

# THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

NOVEMBER 2008

## **The Reverend Ruth Lampard Associate Vicar of St Mary with St Peter and St Jude**

I'm delighted to welcome Ruth Lampard as our Associate Vicar and greatly look forward to working with her and everyone at St. Mary's as we continue to respond to God's call to worship and serve Him in this part of West London.

Ruth was licensed at the Eucharist service on Wednesday, 29 October, by the Archdeacon of Middlesex, the Ven. Stephan Welch. It was a very happy occasion with many of Ruth's, and her husband Ian's, friends joining members of St. Mary's to support and welcome her as she begins her new ministry. The service was followed by a reception where Ruth and Ian were welcomed more informally and where they were able to meet members of the congregation.

Ruth's appointment opens a new and exciting chapter in St. Mary's history. In his sermon at the service, the Archdeacon spoke of autumn being a time of harvest and decay/dying but that St. Mary's had chosen this time for planting and therefore growth. I pray that the seeds that we will sow with Ruth in her ministry will bear much fruit and that her time with us will be full of discoveries and blessings.

Please take every opportunity to introduce yourself to Ruth and to welcome her to St. Mary's.

*Ginny Thomas*

## **From the Associate Vicar**

I'm delighted to be appointed Associate Vicar of St Mary's; I am looking forward to joining Ginny in ministry here and to getting to know you and the wider parish over the coming five years. I very much appreciate the commitment of the parish to this new post, and look forward to exploring together what possibilities it opens up for us all.

Thriving parish life is at the heart of the strength of the Church of England, and having served recently as Chaplain to the Bishop of Kensington (which was a very rewarding role) I am delighted to be returning to parish ministry, and especially to ministry at St Mary with St Peter and St Jude.

As well as generally assisting Ginny, and reaching out into the St Jude's part of the parish, I hope that we can explore together ways to connect our faith with the environment. As a Church, we have a particular responsibility to learn about and work to reduce the harm we are doing to God's creation, particularly through our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and their impact on climate change. I suspect that we are all on a journey with this, continuing to learn as we go, but most of us know that we do need to take steps at Church and at home to reduce the impact of our activities on the environment. Having worked with these issues in the Diocese of St Albans as well as in the Kensington Area, in the past few weeks I have been working with the Diocese of Southwark to resource Churches as they begin to explore these issues: I hope that projects we might grow here could both benefit us and contribute to the wider Church.

As Ginny mentioned, I have a legal training and qualified as a solicitor just before leaving London to train for ministry in the Church. Before starting work at Lovells, I spent a gap year in New Zealand helping a church generally and specifically with their youth work. It was a forerunner of some of the pastoral assistant roles that are now available in England. On my return, I felt very strongly that I wanted to complete my training as a solicitor and to live, commute and work for a few years before exploring vocation in the Church. I thought that if my vocation were later confirmed by the Church, I would know what it is like to balance the demands of home, Church and work in the City. I had and continue to have a strong "lay" side to my understanding of Church, and believe that ministry is there to help to support people in balancing complex and demanding home and work lives.

I am married to Ian Tattum, who is priest-in-charge of St Barnabas, Southfields, just 10 minutes away on the District Line. Surprisingly the two parishes are connected by Beatrix Potter: apparently she used to travel to sit by the River Wandle (which runs through Southfields) to think and write, and she is reputed to have written Peter Rabbit in or near the parish.

I am writing this on Thursday morning, after my Licensing. Thank you for such a warm welcome and to all who worked so hard behind the scenes to make it such a moving service. Thank you also for the lovely bunch of tulips and hyacinths, and just how did Ginny know that pink is my favourite colour? Ian much appreciated being called 'the power behind the throne' as well as his bottle of fine wine. It was lovely to meet so many of you then, and I look forward to getting to know you all. I feel very much at home, and delighted to be joining such a lively and kind company.

*Ruth Lampard*

**Advent Evening Discussions:  
Jesus, 'the Way, the Truth and the Life'  
Wednesdays, 26 November, 3 and 10  
December, at 7.45-9.0pm**

As in previous years, there will be three evenings of discussion as part of our Advent preparations for Christmas.

This year we will explore Jesus' claim in John's Gospel that He is 'The Way, the Truth and the Life' and what it means for us individually, as members of St. Mary's and in a multi-faith world. One aspect of the claim will be explored each week through a variety of images, including poetry/hymns and music, as well as through the biblical witness. Each session will start with a presentation by either Ginny or Ruth and will be followed by discussion in small groups.

The discussions will follow the Wednesday evening Eucharist service, starting with refreshments at 7.45pm and ending at 9.0pm. Please join us if you can, both for the Eucharist and the discussions.

**REPORT ON THE 'IMAGES OF GOD'  
SESSIONS**

These were organised in response to requests for a course that was additional to the Lent and Advent courses. The sessions took place on three consecutive Wednesday mornings, from late September to early October. We were fortunate that Margarete Geier kindly offered us her flat for our meetings. This is near to St Mary's and spacious. We had an attendance of ten people for each meeting, despite some people only being able to attend one or two sessions.

The sessions seemed to go well and everyone felt able to contribute, despite the fact that some of us did not know each other well. We agreed that in 'house groups' such as this it takes time to build up trust, but that taking time to do this is worthwhile.

In the first session we explored the general notion of Images of God. We looked at pictures of art and sculpture and read some poems. We commented on the pervasive love of God 'saturating' our lives, so that we can feel images of Him to enlighten our journey. This journey may be solitary or together. We felt that we were essentially spiritual beings but with a bodily human life. God was located within us and around us. We felt the mystery around God and the good and evil in the world.

In the second session we split into two groups and read three parables, The Prodigal Son, The Talents and The Feast. We discussed what each parable told us about God and what we found challenging about these different portrayals of Him. We felt that the parables do not necessarily give us answers but that we can cherish the questions they raise! The Prodigal Son story showed that God was free to act in unexpected ways, as an example of all encompassing forgiveness and acceptance. However, the kind of life we lead always has consequences and we need to grow through that. The Talents suggested that we have been given gifts and have an obligation to make the most of our potential. We need courage to do this. The Feast was difficult to understand without knowledge of the historical context of that time. We felt that it was partly about generosity and yet this time God was seen more as the Judge. The wedding feast might represent the Eucharist and the clothing might represent Baptism.

The third session was about the Images of the Crucifixion. We briefly discussed the four different gospel versions of the crucifixion and the different images they project. We read aloud the relevant chapters from Mathew, and discussed the notion of suffering and its importance in our lives, drawing on examples from life and literature. We looked at several pictures of the crucifixion, commenting on the variety of emotions they engendered in us, such as salvation, atonement and glory, as well as suffering. We then listened to the relevant parts of the Bach St Matthew's Passion.

*Ginny Thomas, Clare Ziegler, Ann Tait*

### **A Letter from Audrey Pine**

1<sup>st</sup> October 2008

Dear Ginny,

Please would you very kindly convey my thanks to the people of St. Mary The Boltons for their heart-warming send-off to me last Sunday. I felt moved and humbled by their kindness and by the enormous generosity of their gifts of flowers and John Lewis vouchers. I shall give careful thought to the expending of the latter, to have something in my new home by which to remember them.

I found it hard to leave St. Mary's, and will always remember my time there as giving me a real sense of belonging and spiritual growth. Now I must look to develop that further here at St. Mary's, Henley. Tomorrow I shall attend the mid-week Eucharist, on Friday the harvest supper, and on Saturday the working-party to clear ivy from the gravestones and other places where it has outstayed its welcome. New beginnings!  
With love and prayers to you all,

*Audrey*

**Nonsuch Singers concert  
Southwark Cathedral  
Friday 5 December 7.00pm  
BACH – CHRISTMAS ORATORIO**  
*(parts 1-3 & 6)*

Rebecca Outram *soprano*  
Andrew Radley *countertenor*  
Thomas Hobbs *tenor*  
Stuart MacIntyre *bass*  
Canzona  
Graham Caldbeck *conductor*  
*Tickets on sale at the door*

### **Thursday Lunch Club**

The next lunch club will be on Thursday 13 November. We will be starting a Eucharist service at 11.45 before this, and all future lunches.

The Speaker will be a representative of the Earls Court which is an organisation that reaches out to support all kinds of people who are struggling with life. The project is based within our parish, at St Jude's church. The title of the talk is 'Urban Mission'. If you would like to join us for lunch please put your name on the sign up sheet at the back of the church.

### **All Souls Day**

The All Souls day service will take place on **Wednesday 5 November**, at the 7.0pm mid-week Eucharist. During the service we will pray for the souls of those who have died. If you would like to add a name to those to be prayed for, please write the person's name on the sheet on the table at the back of the church, and join us for the service

### **Year's Mind**

Catherine Barclay  
Clifford Gregory  
Roderick Cooling  
Harry Davson  
Windsor Richardson  
Frederick Greenland  
Mary Taylor  
Ken Slater  
Archibold Murray  
Tony Tomas  
Dorothy Shuckburgh  
John Bassett  
Pamela Greig

**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.