Service of Lessons & Carols for Christmas followed by Mulled Wine & Minced Pies

14 DEC. Sunday 14 December, 10.30am Family Parish Mass including Children's Choir

24 DEC. CHRISTMAS EVE Wednesday 24 December
4.00pm Carols for Children around the Crib
11.00pm Midnight Mass

25 DEC. CHRISTMAS DAY Thursday 25 December
10.30am Parish Mass

MESSAGE FROM THE WEST LONDON DAY CENTRE

Jenny Munday, Assistant Fundraiser: *"I just wanted to say a big thanks for the harvest donations. It was a fantastic amount! Please pass on our thanks to all involved. The donations have already been put to very good use as the day centre continues to be busy."*



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