



St Luke's in the City

150 years - 2009

Celebrating at the Crossroads

16th Sunday after Pentecost

20 September 2009

4 Weeks To GO!

Dear Friends,

Today we are just 4 weeks away from the 150th anniversary of this parish of St Luke, and all the festivities with which we will mark this great occasion. I think we first discussed the subject of the 150th anniversary at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners in 2006. A group of enthusiasts began to meet some time in 2007, the first of the 150th Newsletters appearing in August that year. Vestry committed itself to celebrating the 150th by completing the long-awaited entrance canopy, memorial garden, and landscaping, as well as a raft of long-overdue conservation works.

What this has meant in practical terms, as most of us are well aware, has been a concerted effort of preparations on three fronts – building works planning; fundraising planning; and anniversary weekend planning. There are some of us who have been involved in all three – tigers for punishment, and greatly appreciated tigers they are! Yet all of us have been drawn into this grand scheme in one way or another, and everyone has made a difference. What a tremendous effort, and for such a small parish community – St Luke's wines; whisky tasting; garages bought and sold, along with pumpkins, sausages, odds and sods, and goodness knows what else; bargain books; St Luke's cards; sponsored walks; candlelight dinners; concerts... what have I missed?

It is an astonishing thing to me that just 3 and a half years later so much has been accomplished. An astoundingly-large sum has been raised towards the cost of conservation and building works. Those works are either completed or well on the way to completion. And a marvellous weekend of festivities has been planned which we hope all will enjoy and remember as a great St Luke's occasion. Whew!

There aren't adequate words of thanks for all these tremendous efforts of loving labour. But I do hope that everyone will enjoy a great celebration - all this effort is worthy of being enjoyed, and I hope we will indeed do so. It is certainly worth celebrating the completion of the redevelopment of the south-west entrance that was commenced 10 years ago, so vital to our long-term goal to make St Luke's more open, accessible, and inviting, so that we may share with others the peace and the beauty we experience here.

With my love, Fr David