

THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

JUNE 2008

PARISH PILGRIMAGE Toledo, Avila, Salamanca 12th – 19th May 2008

We had an early-ish start to Monday 12th May, early-ish being defined, for those eligible, as too early for a Freedom Pass to be valid. The departure of the Airbus was a little later than intended because of delays by traffic congestion. However, this extra time enabled Patrick to collect up the tip money, which he efficiently and discreetly dispensed to guides and hotel staff throughout the following week.

On arrival at Madrid we were met by our principal guide for the whole trip, Noberto, and taken by coach to Toledo where we were driven along outside the walls of this ancient fortified city, to give us an external view before being dropped off and wending our way over the San Martin bridge and up into the city and to our hotel, the San Juan de los Reyes. On arrival we were faced with the high-tech features of our rooms. How did the lights come on? How did the bathwater disappear? How did one work the shower, and the jacuzzi? And how many attempts did one have to make before mastering the room safe?

The following morning we set off with Noberto and our local guide, Fernando, who said: 'Come closer', 'I am a vegetarian. I won't eat you.' This jokey approach rather set the tone for the whole trip, both Fernando and Noberto lacing the information they gave us with an agreeable vein of humour.

The cathedral, the second largest in Spain after Seville, was constructed on the site of the Great Mosque of Toledo (which itself had replaced a Visigothic church), and in terms of the richness of its contents and decoration it would be hard to find its equal anywhere. In attempting to describe it one just runs out of superlatives. It features three full-size organs, though only one of these is in regular use. On the upper part of the railings in the 'Choir' appears the inscription 'Psalle, Psille' meaning 'Sing and be quiet' (a warning to any choir member who may have been tempted to talk to the man next to him).

Later that day a small expedition set off in the rain to find the tiny mosque, the oldest in the city, of

Mezquita del Cristo de la Luz. The quest was successful but trying to co-exist with the traffic in the narrow winding streets was akin to running with the bulls in Pamplona!

After dinner that evening we prayed the service of Compline together in a downstairs room at the hotel.

On Wednesday we viewed El Greco's masterpiece 'El Entierro del Senor de Orgaz' in a burial chapel at the foot of Iglesia de Santo Tomé. Fernando gave us a very detailed description. El Greco included his own likeness in the picture and also that of his son.

We went on to visit two contrasting synagogues, the highly decorative Sinagoga del Transito built in 1366 (with Hebrew inscriptions praising God, King Pedro and the builder Samuel Levi) and the much simpler Sinagoga de Santa Maria la Blanca. Both have also served as churches in their time and feature Moorish influences in their architecture. The formal tour concluded with a visit to the large and impressive church of San Juan de los Reyes located at the beginning of our street. We were told that since 1806 the State has been responsible for the maintenance of all religious buildings (would that that were the case in the UK!).

In the afternoon various groups looked in at the Museo de Santa Cruz, one of them returning to the San Martin bridge by way of the 'Don Quixote' river walk. After dinner we held Compline again.

The Thursday morning was spent travelling to Ávila, St Teresa's birthplace, to visit the Convento de la Encarnación where she was a nun for 27 years. We spent our lunch break within the town's eleventh-century walls. The town has the best-preserved fortifications in Spain. Then on for a look at Fontiveros, the birth-place of St John of the Cross. The church, however, turned out to be completely closed and the whole place looked like one of the towns Noberto spoke about where everyone had left! Not much sign of any shops, though there was a butane gas agency tucked away around a corner, and we did see one pedestrian.

Swiftly on to Salamanca and to another technically-advanced hotel that was to be our base for the remaining four nights of the trip, the 'Artheus Carmelitas'. Though located on a main road, this

was within easy walking distance of the main square and the old centre of 'the most graceful city in Spain'.

On Friday we walked down with Noberto to the University where we were able to glance inside various lecture rooms and the old library. The University dates from 1218 and was once the most important in Spain, its astronomy faculty being consulted by Columbus in preparation for his exploration of the New World.

Then on to the twin cathedrals, Siamese twins almost, since the Catedral Nueva was constructed side-by-side with the Catedral Vieja so that their common wall could act as a buttress to the older building, which was in danger of collapsing. The old Romanesque cathedral is impressive by any standards but an even larger one was thought to be necessary to reflect adequately the importance of Salamanca. The old building has a Cock Tower rather than a Clock Tower.

Saturday was quite a day. Firstly a steep winding ascent to the Monastery at the summit of the Pena de Francia (1732m – Ben Nevis is 1344m). Here Ginny celebrated our first Eucharist of the trip, something of an achievement for a *female* Anglican vicar (the resident priest seemed quite enchanted). After this there was just time for a 'vitamin' stop in the café and then back down the hill to the nearby picturesque town of La Alberca, which in 1940, became the first rural town in Spain to be listed as a National Heritage Site. La Alberca is full of overhanging half-timbered houses and one feels transported back to a totally different age. Here we had lunch.

We travelled further west to the unspoiled town of Ciudad Rodrigo, not too far from the Portuguese border. A 'good place for aimless wandering', it was a popular place for the aristocracy to build their palaces. The Duke of Wellington recaptured it from the French in 1812.

On the Sunday we visited the town of Alba de Tormes where St Teresa died and is buried, seeing the Church of the Annunciation and its museum, the Carmelite Museum and the Church of San Juan. Much stork-stalking by camera took place.

That evening, in Salamanca, we attended our second Eucharist service in a simple modern Anglican chapel and later dined at Meson el Cordovilla with Noberto and the tour company's local agent Marilo Gomez. Main dish (a huge) steak and chips, drinks: red wine, cava, coffee and liqueur).

The drive back to Madrid airport the following day was uneventful but enlivened by Noberto's extempore comments on olives (Spain has 41 million inhabitants but, thanks to the Common Agricultural Policy, 49 million olive trees) and Cervantes' 'Don Quixote' (apparently the world's most widely-read book after the bible). We were also intrigued by the seemingly endless line of wind turbines on a row of distant hills.

Sincere thanks are due to Longwood Holidays for putting together such a varied programme, and to Sheila and Ginny for leading the expedition. Also to the local agent, Marilo, and to Noberto (will any of us ever forget the two porks and Oscar the donkey?) and Fernando.

John Barker

PS

Grahame Challen was taken ill during the week and was eventually hospitalised. However, he was able to make it as far as Salamanca, which was good going as there was a major hospital very close to the hotel. We send him our love and wish him a speedy recovery.

Confirmation Classes

I will be offering confirmation classes in the late summer/autumn to anyone who is interested in being confirmed later this year. There will be separate classes for adults and children and the confirmation service will be at St. Paul's Cathedral on Saturday 1 November.

If you would like to find out more about the classes or if you would like to attend please let me know by ringing the parish office – 020 7835 1440.

Ginny Thomas

Bible Study Group

The Bible Study group will meet on Monday 2 June and Monday 16 June. Please call the parish office for details.

Sunday School News

On Sunday 11 May the Children told the congregation of their plan to sponsor a child from a developing country. The organization we will be using is "Compassion", kindly recommended to us by Mrs. Pearce. After a discussion, the children chose to help the child who had been waiting longest: the one most in need.

Contributions for the July/August Clarion should be sent in to the church office by 21 July.

"Compassion" is a Christian organization with over 50 years' experience of working with some of the poorest communities in the world. During that time more than one million children have been assisted.

It will cost us £200 a year to support this child. The children will be able to write to them and hear their news in return.

To start the ball rolling, the children made little collecting boxes to take home, hopefully earning a little money to donate by doing chores. If you have a child in Sunday school please support them; it is their keenness to help another child in need.

We will also be using money raised from the Summer Fair among other fundraising activities.

Jane Dass

Thursday Lunch Club
will restart on
Thursday 11 September at 12.30

**St Mary's Summer Fair:
Saturday 21 June 2-5pm**

The proceeds from our Summer Fair this year will go towards the International Health Partners (UK) and The Universal Beneficent Society. Please support us in any way you can – either by donating items, bric-à-brac – (*but only good quality items please and NO clothes or electrical items*), second hand books, baked goods and jams or by helping on the day with setting up and taking down stalls, helping at a stall or **by coming along to the Fair itself and bringing family and friends. We look forward to seeing you.**

***** Please bring any items for the Fair to the church during the week beginning Sunday 15 June. *****

St Jude's Update

As you may be aware, at present there are four main users in the building of St Jude's: The French language school, Ladybird nursery, The Earls Court Project, and the Community of St Jude.

Plans were originally put forward in 2000 for works to be undertaken for major repairs to the buildings and tower. The plan included digging out the undercroft, creating a larger working space and to create an upper hall space within the church.

This work was never carried out. As a result St Jude's is now in desperate need of urgent repair. Water is leaking into the main body of the church, with the spire needing to be supported along with numerous other problems.

The problem is how to fund it. The Diocese looked at several options, including a wine bar and health club, among others. The best result is for the St

Mellitus Training College to take up the lease. St Mellitus is a theological college offering training to clergy and lay members. The advantages to this are that existing users of St Jude's will be found temporary accommodation while the building work progresses, and when the work is finished they will be able to return to St Jude's. The college will also bring the much needed funding required to carry out the work.

This will have an impact on St Mary's and careful consideration should be given to the future plans for the development. The plans for the development are available at the parish office.

The plans go before the planning office at the end of this month. If you would like to support these plans, please pop in to parish office for details, and then write to the planning officer, David Prout, at Kensington & Chelsea Town Hall.

ALMA 10th Anniversary Service

"The River of Life"

**A celebration of London's World Links
Sunday 13 July 2008 at 6.0pm in St Paul's
Cathedral**

2008 marks the 10th anniversary of ALMA and there will be a particular focus on this ever-growing area of the life of the Diocese of London. The Bishops of Angola, Lebombo and Niassa will be with us for the celebration, together with other bishops from the world-wide church who have particular relationships with Angola, Mozambique and London.

Prayer and Commitment are two important themes woven into the service and there will be Rivers of Prayer: prayers in the form of words, pictures, postcards and photos, which will be attached to blue rivers of cloth that will flow through the aisles of the Cathedral.

The Cathedral doors will be open at 5.15 pm and the Twyford School Gospel Choir will be singing from 5.30 pm.

July's Year Mind

Joan Palin
Pamela Shaw
Gary Davies
Britta Osbahr
Leonard Berry
David Dixon
Evelyn Davson
Madge Terry
Hugo Phil
Marjorie Cooling
Kenrick Prescott
Gisela Osbahr
Doreen Allen

ST MARY THE BOLTONS CALENDAR JUNE 2008

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 June

Sunday 1 June

Readings at 10.30am

Second Sunday after Trinity

Deuteronomy 11. 18-21,26-28;

Romans 1. 16-17, 3. 22b-28;

Matthew 7. 21-end

Wednesday 4

Readings at 7.00pm

2 Timothy 1. 1-3,6-12;

Mark 12 18-27

Sunday 8 June

Readings at 10.30am

Third Sunday after Trinity

Hosea 5. 15-6.6;

Romans 4. 13-25;

Matthew 9. 9-13, 18-26

Wednesday 11

Readings at 7.00pm

Barnabas the Apostle

Acts 11. 19-end;

John 15. 12-17

Sunday 15 June

Readings at 10.30am:

Romans 5. 1-8;

Wednesday 18

Sunday 22 June

Readings at 10.30am:

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Exodus 19. 2-8a;

Matthew 9. 35-10.8

No Evening Eucharist

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Jeremiah 20. 7-13;

Romans 6. 1b-11;

Matthew 10. 24-39

Wednesday 25

Readings at 7.00pm

2 Kings 22. 8-13, 23. 1-3;

Matthew 7. 15-20

Sunday 29 June

Readings at 10.30am

St. Peter, Apostle

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

1. Peter 2. 19-25;

Acts 12. 1-11;

Matthew 16- 13-19

Sunday 6 July

Readings at 10.30am

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Zechariah 9. 9-12;

Romans 7. 15-25a;

Matthew 11. 16-19, 25-30

REGULAR EVENTS

Mondays 9.30am

Mothers & Toddlers

Thursdays 9.30am onwards

Fabric Group

Saturdays 9.15am onwards

Gardening Group

Sundays

Sunday School in term time

June

Sunday 8 Traidcraft

Monday 16 Bible Study Group

Saturday 21 Summer Fair

From May's Registrars

Sunday 11 Baptism Stella Jones

Sunday 25 Baptism Lucas Mead

Sunday 25 Baptism Peter Hunt

Sunday 25 Wedding Grant Mc Kenna & Sarah Mojab

Sunday 25 Wedding Niklas Antman & Lisa Almen

DIRECTORY

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