

From the City of God to Sloane Square

Canon Nicholas Wheeler, Priest Missioner in the Anglican Parish of Christ the King, in the City of God, Rio de Janeiro has been appointed Rector of the Parish of Holy Trinity and St. Saviour's, Upper Chelsea.

Nicholas spent his entire ministry in the Diocese of London before going in 2008 to work in partnership with the Anglican mission agency 'Us.' (formerly USPG) in Cidade de Deus, a housing estate on the edge of the city brought to international renown by Fernando Meirelles' award-winning film.

He will be instituted at Holy Trinity by the Bishop of London on Tuesday, July 14 at 7.30pm.

Nicholas will also make a contribution to the Diocese of London's new partnership with the Church Urban Fund, 'Capital Mass', which aims to engage every parish in the diocese with issues of poverty and inequality.

Says Fr. Nicholas: 'Nobody is more surprised than I am to be walking the road from the City of God to Sloane Square. I owe a great debt to the people of Brazil who have taught me so much besides Portuguese over the past seven years. It will be very tough to leave the Parish of Christ the King behind and all that I have lived and loved in one of Rio de Janeiro's most notorious communities.

'I am deeply grateful to Lord Cadogan for inviting me to be the next Rector of Holy Trinity and St. Saviour's and humbled and daunted to be following in the footsteps of Bishop Michael Marshall and Bishop Rob Gillion.

'Sir John Betjeman described Holy Trinity, Sloane Street as 'the Cathedral of the Arts and Crafts Movement' and I relish the challenge to explore what that reaction against the Industrial Revolution, inspired in the 19th century by the social reformer John Ruskin, and led by the likes of William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones, might suggest for the ministry of Holy Trinity in the 21st.

'The innovative work of Intermission at St. Saviour's in engaging young people at risk of offending through drama is a compelling example of what can be achieved when we work together for the common good.

'Also, as the Diocese of London seeks through Capital Mass to build the capacity of churches to tackle poverty and inequality, I look forward to being a part of that story.

more follows

Parish of Holy Trinity and St Saviour's Upper Chelsea

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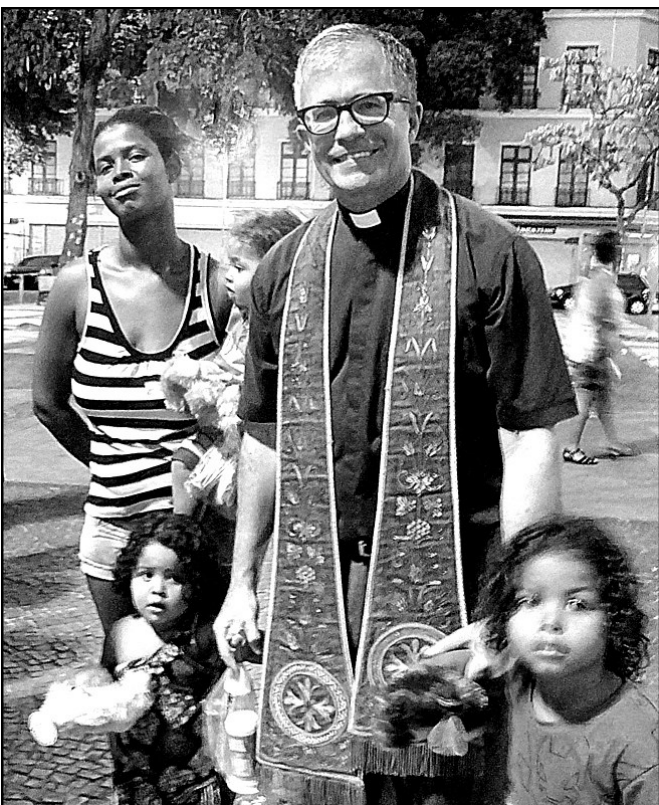
'I much appreciate the hard work by the churchwardens Martin Cleveland and Robin Hellier, and the clergy Graham Rainford and Gary Piper, during the vacancy this past year, and feel privileged to be joining the team.

'With our own church primary school and other local schools in close association, chaplaincies to Harrods and the Royal Court Theatre and an outstanding musical tradition, this is a thrilling opportunity to work with the people of God to shape the next chapter in the life of a parish which is already a confident centre of Catholic Anglican life and witness to Jesus Christ in the heart of London.'

The Bishop of London, the Rt. Revd. Richard Chartres, writes: *"After service in the City of God in the minority Anglican Church where he sometimes went to bed to the sound of gunfire, Nicholas is bringing a breadth of vision and depth of purpose to beloved Holy Trinity Sloane Square. I am hoping for and expecting great things from this new partnership."*

The Bishop of Kensington, the Rt. Revd. Paul Williams, writes: *"Holy Trinity has been the setting for some remarkably creative and energetic ministry, serving the diverse cultures and nationalities of all who live in the parish and beyond. More recently, St Saviour's Intercession has been an outstanding addition to the scope of the mission. I am delighted by the appointment of Nicholas Wheeler as Rector, knowing that he comes with considerable gifts, experience and imagination to nurture the present work and foster exciting new growth."*

The Bishop of Stepney, the Rt. Revd. Adrian Newman, writes: *"I'm delighted at the news of Fr. Nicholas's appointment to Holy Trinity, and in particular for the opportunities of partnership it affords with Capital Mass, the diocese's joint venture with the Church Urban Fund to fight poverty and injustice in London. Fr. Nicholas has a wealth of experience in engaging with the urban poor, and I look forward to working with him on a fruitful alignment of his ministry at Holy Trinity and across the diocese."*



Canon Nicholas Wheeler (54) was born in London and worked as a journalist before training for ordination at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. He was ordained deacon in St. Paul's Cathedral in 1987 and served his Curacy in the Wood Green Team Ministry. He became Chaplain to the Bishop of Edmonton in 1991 as well as Edmonton Area Communications Adviser and Assistant Director of Post-Ordination Training. In 1996 he was appointed priest-in-charge of St. Mary's, Somers Town; St. Michael's, Camden Town; St. Pancras Old Church and St. Paul's, Camden Square, becoming Team Rector of the Old St. Pancras Team in 2003. Since 2008 he has been Priest Missioner in Cidade de Deus, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and, until recently, Coordinator of the Anglican Centre for Theological Education. He is an Honorary Canon of the Anglican Cathedral of the Redeemer, Rio de Janeiro.