

# THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

August 2007

## Summer Reading

Traditionally the summer holidays are a time for catching up on reading; whether it's during a long journey, on the beach, or lazing by a pool there's often more time to read on holiday than during the rest of the year. The word 'holiday' suggests that the reading should be light and entertaining but the more ambitious may want to tackle something a little more challenging. With this in mind – and because this is a church publication – I offer three books that you might like to consider for your summer reading.

The first is 'Compass and Stars' by Martin L. Smith (published by Seabury Books). Martin Smith is a former superior of the Society of St. John the Evangelist and currently senior associate rector at St. Columba's Episcopal Church in Washington DC. The book is a collection of his 'informal musings and reflections' first published in the Washington diocesan newspaper. Each reflection is short and designed to help us get our bearings in the life of the spirit today. Topics covered range from the spirituality of shopping, to channel-surfing, to working out and social justice. The book is an easy but thought-provoking read.

The second book is 'The inclusive God' by Steven Shakespeare and Hugh Rayment-Pickard (published by Canterbury Press). Hugh Rayment-Pickard is a vicar in the Kensington Area and Steven Shakespeare is the chaplain at Liverpool Hope University, teaching in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies. The subtitle of the book is 'Reclaiming theology for an inclusive church'. As Giles Fraser writes in the Foreword, 'This book is intended to make one thing absolutely clear. Inclusivity is not an optional extra for Christians, it has nothing to do with being liberal, it's not a churchy version of political correctness. It's a gospel imperative, fundamental to the nature of God and at the very heart of mission and

ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ'. At St. Mary's we pride ourselves on being an inclusive church; this book will help us to articulate what we mean by that.

The final book is 'Tokens of Trust' by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams (published by Canterbury Press). Although its subtitle is 'An introduction to Christian belief' this is not a simple introduction. As with all Rowan Williams' writings, it does require effort by the reader, but the effort is well repaid. The book looks at the implications of saying 'I believe' to the claims of the church's Creeds; that God is almighty, that he is the creator of heaven and earth, that Jesus is the Son of God, that he rose from the dead, that there is one Church and that there is life beyond death. If you wonder why we say the Creed in our Sunday service each week, this book will help you understand not only what we mean when we say the Creed but also how we might begin to live in the light of that belief.

Of the three books the one by Martin L. Smith might be the most difficult one to buy. It's published by an American publisher and many bookshops may not be able to order it, but I'm told that the theology department at Hatchards (third floor) on Piccadilly either have it or can order it.

Whether or not you choose to read one of these books I hope that you will enjoy what remains of the summer, making the most of any sunshine and the slower pace of life that it brings.

Ginny Thomas

## Rose thank you

Rose has sent a lovely card thanking everyone for the flowers and vouchers she received as a leaving gift. She sends her best wishes and love. The card is on the notice board.

## **Update on Al Ahli Hospital, Gaza**

Dear Friends,

This is a strange time for Palestine. The recent in-fighting between Hamas and Fatah has been a bitter embarrassment for the Palestinians. But for any who have been on the ground it perhaps comes as no surprise when you see the day to day humiliation and degradation that the Palestinians are submitted to, when you see the pressure cooker environment that is created. If life wasn't bad enough, the building of the 'Wall' through the middle of their streets -splitting, irrevocably, families and friends one from the other - has just made a bad situation worse.

But this week we can celebrate a few moments of hope.

The BBC journalist Alan Johnston was freed. It is a triumph not only for him and for his family but also for the people of Palestine; for once negotiation, lobbying and resolve won over the gun and the bullet. His liberation was a celebration for the vast majority of Palestinians. Whatever one may think of Hamas, they are bringing, for the time being at least peace and security to the streets of Gaza - and all lulls in Violence must be celebrated. The Al Ahli Hospital is a strange beneficiary of recent events and its role in serving the people of the Gaza is more critical than ever: most of the hospitals in Gaza are associated with either Hamas or Fatah. Al Ahli is seen to be neutral and thus many are turning to the hospital like never before, certain of decent, unbiased and high quality medical attention.

Fund raising for the hospital is going well. If all the commitments are honoured we should be up to US\$200,000 by the end of the summer. The bids for the mammogram machine have now been received from six different companies. These bids are being evaluated. A decision should be made within the next few days by the Hospital.

The support of the Welfare Association has been outstanding. Not only have they helped with the raising of money but their professionalism and dedication in helping the Hospital has been wonderful.

I would like to re-iterate my thanks to all those who have donated. The money that you have given will make a difference. I am particularly proud of the contribution from the of Church St Mary the Boltons in London who not only have raised money through collection but have recently held their Summer Fair for the benefit of the Al Ahli Hospital and have kept the plight of the people of Gaza in their hearts and their prayers.

However, the economic embargo continues. Sadly what we are witnessing today is simply a lull before the situation worsens. We are expecting shortages of all kinds, and a worsening of the ongoing health problems: cancer, heart disease, diabetes, malnutrition among the children. And this is without considering what the consequences will be of external armed intervention.

I have to say that more money is desperately needed. If any of you who have not given and would like to, please let me know and I will send you the Bank details. If there are any who can give more it would be invaluable.

Metin Mitchell  
East Jerusalem, 7th of July, 2007.

## **Local boy performs with Bolshoi**

Tristan Kelly is a local boy who will be performing with the Bolshoi Ballet on 13 August 2007 at the London Coliseum. We send him all our best wishes.

*Somedays everything  
goes well and I'm glad  
I'm God*



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### **GOD'S WAITING ROOM?**

One sunny Tuesday afternoon, feeling distracted and unable to concentrate on my work, I decided to accompany Tom, Bronwyn and Susannah on their regular visit to Mary Smith Court, a care home for elderly people in Earls Court. As per their normal routine, we set off after Afternoon Prayer.

We split into pairs when we arrived. I wandered off with Susannah and her one-year old son Alec. Our first visit was with Barbara. She welcomed us warmly, despite being unable to move much due to a chronic pain in her right leg, which she has suffered from consistently for the last four years.

She had a copy of 'The Ballerina' by Degas hanging on the wall of her room. She recalled fondly how her daughter had been a dancer with the Dutch Royal Ballet – a happier memory than the time she had been held captive in a prisoner-of-war camp as an officer in the Polish army.

We then visited Beula, a vivacious West Indian lady who had arrived in England after the war and worked until her retirement as domestic servant for a wealthy family in Brompton Square.

She showed me pictures of her family in America; it seemed to affirm her identity, remind her of her value and that she was not forgotten.

In the common room I was introduced to Gerda. I spoke German with her, hoping that conversing in her mother tongue might make her feel more comfortable. On the contrary, although she was very kind to me, I think it disorientated her and, close to tears, she abruptly walked away from me in the middle of our conversation. A Russian lady, wearing bright red lipstick, eyed me suspiciously.

She said she despised the German language; it brought back memories of a rifle being pointed in her face by a German soldier who had threatened to kill her during the war. Sitting next to her was Mercedes who, having suffered a stroke, seemed able only to communicate with her eyes – these lit up when she saw young Alec.

As we walked back to the church I wondered... would that be me in 40 years time? What memories of my life would be on display in my small room? Who would remember I was there and visit? Would I face death with fear, or serenely with dignity? Would death be the 'final hopeless denial of everything that has filled life', or would I be anticipating with joy the prospect of knowing God's presence fully in heaven?

In the village where I come from in Africa the tradition is to wear white to a funeral – signifying the celebration of the Risen Christ who overcomes death and leads the way to new life. That afternoon, for the very first time, I finally understood the significance of this custom.

Rosslyn Okumu

**Contributions for the September Clarion  
should be sent in to the church office by 25<sup>TH</sup>  
August 2007**

# ST MARY THE BOLTONS CALENDAR AUGUST 2007

## SERVICES AND READINGS

### SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am Eucharist

10.30am Sung Eucharist

4.30pm Evening Prayer

*The meeting room at the back of the church is available for people with pre-school children. There is a baby changing facility in the wheelchair accessible toilet in the hall.*

### WEEKDAY SERVICES

Usually Morning Prayer is said at 8.30am (Eucharist on Feastdays) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays except Public Holidays. Wednesday 7.00pm Eucharist

### READINGS in August

#### Sunday 5 August

Readings at 10.30am

Wednesday 8

Readings at 7.00pm

#### Sunday 12 August

Readings at 10.30am

Wednesday 15

Readings at 7.00pm

#### Sunday 19

##### Trinity

Readings at 10.30am:

Wednesday 22

Readings at 7.00pm

#### Sunday 26

Readings at 10.30am:

Wednesday 29

#### Sunday 2 September

Readings at 10.30am

#### The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Hosea 11. 1-11 Colossians 3. 1-11;  
Luke 12. 13-21

Dominic, Founder of the Order of  
Preachers

Numbers 20. 1-13; Matthew 16. 13-23

#### The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 1.1 10-20; Hebrews 11. 1-3,  
8.16; Luke 12. 32-40

#### The Blessed Virgin

Isaiah 61. 10-11; Luke 1. 46-55

#### The Eleventh Sunday after

Isaiah 5. 1-7; Hebrews 11. 29 -12.2;  
Luke 12. 49-56

Judges 9. 6-15; Matthew 20 1-16

#### The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Jeremiah . 4-10; Hebrews 12. 18-29;  
Luke 13. 10-17

Jeremiah 1. 4-10; Matthew 14. 1-2

#### The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Jeremiah 2. 4-13; Hebrews 13. 1-8, 15-16;  
Luke 14. 7-14

### REGULAR EVENTS

Thursdays 9.30am onwards Fabric Group

Saturdays 9.15am onwards Gardening Group

Sundays Sunday School in term time

Holidays Traidcraft Stall after 10.30am service

Parish Picnic Lunch

Mothers and Toddlers Group

Bible Study Group

Thursday simple lunch

Marriage Blessing 18

Marco & Nubia De Silva

Baptisms 19

Johan Aaron

### FROM THE July 2007 REGISTERS

Baptisms 8 Jacob Malikov

15 Imogen Hodges

Marriage 14 Matthew Bonning-Snook

& Melanie Goodleff

20 Philipp Graf & Johanna Fothergill

21 Oliver Eills & Katherine Hamilton

Memorial Service 5

Kenrick Prescott

### DIRECTORY

#### Parish Postal Address, Telephone, Fax & Website

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[ginny@stmarytheboltons.org.uk](mailto:ginny@stmarytheboltons.org.uk) (day off: Tuesday)

#### **Churchwardens**

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Mark Nichols 020 7370 0752

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020 8670 0100 / 07774 655028

**Parish Administrator** John McVeigh

020 7835 1440 [john@stmarytheboltons.org.uk](mailto:john@stmarytheboltons.org.uk)

Office open 9.15am – 2.15pm Monday to Friday

**Verger / Caretaker** David Ireton

020 7244 8998 / 07881 865386 (day off: Wednesday)

#### Parochial Church Council Officers

**PCC Secretary** Joanna Hackett 020 7518 8430 **Electoral Roll**

**Officer** Sarah Baillieu 020 7341 4141 **Treasurer** Carolyn

Stubbs 020 7835 0074 **Gift Aid Secretary** John Barker 020

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