

# Lady Chapel at St. Jude's

THE REVD ALAN WALKER

Although the Lady chapel of St Jude-on-the-Hill contains a list of the fallen –between images of Martha and Mary, and beneath a foundation stone by Eric Gill – it is the decoration of the chapel as a whole that is the parish's First World War memorial; and the memory of the fallen is primarily, and surprisingly, commemorated through images of women.

The murals (which eventually filled the church) are the work of Walter Percival Starmer (1877-1961), a Congregationalist minister's son, who trained at Norwich and Birmingham schools of art.

In an apparent revision to the original scheme of 1919, whereby the Lady chapel was to be decorated with representations of women from the Bible, the west

dome was filled with portraits that were – in the words of the artist – illustrative of various types of women who had laboured in various spheres for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God; as witnesses for right, as they conceived it; and for the extension of righteousness among men. The intention was to suggest the continuity of efforts towards this end through the Christian ages.

Starmer said that they were mainly types, with the odd well-known figure for emphasis, but the majority are, in fact, portraits of identifiable female saints and heroines from Christian history.

Some of them were recently deceased. These include the anti-vivisectionist and suffragist Frances Power Cobbe (d. 1904); the social reformer and women's-rights campaigner Josephine Butler (d. 1906); the philanthropist and

supporter of animal causes Angela Burdett-Coutts (d. 1906); the executed nurse Edith Cavell (d. 1915); a Scottish doctor and suffragist who had established all-women medical units and who served in Serbia (where she was captured) and Russia, Elsie Inglis (d. 1917); and Agnes Weston (d. 1918), who had dedicated her life to the welfare of the men of the Royal Navy.

The prominence given to the portrait of Joan of Arc is noteworthy. It is her image that confronts the visitor or worshipper as they enter the chapel. Joan, of course, had fought the English. The English had been responsible for her trial and execution as a heretic, and her image had been deployed by the Catholic League in the 16th-century wars of religion against Protestants. Furthermore, she had just (in 1920) been canonised by the Roman Catholic Church.

Although Joan had become a symbol of resistance to German militarism, her presence in St Jude's probably owes more to the part she played as an inspiration and symbol for the women's suffrage movement in England.

She had led the Women's Coronation Procession (a demonstration in favour of women's suffrage) through the streets of London on 17 June 1911, a week



before the coronation of George V. On 3 June 1913, Emily Wilding Davison saluted the statue of Joan of Arc at the Women's Suffrage and Political Union summer fair, with Joan's own last words: "Fight on, and God will give victory." The same words appeared on Davison's grave – after she had died beneath the King's horse at the Derby.

Moreover, as a leader of men, Joan would have had a particular appeal to the 'chairman' of the St Jude's war-memorial ladies' fundraising committee, Mabel St Clair Stobart (1862-1954), who was almost certainly responsible for the selection of the eminent women.

In 1907, in order to demonstrate what she called

"women's national worthiness", Stobart had founded the Women's Sick and Wounded Convoy Corps to facilitate the wartime movement of the wounded from field hospitals to the base hospitals behind the Front. By "worthiness" she meant for the vote. When all was said and done, she wrote, it was the war work which women in all spheres of life performed so admirably that made it at last impossible for the vote to be further denied.

The Lady chapel's mural scheme became much more than a war memorial: it was a celebration of the contribution of women to the Church and nation, but also part of the continuing campaign for universal adult suffrage.

## Keeping Cool

MARIE-CHRISTINE O'CALLAGHAN

According to the Met Office: "global average temperature is expected to be between 1.20°C and 1.46°C above pre-industrial conditions," which would imply that we can expect a warm summer.

There are some simple steps that will make your summer feel cooler and greener.

- Try wearing loose-fitting cotton clothing in light shades. Black may be cool but it will absorb sunlight and the heat that radiates from your body.
- Drink plenty of water and avoid caffeine and alcohol as they will promote dehydration.
- Keep your house cool. Turn off all heat sources. Try not to use the oven and switch your diet to cold foods. Electricity also create heat. Turn off your lamps your computer and your TV when you're not using them.
- Close your blinds, curtains or shutters during the day to block the sun's heat. Keep them closed until night falls and it is cool enough to open the windows. Open enough windows so that cooler night air blows in through-out the house. Leaving all interior doors open (including wardrobes

and kitchen cabinets) will also help as keeping them closed will store the daytime heat making it more difficult for your house to cool off during the night.

- Increasing the air circulation at night should also help you to sleep comfortably. Even a hot night is normally much cooler than your body; the increased circulation will help the air carry away excess heat from your warmer body.
- You could chill your bed sheets and pillowcases by putting them into freezer bags and placing the bags in the freezer all day.
- Before going to sleep, take a cool shower or wipe your body down with a cool wash cloth. Go to bed without fully drying yourself, and let the air slowly dry you. This will keep you cool for a long time, allowing you to fall asleep.
- Fill a hot water bottle with cold water from the fridge and take it to bed with you.
- If all else fails think cool. Read books about cold weather. A sentence like "Snow flurries began to fall and they swirled around people's legs like house cats. It was magical, this snow globe world." (Sarah Addison Allen) will not make you physically colder, but might make you feel cooler.



## If you go down to the woods today...

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY

Ana Lapaz-Mendez is a vet and has lived in the Suburb since 2013. She has helped rescue many animals over the years and currently looks after an unlikely trio.

Pumpkin, a fox cub, was brought to her after she had been run over by a car and sustained several injuries, including two broken legs. Ana knew Pumpkin (Ana names all of her animals after food) would not survive back in the wild, especially after discovering Pumpkin was blind and probably brain-damaged, so decided to look after her. Pumpkin is now around two years old and very tame – she doesn't appear to realise she's a fox. The accident left Pumpkin with impaired coordination and she wears a harness and lead on walks so Ana can protect her from getting into scrapes. Many passers-by do a double take when they see a fox on a lead – as did I when I first encountered Ana in Big Wood.

If this isn't a strange enough sight, cue, Jacket Potato, the dog on wheels. Jack for short was diagnosed with a tumour on his spine which eventually left him a paraplegic. His former owners couldn't look after him so Ana took him in. Wheels were fitted and the 6 year old Jack now spends most of his time hurtling around the woods and the Heath without a care. Ana told me Jack gets into all sorts of capers and regularly falls into holes, ditches



and streams but is not the least perturbed, once fished out he carries on bombing around on his wheels. Jack's indomitable spirit and mischievous nature make him a firm favourite with everyone. The final member of the trio is Croqueta, a five year old cross breed who Ana rescued after he'd been dumped in a field.

Ana told me the three compadres are like siblings and

very caring of one other. Croqueta is definitely the boss and looks out for Pumpkin – especially when there are cats about. Pumpkin looks up to Jack and follows him around, although he's pretty hard to keep up with on those wheels! So when you're next walking through Big Wood, look out for Pumpkin, Croqueta, Jack – and, of course, Ana. They are a sight to behold (Instagram: @vet\_lapaz).



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