



## CHRISTMAS 2015

Dear Friends,

In the midst of a world that seems to fall ever deeper into darkness, the unchanging truths of our Catholic faith – incarnated in her sacred traditions – provide a much-needed light. “That was the true light, which enlighteneth every man that cometh into this world” (Jn 1:9). One of the most impressive monuments of faith in this country, St. Walburge’s has reflected for over 150 years the beauty of our God, who never ceases extending to us his invitation of mercy. Standing on the shoulders of giants, how can we fail to express our gratitude to the generations of Prestonians who have built and loved this church: been baptised at her font, shriven in her confessionals, nourished at her communion rail, wedded in joy and succoured in death at her altar? How comforting it is to think, in our world shaken by doubt and confusions, that our Catholic forebears who built this holy church at the end of the penal times would feel just at home here today as they did in 1850. The tradition continues!

This Christmas newsletter highlights some of the events of the very busy last few months. We are happy to welcome a second priest this year – newly ordained Canon Vianney Poucin de Wouilt from France – as well as a brother of our Institute, Abbé Ben McEvelly from Wales. Three couples were married here this autumn after receiving their preparation at the Shrine. At the end of September Bishop Campbell confirmed 20

young people and 6 adults and celebrated Pontifical Low Mass, with superb music from the St. Philip Neri Choir. Guests from as far away as Newcastle and London attended a men’s retreat on the “spiritual combat” in November; and we were happy to host an Advent retreat for the priests of the diocese. The Novena of the Immaculate Conception brought different guest preachers from Preston and further afield for a series of excellent sermons on Our Lady’s interventions in history to save Christendom from her enemies. The fortnightly adult catechism talks remain popular as well.

With the help of your prayers and your generous support, the next chapter in the distinguished history of St. Walburge’s is already being written. By the time you read this, our new day chapel will be ready for use. After a harsh first winter last year, the two priests and one brother living in the Presbytery do not have to worry about the extreme cold thanks to the kind donations that enabled us to update the radiators. We have also been interviewing architects in order to select the right firm to carry out the next steps of the church restoration. We must never forget that the beauty of this church is not only a piece of local heritage but a beacon of hope for the whole country and a way to share the true faith.

Yours faithfully,

Canon Altiere.



# RECENT EVENTS AT ST WALBURGE'S



12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> September: more than 350 people visited the church during the special tours for Heritage Open Days.



27<sup>th</sup> September: Bishop Campbell honoured us with his visit to confirm nearly 30 people and to celebrate Pontifical Low Mass for the anniversary of the Dedication of the Church.



*Left:* Wedding at St. Walburge's: Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lawler, recent converts, who were married in October.

Praying for the Holy Souls in Purgatory: Requiem Mass with Absolution for the Dead on All Souls Day & Remembrance Sunday.



**NEXT PHASE OF RESTORATION TO BEGIN:  
THE MAIN SACRISTY AND THE PRESBYTERY VESTIBULE...  
URGENT ATTENTION NEEDED, WITH YOUR HELP!**



Rain, humidity and time have damaged the walls and ceilings of these important rooms. Work needs to be undertaken to address these issues.

*Left:* The walls of the sacristy.

*Right:* The walls and ceiling of the vestibule in the Presbytery.





# AN AMAZING TRANSFORMATION!

## THE NEW WINTER CHAPEL

With the authorisation of the Historic Churches Committee, works have been undertaken in the former servers' sacristy, being used as a storage room, in order to create a new Winter Chapel. This warm space, replacing the tiny oratory in the Presbytery, is essential for welcoming the faithful during the winter months.



*Above:* removing the old cupboards.  
*Right:* restoring the walls.

*Above:* the old storage room.



Plaster, cleaning and paint.



Covering the pipes from the antiquated heating system.



*Above:* Canon Poucin de Wouilt working.

*Left:* Final result after new painting.

Next step: installing an altar and new heating system, putting a flower room and servers' sacristy into the alcoves ...

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December

8.30 am: Low Mass of the Vigil

9.15 am: Prime with Christmas Martyrology

9.15 pm: Confessions

10 pm: Christmas Carols

10.30 pm: Procession to the Crib & Midnight Mass

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December

10.30 am: Mass of the Day

5.30 pm: Vespers & Benediction

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December

11.45 pm: Te Deum & Benediction, followed by reception in the Presbytery

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January

10.30 am: Veni Creator & Mass

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January

7pm: Sung Mass for the feast of Epiphany, followed by Twelfth Night celebration in the Presbytery

Latest news from the Shrine:

[www.stwalburge.org](http://www.stwalburge.org)

### *Thank you for your support!*

As we continue restoration work at Saint Walburge's, we turn to you, dear friends, appealing to your generosity to help us carry out our work for the re-evangelisation of England. This essential work cannot be undertaken without your prayers and support!

There are three different ways in which you can help us in our mission:

1. Praying for the success of our apostolate;
2. Sending us the addresses of those who might be interested in receiving our publications, or publicising our website address;
3. Supporting our work with a monthly donation.

## DONATION FORM

*Please tick only one box below*

1.  **Non-Gift-Aid Donation.**  
Please accept my enclosed gift of £.....
2.  **I Have already completed the form to Gift Aid future donations in a previous newsletter.**  
Please accept my enclosed gift of £.....
3.  **Gift-Aid Declaration for a single donation.**  
Please treat the enclosed gift of £..... to above named charity as a Gift Aid donation.
4.  **Gift-Aid Declaration for regular/periodic donation**

I request that all qualifying gifts of money that I have made to the above named charity since 6 April 2015 and all qualifying gifts of money that I made hereafter shall be treated as Gift Aid donations.

I confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that all other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that the charity will reclaim 25p for every £1 that I give.

The information on this Declaration will be used to complete Inland Revenue Returns and will be held by the Charity to provide information for statutory/audit purposes and to keep the donor informed

Office Ref. 12 2015

ICKSP/St. Walburge's  
Registered Charity No. 1144783

### *Donor's details*

Title (Rev/Mr/Mrs/Miss/Dr):

First Name:

Surname:

Address:

Postcode:

Signature:

Date:

Please notify the Presbytery if you: i) change your name or home address  
ii) no longer pay sufficient Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax  
iii) want to cancel this Declaration

Please indicate by ticking below how you intend to make your donations:

**By Cheque/Cash** made payable to ICKSP / St. Walburge's

**By Bank Transfer**  
HSBC Bank, 31 the Pyramids, Grange Road Birkenhead, CH41 2ZL  
Sort Code: 40-10-22  
For the credit of: ICKSP / St. Walburge's  
Account number: 52347733

**By Standing Order** (use accompanying form)

Please hand this form in at the Presbytery or send it to:

**St Walburge Shrine Church**  
Weston Street, Preston, PR2 2QE  
Phone: 07894 559284