

THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

November 2007

November – a month for remembering.

The Church year is quickly drawing to a close. November is the last month of the Church's year and in the northern hemisphere it's so often a time when the mood changes. As the days become shorter and darker, and the trees lose their leaves and the flowers fade, there's a sense of things closing in, of coming to an end, of dying.

In the Church, November is a time for remembering, especially those whose lives here on earth have come to an end. November 2nd is All Souls' Day when we commemorate the faithful departed and on 11th November we remember those who have died for their country in war. This year, the 11th falls on a Sunday and we will be having a Requiem Eucharist at the 10.30am service.

For the remainder of the month we have time to ponder the great mysteries and wonders of our earthly life and its transitoriness. But our faith does not allow us to become and remain dragged down in gloom for long. In December the Church year begins once more and with the season of Advent we begin our preparations for the great feast of Christmas as we make ready to celebrate the coming into the world of God's Son, the light who came to banish the gloom and darkness, bringing us the light of new life.

As part of our preparations for Christmas at St. Mary's our Advent Course will take place on three consecutive Wednesdays (November 28th, December 5th and December 12th). Following the weekly Wednesday Eucharist we will meet in the church hall from 7.45pm to 8.45pm. The theme will be '**What are we doing celebrating Christmas? The meaning of Christmas at the beginning of the 21st century**'. There will be a series of presentations and discussions as we explore ways of making the celebration of Christmas more meaningful and purposeful. Details are as follows:

Wednesday 28th November: 'Christmas Past' – looking at Christmas from a historical perspective, from the Church's and our own.

Wednesday 5th December: 'The mystical meaning of Christmas' - speaker Sister Elizabeth CSF.

Wednesday 12th December: 'Making the most of celebrating Christmas today'. Each session will end with a short meditation.

I do hope as many of you as possible will come for these evenings. If you are unable to come for all of them, please come just for one or two as you are able.

I look forward to seeing you.

Ginny Thomas

West London Churches Homelessness Night Shelter - 18th Nov - 13th Jan

We are very pleased to be hosting again, as we did last year, the Night Shelter being co-ordinated by the churches in this area. A number of us/you participated last year and I hope very much you will want to join in again. SUNDAYS are 'our' night. The first is 18 November and the last is 13 January. The role of the volunteers is first and foremost to be there, willing to get to know those using the shelter. This is something ANYONE can do. Secondly, there are practical jobs to be done, not least cooking or helping with cooking.

The users are let in at about 7.45pm and they tend to turn in for the night pretty much when supper finishes at 9.15pm. It is good if volunteers can arrive some time around 7.00pm and finishing time will be certainly by 10.00pm and probably earlier.

There is an induction evening which WLCHC are organising for us on the 4th Nov. This will be at 7.00pm at St Jude's church. All should attend unless unavoidably unable to do so.

It would be great if you could join in with us, even if you know you can only come once, although in practice we hope it will be more than that.

If you know others who were involved last year, do send this on to them. It will help our planning if you could let us know which dates you can do.

Roslyn is kindly co-ordinating things this end you can contact her on 020 7370 1360.

Tom Gillum

Choral Eucharist Sunday 25 November

As part of his 60th birthday celebrations, Patrick Thomas is generously donating a Choral Eucharist, to be sung by an octet of professional singers and directed by Graham Caldbeck, on Sunday 25 November. The music will include Finzi's exciting Ascensiontide anthem, 'God is gone up' and Vaughan Williams's inspiring 'Valiant for truth' - a setting of Mr Valiant-for-Truth's final speech from Bunyan's *A Pilgrim's Progress*. The Gloria, Sanctus & Benedictus will be sung to Herbert Howells's famous setting for King's College, Cambridge. Please do make every effort to be there for this unusual event.

News from Wilga Smart

May people will remember Wilga, who went back to her home country, Australia, in the early 1990s. She was in hospital for a week to get her lungs reviewed. This is part of an e-mail, sent on 16 October:

Came home yesterday after a helpful stay. I found out what an old crock I really am but how to cope with it - I think! But marvellous back up: I'm to have a district nurse call and a lung team from the home nursing group every Friday to keep me monitored and out of hospital; all very comforting. Everything is compounded by my failing eyesight - am now registered as blind, have lost all my peripheral vision so I don't see detail. A bit of tunnel vision is allowing magnified reading; I would like to keep that but fear I won't.

Lace and Faith

When Jeannette Koester, of Bremen, Germany, heard about my exhibition "*Lace and Faith*" at St. Saviours, Knightsbridge in March this year, she immediately invited me to bring the exhibition to Kapitel 8, the Evangelical Information Centre right next to the Dom (cathedral). Jeannette was the organiser of the Bible marathon event in Bremen in 1999 and supporter of our own Bible marathon at St Mary's in 2000.

It was a daunting proposal but then again, Jeannette is an exceptional woman who with the help of a good friend (The Holy Spirit), has undertaken remarkable projects. Jeannette trained as a minister and for about five years worked as a curate at a small church in a suburb of Bremen, where incidentally Philip and I got married in 1959. Soon Jeannette's real talents as a brilliant organiser and communicator began to surface.

Within a short time Jeannette had persuaded the administrators of the Evangelical church in Bremen to open a Christian Information Centre right next to the market square in Bremen. With a group of about 15 volunteers, Kapitel 8 gives information about support groups, advises on christenings, weddings and funerals, has strong links with the Senate of the Hansa town Bremen, and holds exhibitions.

When I teased Jeannette that Kapitel 8 was easy to find because everyone knows McDonald's, which is just across the road, she replied: 'My aim is that every visitor will turn it around and say Kapitel 8 first and only then point out that it faces McDonald's.'

While the exhibition at St. Saviours in Knightsbridge was open to the public for just one week, Jeannette suggested that the *Lace and Faith*, i.e. lace in Christian worship from cradle to grave 18-19th century handmade lace items, should be shown for the whole month of October. My husband and I filled two suitcases with christening gowns and bonnets (birth), a wedding veil, stole and train (marriage) and black funeral handkerchiefs and shawls (death). Jeannette and the volunteers worked in over-drive, mounting the exhibition, checking my German descriptions, booking a piano player, commissioning a huge banner, sending out invitations, baking cakes and stocking the refrigerator with champagne for the reception. The local paper had printed an article about the event that attracted viewers who would normally not have visited Kapitel 8, which is trying very hard to introduce people to, rekindle or strengthen their belief in him.

After one week in Bremen, my husband and I were delighted to be hosts for five days to two of the Kapitel 8 volunteers, Anita and Rosemary back here in London. I was very keen to take them to the regular Thursday lunch-time meditation session at St. Saviours to meet the paid and unpaid supporters of this inspirational Faith and Arts Centre, which has so much in common with Kapitel 8.

Jeannette is now in discussion with Antonia Rolls, an English painter who held an exhibition at St. Saviours one year ago, called *Good God*. In her press release Antonia wrote: 'The spiritual side to my life runs through all that I do. I am shaped by God, loved by God and moved by God. All of these paintings are full of the spirit of love and fun.'

I am not a painter, but I admire people who are creative and can paint, play music, sing, dance, act, write, sculpt, weave and make lace. To me creativity and religion, i.e. a belief in God go hand in hand and if I can convey this through lace it is all thanks, every single day, to God, my creator, every.

Anne Swift

Just This Day

Amid all the turmoil, tension and conflict in the world, we need to enter into the stillness and silence where everything is eternally united in God. Just This Day – 28 November 2007 – has been set aside as an opportunity for people, individually or in groups, to sop for a short time and experience silence.

In the centre of London, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields will launch the day with a special service at 09.30 and will hold three minute silences throughout the day on the hour, with a half hour's meditation starting at noon. The Bishop of Reading, the Rt Rev Stephen Cottrell, will participate, and has delivered this message:

'It has been said that most of the world's problems are caused by the human inability to sit still. I am therefore delighted to support an initiative that simply invites the whole world to sit still for a few minutes.

When we are still we discover ourselves as part of a huge, complex and interconnected universe. When we are still we learn to appreciate people and things around us. When we are still we rediscover a child-like sense of wonder.

When we are still, we discover the beauty and the possibility and the eternity of each moment. When we are still we may even find ourselves glimpsing God, the source of time and space the one who is best encountered in silence.'

It is of course possible to stop all our usual activities and devote some time to meditation or silent prayer at home, but some may choose to come to St Mary's to experience silence and stillness in the peaceful atmosphere of our church.

'Be still and know that I am God'.

Anne Garten

Bible study group

We meet once a fortnight on Mondays in term time. We read the bible and commentaries and we pray and generally care for each other. We have lively discussions and sometimes disagree. We would love to have new members. Please contact Grahame on 020 8222 8394. We look forward to seeing you.

The Long and Winding Road (less travelled!)

As some of you may know I returned to the UK from America after Easter. Having come to the end of my two and a half year period as a novice with the Society of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge Massachusetts, I decided that the life of that community was not for me. This was a difficult decision, at least as difficult as the one to go, because I was coming back to an uncertain future. Being homeless and unemployed is rarely the lot of being a priest.

Over the last few months I've agonized about what to do next but the generosity of family and friends has enabled me to take my time and respond not to what is obvious but to the unexpected. On Sunday 28 October it was announced that I am to join the staff of All Saints, Margaret Street W1, a famous Anglo-Catholic church near Oxford Circus tube station. This parish also has the care of The Annunciation, Marble Arch.

My particular responsibility will be to continue and develop the chaplaincy to the Oxford Street stores. Many thousands are employed in the retail sector in that area and enabling people to make sense of faith and work is a major challenge for the church. There are also a number of church buildings around Oxford Street, not just Anglican but also Methodist, Roman Catholic and the Salvation Army. Liaising with these communities and creating new ways for workers and shoppers to discover these oases will be another part of the role.

I will always be grateful for my time in the monastery. Not many clergy get the chance of such an extensive spiritual re-bore and time for reflection after many years of ministry. I'm glad that I took the risk. I take up my new ministry around the beginning of Advent and Ginny has kindly offered to invite me back to preach at St Mary's some time in 2008. I look forward to that. In the meantime I thank you for remembering me in your prayers as I have offered you up in mine.

Gerald Beauchamp

Books wanted

Books in good condition wanted for church trolley. All subjects accepted. Please leave in parish office or call Margarete on 020 7373 1639

The next Clarion will be a double issue for December and January. If you have any articles please send to John at parish office no later than Friday 23 November.

ST MARY THE BOLTONS CALENDAR NOVEMBER 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 November

Sunday 4 November All Saints

Readings at 10.30am Daniel 7. 1-3,15-18; Ephesians 1. 11-23; Luke 6. 20-31

Wednesday 7 All Souls

Readings at 7.00pm Lamentations 3.17-26, 31-33; Romans 5.5-11; John 5.19-25

Sunday 11 November Third Sunday before Advent

Readings at 10.30am Job 19. 23-27a; 2 Thessalonians 2. 1-5, 13-end; Luke 20. 27-38

Wednesday 14 Readings at 7.00pm Wisdom 6. 1-11; Luke 17. 11-19

Sunday 18 November Second Sunday before Advent

Readings at 10.30am: Malachi 4. 1-2a; 2 Thessalonians 3. 6-3; Luke 21.5-19

Wednesday 21 Readings at 7.00pm 2 Maccabees 7.1. 20-31; Luke 19. 11-28

Sunday 25 Christ the King
Readings at 10.30am: Jeremiah 23.1-6; Colossians 1.11-20; Luke 23.33-43

Wednesday 28 Readings at 7.00pm Daniel 5.1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Luke 21. 12-19

Sunday 2 December First Sunday of Advent
Readings at 10.30am Isaiah 2.1-5; Romans 13.11-14; Matthew 24.36-44

REGULAR EVENTS

Mondays	9.30am Mothers & Toddlers
Thursdays	9.30am onwards Fabric Group
Saturdays	9.15am onwards Gardening Group
Sundays	Sunday School
November	
Saturday	3 Confirmation St Paul's Cathedral Wedding Blessing Philip Denton & Angela Joyce
Sunday	4 Parish Lunch & Traidcraft
Thursdays	8 Simple lunch 12.30
Sunday	11 Baptism Wilfred Machin & Lucas Siberschmidt
Monday	12 Bible Study Group

Thursday	15	PCC meeting
Saturday	24	Memorial service for Angela Lambert
Monday	26	Bible Study Group
Wednesday	28	Advent Course week 1

FROM THE OCTOBER 2007 REGISTERS

Marriage	20	James Morgan & Jillian Tait
	27	Ruaraidh Thomas & Emma Folds
Baptisms	21	Jeremy Jenkins
	28	Milo Methven

DIRECTORY

Parish Postal Address, Telephone, Fax & Website

St. Mary's Church House, The Boltons, London SW10 9TB
Tel 020 7835 1440 Fax 020 7370 6562

www.stmarytheboltons.org.uk

Priest in Charge The Revd Ginny Thomas

The Parish Office 020 7835 1440

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

Churchwardens

Arthur Tait 020 7352 5127

Mark Nichols 020 7370 0752

Director of Music Graham Caldbeck

020 8670 0100 / 07774 655028

Parish Administrator John McVeigh

020 7835 1440 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

8571 0737 **Children's Advocate** Verena Tschudin 020 7351

1263

Co-ordinators: Bible Study Group Betty Greenland 020

7373 2625 & Grahame Challen 020 8222 8394 **Clarion Editor**

Verena Tschudin 020 7351 1263, vtschudin@fastnet.co.uk **Clarion**

Distribution Elizabeth Davson 020 7373 1872 **Coffee Rota**

Betty Greenland 020 7373 2625 **Flowers** Boo Simpson 020

8878 9898 **Garden** Audrey Pine 020 7373 8349 **Mother &**

Toddlers Ann Parkin Magalhaes 020 7565 2756 **Prayer**

Network Verena Tschudin 020 7351 1263 **Readers &**

Intercessors Rota Malcolm Gregory 01932 355863 **Servers,**

Sidespeople & Social Secretary Sylvia Gregory 01932

355863 **Sunday School** Jane Dass 0207 370 5309 **Traidcraft**

Mary-G Blanchet 020 7352 6958, Dorothy Patrick 020 7352 1396

Assistant Treasurer Bill Gallagher 020 7384 3246.

THE CLARION Paper from **KaIKwik** Printed in **Church Vestry**