

January 2025

EDGEWAYS

Sacred Heart Parish Magazine

Vol. 36 No. 1

sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk



The parish crib after the three kings arrived ...

- Jubilee Year 2025 (pp.2–3)
- Edgeways celebrates 36 years (pp.5–7)
- Merton Citizens Celebration (p.24)

FREE but donations are always welcome

Jubilee Year 2025: 'Pilgrims of Hope'

Back in May, Pope Francis established the Jubilee Year 2025 in the papal bull *Spes non confundit* ('Hope does not disappoint', from Romans 5:5). The theme for this Jubilee Year is 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

What is a Jubilee Year?

Jubilee Years come from the times of the Old Testament, when every fifty years was proclaimed as a special year (see Leviticus 25:8–13). Seven was regarded as a particularly holy number, and $50=7 \times 7 + 1$. The word 'Jubilee' comes from the *yobel* (ram's horn) used to proclaim Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement.

The Jubilee Year was intended as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of Creation. It entailed the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow time for the fields. It is in this way that Jesus describes His own mission in Luke 4:18–19: 'He has sent me...to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.'

In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII called the first modern Christian Jubilee, also called a 'Holy Year'. Originally, they were every 100 years, but became every 25 years. There have also been some extra ones, such as in 1983 – when I was present at the Inaugural Holy Year Mass celebrated by Pope St John Paul II in St Peter's Basilica – and, more recently, the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy in 2015–16.

Pilgrimage

A Jubilee Year has certain characteristics. First is pilgrimage, which comes from the Latin verb *peregrinari*, meaning to travel across the fields or across borders. Right from Abraham in the beginning, our faith



has been thought of as being on a journey. Pilgrimage is thus a sort of conversion, of transforming one's way of life to conform oneself to the holiness of God.

The Holy Doors symbolise the pilgrim's passing from sin and selfishness to holiness in a sacred space. Our Cathedral has a Holy Door – only used in Jubilee Years – but this year, the only Holy Doors will be in Rome.

Reconciliation

A Jubilee Year is also a sign of reconciliation, which in practical terms involves receiving the Sacrament of Penance, taking advantage of this special time to experience God's personal words of forgiveness.

Closely connected to this is the special Jubilee Indulgence, which allows us to free our hearts from the weight of sin because the reparation due for our sins is given freely and abundantly.

Prayer and liturgy

Prayer and liturgy are inseparable from the Jubilee Year. The use of prayer opportunities on our pilgrimage shows that the pilgrim holds the path to God 'in his heart' (Psalm 83:6).

Principally comprising the Holy Mass, Liturgy is the public prayer of the Church, and the 'summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed [and] at the same time, it is the font from which all her power flows' (*Sacrosanctum Concilium* 10).

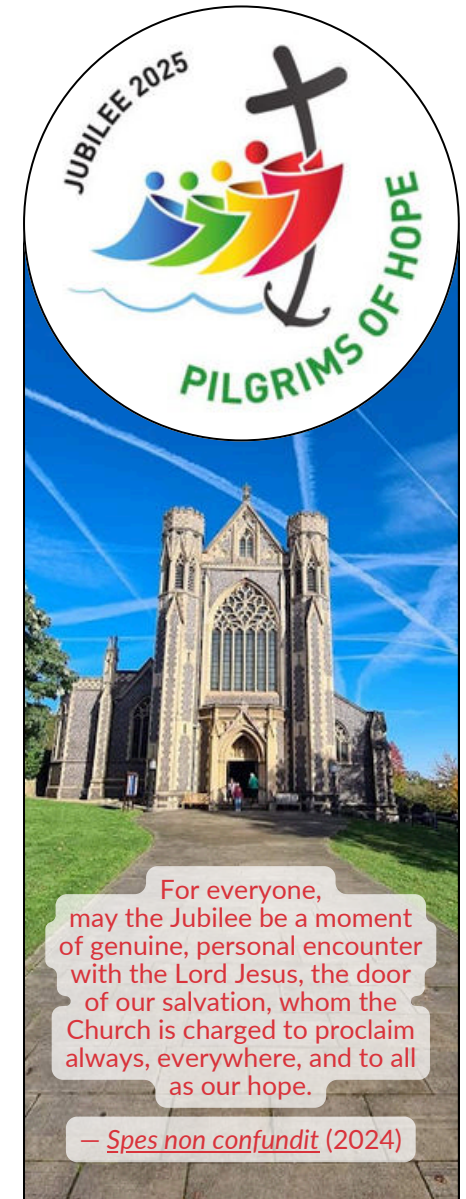
What will you do this Jubilee Year?

The Archbishop has designated the Sacred Heart as one of the Jubilee Churches in the Archdiocese. This means that during the Holy Year, you can receive the Jubilee Indulgence in our parish by making your Confession, participating in Eucharistic Adoration, attending Holy Mass, reciting any Profession of Faith, and praying the Our Father, Creed, and a prayer to Our Lady. The Archbishop's Decree is displayed on the church noticeboard.

During the Holy Year, various pilgrimage liturgies will take place in our parish: watch the weekly newsletter. And don't forget the daily Masses and Confessions: this Holy Year is a time to increase your weekday attendance at Mass and Adoration, and your recourse to Confession.

If you make a pilgrimage to Rome, you need to register for a pilgrim's card at the Dicastery for Evangelization's portal: register.iubilaeum2025.va.

Canon David



Happy New Year!

A very Happy New Year to readers of Edgeways, which celebrates an astonishing 400 editions this month! Read a **history of your parish magazine** since 1972 and see some past front covers on pages 5–7.

To begin, Canon David introduces the **Jubilee Year 2025** and the special role that the Archbishop has invited our church to play (pp.2–3). In case you missed **Pope Francis' 'Thought for the Day'** on BBC Radio 4, this is reported on page 8.

Following his discussion of Advent's meaning (*December 2024 Edgeways*, pp.6–7), guest contributor Fr Nick King SJ returns, this time with the meaning and biblical context of the **Feast of the Epiphany** (pp.10–11). The Epiphany was also the subject of the recent **Wimbledon Village Walk & Talk** group, which ended up inside the church (pp.16–17). Still on Christmas, we include photographs of our **beautiful crib** (front cover) and the **Children's Crib Service** (p.10), and we report the success of **Katy's Songbirds Christmas Concert** (pp.15–16).

We pay thanks for their long service to three of our **altar servers** (p.12), and to those who give up their time to provide the **Café after the Family Mass** and the monthly **Continental Breakfast** (p.13).



On our parish schools, see photographs of the **Donhead Elements Christmas dinner**, including girls for the first time, and of the **Sacred Heart Primary School Christmas Fair**, showing Mr Claus accompanied by his long-suffering wife but cheerful wife, Mrs Claus! (pp.14–15)

Under parish work in the community, you are invited to attend Churches Together in West Wimbledon's annual **Service of Christian Unity** on 19 January (pp.22–23) and to celebrate the progress of **Merton Citizens** on 27 February (back cover).

Finally, Fr Paul Nicholson SJ offers a **film review of 'Conclave'** (pp.20–21) and we advertise the Edgehill Players pantomime, **'Dick Whittington ... and his Cat!'** (p.9)

David Hurst

7.30pm Wednesday 29 January in the Lounge
Fr Toby Lees OP at the Newman Circle

A law graduate from the University of Cambridge, Fr Toby was a City solicitor for seven years before he decided to become a Dominican priest. Why this change? It is a great story! Fr Toby is now Priest Director of Radio Maria England, and will be speaking to us about the work of the Catholic radio station. All are welcome!

Edgeways 400th edition: A living history of our parish

'Here's the church
Without a steeple;
Here's a priest
And here the people...
or, at any rate, some of them.'

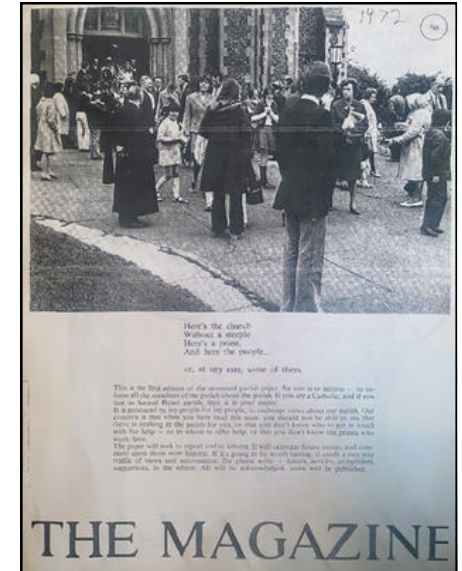
These words illustrated a black-and-white photograph of parishioners leaving the church (nothing changes!) on the front page of the first issue of **'The Magazine'** (pictured right), the as-yet-unnamed parish paper published in September 1972 by the Parish Council under rector Fr John Strachan SJ.

It seems that the name **'Edgeways'** first appeared in December 1976 on a magazine published under rector Fr Micheal Beattie SJ.

Editor from April 1989 until March 2013, **Julie Brook** recalls that early in 1989, the rector, Fr Kenneth Nugent SJ, called a meeting in the parish lounge and said that he thought it would be a good idea for the parish to have its own magazine. He asked for volunteers but was slow to find takers.

The easiest jobs went until finally there was only the editorship left. Long pause until Julie volunteered – if someone would do it with her! **Jean Sherry** stepped forward while **Tony Brook** successfully managed the advertising side.

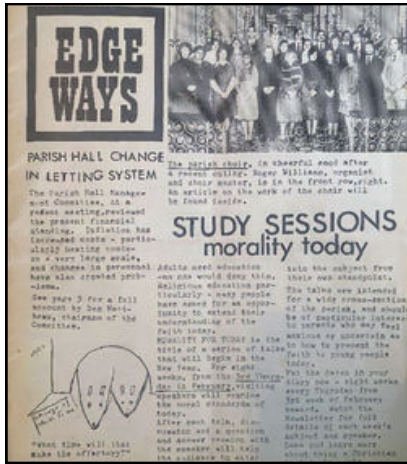
In April 2013, parish priest Fr Keith McMillan SJ appealed from the pulpit for someone to take over from Julie, and professional magazine editor **John Symes** volunteered. He redesigned the format and added colour, holding the post of editor until he left the parish in September 2021.



In January 2023, parish priest Fr (now Canon!) David Gibbons KCHS invited former contributor **David Hurst** to be the editor. He continues in the post, working with the new designer, **Matteo Baccaglioni**.

The editor holds an archive of almost every copy of Edgeways from Vol.1 No.1 April 1989 up to Vol.36 No.1 January 2025 which, over 36 years and excluding a hiatus during lockdown, makes a staggering total of **400 editions!**

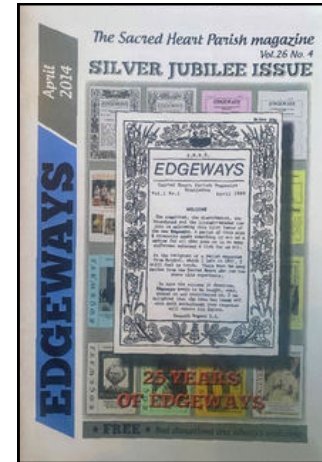
If there is any event or person in the parish you think may have been covered in the magazine and you wish to remind yourself about this, then ask away at dthurst52@gmail.com and, if I can, I will oblige with the relevant edition.



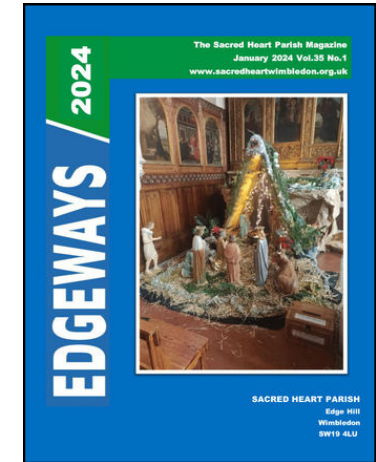
Magazine first named 'Edgeways'
December 1976 'Edgeways'
Rector: Fr Michael Beattie SJ



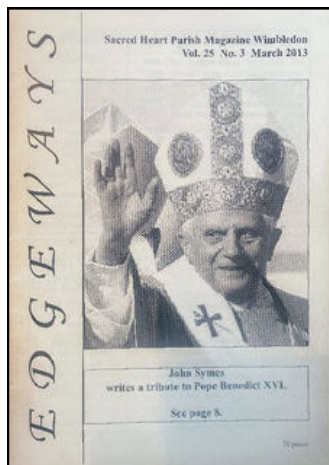
First magazine in the new format
Vol.1 No.1 April 1989
Editors: Julie & Tony Brook
Rector: Fr Kenneth Nugent SJ



Celebrating 25 years: the 300th issue
Vol.26 No.4 April 2014 Silver Jubilee issue
Parish Priest: Canon John Clark



Revival in unique BLUE format as a one-off
under new editor David Hurst
Vol.35 No.1 January 2024
Parish Priest: Canon David Gibbons KCHS



Last original format under Julie and Tony Brook for 287 continuous editions
Vol.25 No.3 March 2013
Parish Priest: Fr Keith McMillan SJ



First new-format issue under editor John Symes for 101 issues until August 2021
Vol.24 No.4 April 2013
Parish Priest: Fr Keith McMillan SJ



Continuing with the 'John Symes' format – now designed by Matteo Baccaglioni
Vol.36 No.1 January 2025, the 400th issue
Parish Priest: Canon David Gibbons KCHS

... and this is just the beginning!

As the front cover of *The Magazine* back in 1972 suggests, the people of the parish are at the heart of the articles you'll find in *Edgeways*, YOUR parish magazine.

Sacred Heart Wimbledon is one of the largest parishes in England. We are blessed to have parishioners from all walks of life, living out their faith in so many different vocations.

What's your story? What can you write for *Edgeways*? Get in touch at dthurst52@gmail.com!

Pope Francis speaks on Radio 4's 'Thought for the Day'

Pope Francis called for peace, fellowship, and gratitude in an appearance on BBC Radio 4's 'Thought for the Day' religious slot on Friday 27 December.



Photograph attributed to the European Union

Pope Francis reminded listeners that kindness was 'not a diplomatic strategy', but rather that it represents a 'form of love that opens hearts to acceptance and helps us all to become more humble'.

'Thought for the Day' is a regular segment on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, which sees leaders and members from all major faiths share their perspectives on the world. Pope Francis appeared at the invitation of guest editor Professor Irene Tracey, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, who is a practising Catholic.

The Pope also made reference to British author G.K. Chesterton by sharing his invitation to 'take the elements of life with gratitude and not for granted'.



'Hope and kindness touch the very heart of the Gospel and show us the path to follow in our behaviour. A world full of hope and kindness is a more beautiful world. A society that looks to the future with confidence and treats people with respect and empathy is more humane.'

In a pre-recorded message, Pope Francis urged people across the globe to practise 'hope and kindness' heading into the new year. The message came just days into the beginning of the Church's Jubilee Year 2025 for 'Pilgrims of Hope'.



'Even though we do not know what tomorrow may hold for us, we should not look to the future with pessimism and resignation. Wars, social injustices, and the many forms of violence we are exposed to every day should not dishearten us nor draw us towards scepticism and discouragement.'



'I hope that during this Jubilee, we can practice kindness as a form of love to connect with others. May the New Year bring us peace, fellowship and gratitude.'

EDGE HILL PLAYERS PRESENTS

DICK WHITTINGTON and his cat

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WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
WENDY TANSEY & TERRY MARSH

1ST & 8TH FEBRUARY 2025
2.30PM & 7PM

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EDGEHILLPLAYERS.COM
07742 230493

The Epiphany Story by Fr Nick King SJ

Our front cover shows the beautiful parish crib after the baby Jesus has arrived, with shepherds at one side and the three kings to the fore, having arrived at the stable to see the new baby king for themselves.

This is the scene of the 'Epiphany', meaning the showing-forth to the Gentiles of the newly-born Jesus – and it is a very remarkable feast. The events of the wise men worshipping Jesus are recounted in just one Gospel passage: Matthew 2:1–12.

Matthew's is perhaps the most Jewish of the four Gospels, and you can feel it in his account, which you can hardly understand without knowing something of its Jewish background.

In the previous chapter of Matthew, we learned that Jesus is not Joseph's son, but that Joseph nevertheless accepts him as his; and we are impressed by this man's silent and uncomplaining obedience to God. Then we are told what is to be the child's name: 'Jesus', or 'Saviour'.

Now, only a good Jew would know what the name meant, especially when – as so often in Matthew – it is followed by a quotation from the Old Testament; and in this case, it includes the Hebrew word 'Emmanuel' ('God-with-us'), which will be taken up in the very last verse of the Gospel, where Jesus will tell his disciples: 'I am with you all the days, until the completion of the ages.'

And there is more in Chapter 2: we are told that Jesus was born in 'Bethlehem of Judaea'. Matthew's readers will know that Bethlehem was the city of David, and so, once more, we are deep in the heart of Jewish history, where God has always been active.



Parish children take part in the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. Photograph by Annabel Marshall.

Then something utterly unexpected happens, for into this very Jewish scene erupts a very non-Jewish phenomenon: 'Behold – Magi'.

The word 'behold' takes us back into the Old Testament, where it is the sign that God is at work – but the other word, 'Magi', means something like 'experts in occult phenomena', or 'astrologers', or even 'magicians'. We are not expecting very much from these crazy Orientals.

To our astonishment, however, they turn out to be the heroes of the story!

They are absolutely right in their reading of the astrological phenomena, and what they want to do about it: 'We have come to worship him.'

Now, the word 'worship' is very significant in Matthew's Gospel, referring as it does to the correct response to an encounter with Jesus and with God. For example, the climax of Jesus' temptation in the desert is going to be the invitation to 'worship Satan' – which, of course, is the one thing that you absolutely must not do. So these Magi are behaving exactly as they should.

The other thing that we notice is that this is all taking place 'in the days of Herod the King', and a good Jew knows perfectly well that this one, 'Herod the Great', was mad and bad and dangerous to know. So trouble is brewing.

And we also notice that Herod believes these Magi, and is accordingly 'disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him', and does not think that they are crazy. But he is not going to act like a believer, as we shall see.

So here they are in Jerusalem; now Jerusalem in Matthew's Gospel, as opposed to Luke's Gospel, is understood to be a place opposed to the plan of God. And then we discover that it is these foreigners, and not the Jews in Jerusalem, who have got it right! For they turn up asking for 'the one born King of the Judaeans'.

With a paranoid like Herod on the throne, this is a most dangerous question, because Herod is all too ready to assassinate anyone who looks to usurp his role as King of the Judaeans.

So Herod gathers his religious experts and asks: 'Where is the Messiah to be born?' The experts look into their computers and agree that it is Bethlehem, with a suitable Scripture quotation from the prophet Micah to back them up.

Herod's response makes it absolutely clear that he believes the Magi, 'secretly' gets them to tell him exactly when the star had appeared, and so, off the Magi go to Bethlehem and find the child.

In this expedition, they are encouraged by Herod, who wants them to come back and tell him, 'so that I too may come and worship him' – and we know all too well what he means by 'worship'.

So they set off for Bethlehem, and the star now reappears, and 'stood above where the little child was'. They 'rejoice' (which in the Bible is a certain sign that they are on the right side).

We watch as they produce exactly the right presents for the baby Jesus: gold for a king, frankincense for a priest, and myrrh for one who is going to die. So the Magi's gifts tell the story of Jesus in a way that all Matthew's hearers would immediately understand.

But there is more – there has to be more, or the whole story will end in disaster – for we are waiting to see what these Magi will do in obedience to Herod's command to come back and tell him 'where the dear little child is'. As always, God is effortlessly in charge, and the Magi are 'warned in a dream' (just like Joseph before them) 'not to go back to Herod', and we watch and applaud as 'they went back to their land by another route'.

It is a powerful story; and, as with all Gospel stories, it is your task now to decide where you stand.

Are you with Herod, determined at all costs to hang onto power? Or are you with the crazy Magi, who have followed their truth and proved obedient to God?

Fr Nicholas King SJ

Congratulations to our altar servers!



Photograph by Ina.

Two more altar servers recently received the Guild of St Stephen Silver Medal for long service.

Adrian Krivyvach (*right*) received his Silver Medal at the 10.00am Mass on Christmas Day for ten years' service.

Richard Adams (*centre*) received his the following day, the Feast Day of Saint Stephen, at Holy Trinity Church, Brook Green, for 25 years' service.

Annabel Marshall (*left*) received her Silver Medal in July 2023 for ten years' service.

It should be noted that Paul Davis, our sacristan, has also achieved his Silver Medal – and Rehana Edun-Noys must be not far behind!

Founded in 1904, the Guild of St Stephen is the international organisation of altar servers. We hope that these awards will inspire our younger servers and perhaps encourage others to become servers.

If you are interested in becoming an altar server, please get in touch with a member of the parish clergy. Children must have made their First Holy Communion.

Thanks for the 'Jones' Café' ...



After the Family Mass on most Sundays in the usually very busy Lounge, the Jones family – Sean, Penny, Sophie, aged 17, friend Agata, 17, and, when she is not at St Andrew's University, Sarah, 19 – prepare and freely provide teas, coffees, biscuits and, sometimes, CHOCOLATE CAKE!

On behalf of all the parishioners who have enjoyed their kindness, we **thank them** all most heartily ... and do please keep it going!

Sophie and Agata (left) were happy to be included but ❄ incognito ❄ !

... and for the Continental Breakfasts!



Enormous thanks from all parishioners also to our own 'Three Kings' – from left to right, Tess Corrigan, Julian Hoskings, and Angela Maher – for providing our Continental Breakfast in the Lower Hall each month ... yum, yum!

Photograph by David Hurst ... with dirty lens!

Friday 13 December Sacred Heart Primary School Christmas Fair



Wednesday 11 December Donhead Elements Christmas dinner celebration – now with girls!



The perfect gift – Sacred Heart Photobook: A 32-page, full-colour, hardback photobook with quality images of features inside the church and live concerts that have taken place. Available by pre-order at cost: £25 plus delivery. To order, please email David at dthurst52@gmail.com.

Saturday 4 January Walk & Talk ends at the Sacred Heart ... again!



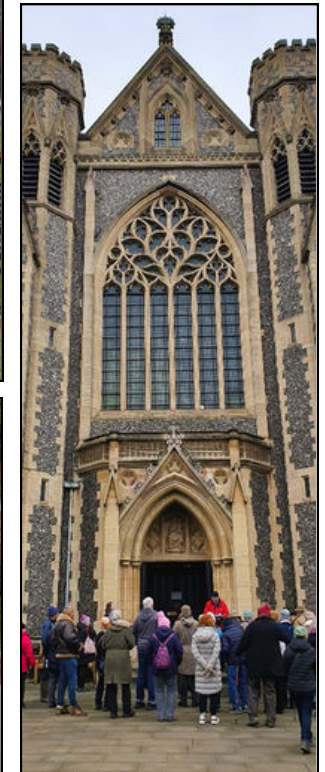
'Walk & Talk' is a free national initiative, started during lockdown, which invites walkers of all ages to join their local group each week and follow a different route lasting about 50 minutes, with a different leader and theme presented each time, ending with tea, coffee ... and talk ... usually at a different location.

At 10.30am on Saturday 4 January, for the second time in a year, in cold but clear weather, the Wimbledon Village Walk & Talk group left the Wimbledon War Memorial to take a leisurely walk around the Common before ending up at the Sacred Heart Church.

Both of these walks were led by parishioner David Hurst. The first walk learnt about the origins of Christianity in Britain in four thirty-second stories on St Columba, St Cuthbert, and St Augustine, with the final short chapter inside the church presenting its history.

The January walk focussed on stories about the Feast of Epiphany and also ended inside the church with a final chapter about the arrival of the three Kings.

For more information on Walk & Talk, contact David at dthurst52@gmail.com.



Photographs by Rob Noble

Tuesday 17 December Katy's Songbirds Christmas Concert

The packed concert raised funds for two charities, **Rosie's Gift** and the **Royal Marsden Cancer Charity**, with both of their backgrounds and relevance being movingly explained at the start of the evening.



Alison and Eoin Kelly founded Rosie's Gift as their way of saying thank you after their daughter, Rose (now aged 18), survived leukaemia as a baby. The local charity supports Children with Cancer UK and Great Ormond Street Hospital.

You can follow Rosie's Gift at facebook.com/RosesGift2006.



The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity raises money to support the Royal Marsden Hospital, a specialist hospital with sites in Brompton and Sutton.

You can donate to the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity at royalmarsden.org/donate.



Photographs by John Stone

With thanks to the many participating musicians and singers ...

- Katy's Songbirds (conducted by Katy Lees)
- Big Choir (conducted by Katy Lees and Robert Rathbone)
- Ursuline and Lantern Arts Youth Choir (conducted by Jason Ching)
- Edge Hill Players (conducted by Robert Rathbone)
- Dessert Lounge Singers (conducted by Katy Lees)
- The Putney & Wimbledon Brass Band (conducted by Tom Lees)
- Giles Kennedy (cello and piano)
- David Gammie (piano)

Conclave film review by Fr Paul Nicholson SJ

Acts 1:15-25 describes the process used by the infant church to find a successor to Judas Iscariot to serve as a twelfth apostle and a witness to the Resurrection. The small group gathers in the upper room, where the Last Supper had been celebrated, sets out the criteria for their choice, prays, and then casts lots. They interpret the outcome – ‘the lot fell on Matthias’ – as an indication of God’s will.

Conclave deals with an analogous process. A group of around 100 cardinals gathers in Rome’s Sistine Chapel to find a successor to an unnamed but roughly present-day Pope who suddenly died in his sleep. Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) is charged with the role St Peter assumes in Acts: leading and guiding the deliberations.

From that point forward, though, there is little similarity between this papal election and the early church’s process as outlined by St Luke. Beyond a few formal invocations, there is little evidence of prayerful reflection, and clearly, none of the key players are prepared to leave the outcome to chance. The heart of the film lies in the schemings and manipulations going on behind the scenes between the rival factions and their representatives among the cardinals.

There is, perhaps, a touch of ‘central casting’ about these representative figures: an arch-conservative, anxious to restore a Tridentine faith; a liberal in social matters, intolerant of any alternative viewpoint; an African cardinal characterised initially by his opposition to homosexuality; and a personally-ambitious prelate, using whatever means he can to secure his own election.



Film poster courtesy of Focus Features

As ringmaster in this circus, a position he repeatedly insists that he didn’t seek and doesn’t want, Cardinal Lawrence works hard to keep the factions in balance in an attempt to foster genuine discernment. At the same time, however, he is himself papabile, a possible successor to the dead Pontiff. In the course of the film, he is brought to face squarely his own demons and ambitions.

This portrayal of the struggles endured by such a group of manifestly-flawed electors lifts *Conclave* far beyond a cartoon battle between stock characters. From very early on, it is clear that this conclave won’t be a superficially-edifying process of selfless, disinterested, and saintly churchmen. This is unlikely to surprise a contemporary

audience. But while at times being invited to despair over a Church (or at least its central bureaucracy) that goes about affairs in this fashion – a despair, it is suggested, shared by the former Pope – the director, Edward Berger, also portrays the resilience of a system that compels those involved in it to confront and take account of their own weaknesses. The film derives this outlook from the book that inspired it, by the thriller writer Robert Harris, and leads to a conclusion that, although somewhat sensational, will be seen by many as ultimately optimistic.

The main characters are uniformly excellent. Stanley Tucci plays Cardinal Bellini, the liberal front-runner, slowly and subtly revealing his intransigence. John Lithgow as Cardinal Tremblay disguises ruthless ambition with a bewildered innocence. In his role as Cardinal Adeyemi, Lucian Msamati offers a powerful display of what it is to be ‘a sinner yet called’. Cardinal Tedesco, the conservative’s figurehead, is played by Sergio Castellitto, delivering a key set-piece speech with force and bravura, a speech met with fierce meekness by Cardinal Benitez (Carlos Diehz), a surprise late arrival at the conclave.

Nevertheless, it is Fiennes who stands at the centre of this film. With a furrowed brow, frequently staring into the middle distance, he portrays a fallible man conscious of the great responsibilities he holds while feeling, for much of the time, unequal to them. Yet he doggedly holds off more obviously-forceful characters, faithful to the charge of the last Pope, his mentor, to be a manager even more than a shepherd. Yet while the conclave itself has revealed both the lights and shadows of his personality, his desires and his dislikes, Fiennes holds something back, so that even in the closing scenes, we are not sure of his inner responses to final surprises.

This is necessarily, as many reviewers have remarked, a very male film. Women are not expected to appear among the College of Cardinals unless they are preparing the rooms or serving the meals, and even these are mostly religious sisters. Still, Isabella Rossellini, playing Sister Agnes, manages to steal her main scene. After destroying the hopes of a leading candidate, she drops him an obedient curtsy before turning on her heel, leaving the assembled cardinals in confusion.

Finally, it is worth mentioning the film’s look. It makes full use of its Vatican setting: the Sistine Chapel, the baroque staircases, and the faded grandeur of the cardinals’ accommodation. It also revels in the costumes, acres of scarlet and lace, and even the weather, with exterior brightness contrasted with the claustrophobic curtained interiors. Cardinals in cloisters snatching a hurried cigarette before they are locked up for another round of voting will appear familiar to anyone who mixes with clerics of a certain vintage.

Is this the kind of thing that really goes on at a papal conclave – how Pope Francis was, or how his successor will be, elected? Who knows? For all the suggestions of leaks or insider information, conclaves are the epitome of secrecy. No doubt ambition and the struggle to overcome it play some part in proceedings. Yet it might not be naïve to hope that prayer has a greater role than *Conclave* portrays.

Still, *Conclave* offers a gripping and mostly compassionate look at a group of elderly men on infrequent occasions asked to assume heavy responsibilities, as well as two hours of solid entertainment.

Fr Paul Nicholson SJ

This article is adapted from [the original](#) on the website of Jesuits in Britain.

Churches Together in West Wimbledon

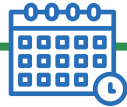
Who are we?

As part of a wider national organisation, Churches Together in West Wimbledon (CTWW) comprises the parishioners of: Sacred Heart Church; Christ Church, Copse Hill; St Matthew's, Durham Road; St Saviour's, Grand Drive; Holy Cross, Motspur Park; Raynes Park Community Church (Salvation Army); Raynes Park Lantern Methodist Church, Worples Road; and Wimbledon Quakers.



'Even as we make this journey toward full communion, we already have the duty to offer common witness to the love of God for all people by working together in the service of humanity.'

– Pope Francis, *Fratelli tutti* (2020)



CCTW Christian Unity Service

6.30pm Sunday 19 January
St Saviour's Church, Raynes Park
(Grand Drive, SW20 9DL)

The focal point of this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the Wimbledon Quakers will lead a service entitled 'Do you believe this?', followed by refreshments. Everyone is most welcome.

What do we do?

We meet one evening a quarter, taking it in turns to host our meetings. Each minister/priest attends with lay representatives to update each other on various church and community activities of common interest in which we can support each other's and wider community endeavours and agree action.



What did we do in 2024?

- Our joint celebrations began on New Year's Day with the World Day of Prayer for Peace, held at St John Fisher Church.
- On 21 January, Canon David hosted and led Vespers in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, followed by a well-attended social in the Lounge.
- On Good Friday, an hour-long Walk of Christian Witness through Raynes Park enacted parts of the Passion of Our Lord. Bruce Mackett and other musicians and signers of the 5.00pm Mass Choir sang opening and closing hymns, concluding with a homily and hymn outside the station – plus hot cross buns!
- We celebrated the refurbishment of the Salvation Army church in Kingston Road in August; and in November, we celebrated the licensing of Reverend Alastair Newman as team vicar of St Matthew's Church, led by the Bishop of Kingston, followed by a social.
- In December, we arranged carol-singing in some of our local care homes and distributed a leaflet with details of Christmas services at all our members' churches.

Our community activities have included hosting people experiencing homelessness in the winter night shelter.

We have also responded to appeals for fundraising – for example, following an appeal to our January 2024 meeting as well as to the Parish Pastoral Council, Canon David agreed to £3,500 of our June concert receipts being donated to Merton Faith in Action Homelessness Project.

Other CTWW members have also renewed direct contact and assisted that charity with regular food, clothing and other donations.

We have also kept in communication with Merton Citizens' representative Vitoria Russo Gaino and other CTWW members about matters of common interest in the community. We attended the Citizens UK pre-election meeting with main party candidates at Westminster.

How can I get involved?

For more information about CCTW, please email me at cmmmd@duck.com or David Hurst at dthurst52@gmail.com.

Cathy Dickenson



Good Friday Walk of Witness

10.00am Friday 18 April
Raynes Park Methodist Church
(Worples Road, SW20 8RA)

After prayers and a hymn, we will process in stages through Raynes Park, enacting the Passion of Our Lord, concluding with a homily and hymns. It is a moving joint act of witness with our Christian brothers and sisters. Stewards and volunteers are kindly requested!

churches
together

IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND



Merton
citizens

CELEBRATION



Our parish was a founding member of Merton Citizens in April 2018, and it continues to be active alongside 14 other organisations, mostly schools and churches.

Come and join us as we celebrate the progress made and many significant achievements accomplished in Merton in the areas of Housing, Living Wage, Mental Health, and Refugee Welcome, and our plans to make a better community in the future.

Please RSVP to Vitoria at vitoria.russo-gaino@citizensuk.org or David at dthurst52@gmail.com.



7.00pm Thursday 27 February
Holy Trinity Church,
Wimbledon SW191SB