



THE LINK

A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of
St Michael's Catholic College

Issue 216 – June 2023

Social Media and Newsletter - **Stephen Bourne visits St Michael's**

It's been a privilege to have Stephen Bourne visit the College to speak to our Year 8 history students about the 'hidden history' of Black British involvement in the First World War. Thanks to Ms McMahon for organising.



8M and 8B had a fantastic lesson with Stephen Bourne, writer, film and social historian specialising in black heritage and gay culture. His best-known book is *Black Poppies - Britain's Black Community and the Great War* which he has republished for a young adult audience.

8M and 8B have spent the past 2 weeks studying the British Caribbean contributions to the First World War. More than 15,000 British Caribbean troops volunteered to fight for the British Armed Forces from 1914-1918. One of these soldiers was Norman Manley, who later became the First Prime Minister of independent Jamaica in 1962. Despite these soldiers' contributions to the First World War, their efforts have largely been forgotten.

Jae (8B) commented on how special it was to meet a historian, and his classmates in 8B and 8M said that meeting Stephen had changed how they understood British history. Ryan (8B) said: "West Indian people and other

racess were crucial to Britain winning the First World War," and Lexi (8B) said she loved hearing "overlooked stories" and that "Stephen telling us about individuals gives us a better understanding of history in WWI." Kingsley (8M) said he would be taking out Stephen's book from his local library.

We hope that Stephen Bourne can join us in November to celebrate these forgotten soldiers for Remembrance Day. Until then, check out [his books!](#)

Mudlarking

On Thursday last week our Year 7's went mudlarking with experts from @ThamesDiscovery to find out what kinds of historical evidence can be found on our local beach.

They found pottery, pipes, chains, animal bones, and even the control panel from an old dishwashing machine!



Jui says "It is important to learn about our local history because it helps us understand more about our area and the significant roles it played in people's lives in the past." Ian says "this shows how different society was and how they did things back then."



Inner Voices Choir 2023

It's been another fantastic year for St Michael's incredible choristers. Representatives from Year 10 and Year 8 have practiced every week with nationally renowned conductors and have had the privilege to sing in some of the finest venues across Europe. Please find Irati and Paul's summary of the year below.

If you would like to join this choir (which has talented musicians from across schools in London), make new friends, travel to new countries and perform on the most celebrated stages in the country, please see Mr Magnoff in S26. Mr Magnoff

Belgium



During the February half term, we had the incredible opportunity of going to Belgium with the Inner Voices choir. Our trip lasted five days and in those few days not only did we get to sing in many beautiful towns, including Bruges, Ypres and the gorgeous Ghent, but we also made so many new friends. We spent our time going on boat rides through the Lys River (where we learnt about the history of the beautiful city), having bowling torments in Kortrijk and exploring the Gravensteen, Castle of the Counts.

When we were not singing in incredible Cathedrals we were exploring the city in groups and eating our fair

share of Belgian waffles. It was seriously the most fantastic experience for all of us. In our time in Inner Voices, we have performed in St Paul's Cathedral twice, travelled to Durham for a couple of days and visited Belgium!

Thanks to the opportunity to join the choir we were able to form an incredible community and bond with all of the choir members and learn so much (especially musically). We will never forget the times when we got to sing in front of over 300 people from all over Belgium in one day, perform at the Last Post Ceremony (which is a ceremony that takes place every night at the Menin Gate in Ypres in tribute to all the Belgian soldiers who died in WW1), and the hilarious times we had at the bowling alley with our choir instructors. The Belgium trip taught us how dedication and hard work were the reasons we were able to sing in the fabulous Sint-Niklaas (Saint Nicholas) 13th century cathedral and fundamentally have the opportunity to travel to Belgium.



St Paul's Knightsbridge

Although it is a smaller church than St Paul's Cathedral, it is still a wonderful place to sing. The work we had put in as a choir paid off beautifully, the soloists and their singing during the Disney love melodies were exceptional, making me believe that the original singers were in our group. However, this would not have been possible without the remarkable work of our two leading conductors, Edward Watkins and Ralph Allwood. Their motivation and their upbeat techniques help us to understand our music.



With their hard work and dedication, the performance at Knightsbridge would not be as majestic as it sounded during the performance. Overall, I wholeheartedly recommend that people from our school attend Inner Voices' next concerts in the following terms.

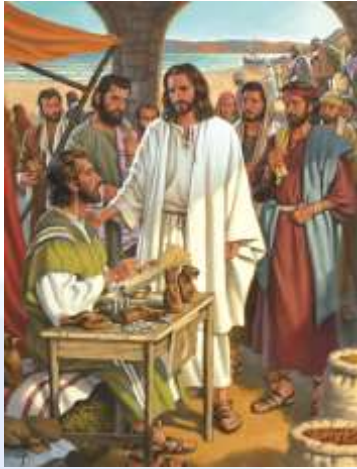


Chaplain's Corner

The Word of the Lord

Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus was walking on from there he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office, and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.



Now while he was at table in the house it happened that a number of tax collectors and sinners came to sit at the table with Jesus and his disciples.

When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your master eat with tax collectors and sinners?'

When he heard this he replied, 'It is not the healthy who need the doctor, but the sick.



Go and learn the meaning of the words: Mercy is what pleases me, not sacrifice.

And indeed I came to call not the upright, but sinners.'

A reflection on this...

We look to Jesus as the example.

We look to Jesus as the way.

In this story Jesus shocked the masses and dined with the tax collector. He showcased that there was no doubt that all people are children of God and all people deserve the respect and dignity that we would expect of ourselves.

Creator God,

We thank you that each of us are beautifully and wonderfully made as unique individuals.

Teach us to love each other as we are.

Inspire us to embrace the diversity of humankind.

Help us to celebrate our differences and be the person you created us to be.

In your grace we can all flourish.

Each and every human identity bears Your sacred image. Inspire us to fully live the power of this truth every day.

Amen.

Miss Casey, Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator

What's been happening in the faith life of the school?

- Ms Corcoran welcomed all students and staff back, leading assemblies on the importance of the Feast of Corpus Christi
- At St Michael's we kicked off Pride months with speakers from QUEST; sharing with us what it is to be part of the LGBTQ+ community within the Catholic context. Next years prefects and Faith in Action/Chaplaincy team members made this a well-attended event and educated us all.
- Year 7 Faith in Action, just before half term, had their reflection point to look back at the incredible work they have done this year to work towards their graduation in September. They created a song about service for their final piece
- Year12 CAFOD completed their training and are beginning to work on their final celebration and graduation in September





Safeguarding Officers



**Designated
Safeguarding Lead:**

Ms Jo Nottage

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Safeguarding Officer:

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Mr Allan Daly

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Overall Responsibility:

Ms Felicity Corcoran - Principal

Contact: 0207 237 6432 or
Email: contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk

Important Notice from the Safeguarding Officer - there is a copy of our Safeguarding Policy on the College Website. A hard copy of this is available in the College Office.

SUMMER TERM 2022-2023

Monday 17th April

To

Tuesday 18th July

(SPORTS DAY)

INSET DAYS:

Wednesday 19th July 2023

(Staff Retreat)

ADVANCE NOTICES

- Showcase evening – Thursday 6th July
- Sports Awards evening – Thursday 13th July
- Careers and Enterprise Week – 10th -12th July
- Arts and Enrichment Week – 13th – 18th July
- Sports Day – Tuesday 18th July – Last day of Term

Lost property

Please make sure your child's property has their name on, this makes it easier to reunite lost property to its owner.

Please don't bring expensive property to school;

Please note that all lost property that is not collected will be disposed of at the end of each half term.



Contacting the College - Direct parents access to college via email
contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk

For absence please phone: 0207 237 6432 Option 1



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