

# THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

JUNE 2009

## Stewardship Campaign 2009-12

Many thanks to everyone who responded to our stewardship campaign held last month. Elsewhere in the magazine you can read about two of the three special events that were held in connection with the campaign. Both were a great success and attracted not only members of the congregation, but also people not associated with St. Mary's. Part of the aim of the campaign was to attract people to the church who do not usually come.

Sadly, the third event, the sponsored walk, attracted very little interest and while those who participated enjoyed it, as well as a delicious tea on the south lawn afterwards, it was disappointing that so few people took up the challenge.

Another disappointment was that only 49 pieces of the jigsaw puzzles were returned. With a 160 pieces sent out, it is a great pity that the puzzles remained largely incomplete at the end of the campaign.

Details of the campaign's results will be published in next month's Clarion. If you have not yet returned your commitment form, there is still time to do so. Please either hand it in to the parish office or send it to the Parish Office, St. Mary's Church, The Boltons, London SW10 9TB.

Meanwhile I would like to thank the committee who organised and ran the campaign: Kristin-Anne Rutter, Adam Coulter, Tara Bromley and John McVeigh. They worked extremely hard and gave a great deal of their time, as did the verger, David Ireton, who helped with running the three special events. I am very grateful for their commitment to St. Mary's.

*Ginny Thomas*

## SUMMER FAIR 2009

The St Mary The Boltons Summer Fair will be held on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009, 2pm - 5pm**. The fair will be raising money for The Earls Court Community Project, The Al Ahli Anglican Hospital, Gaza and to replenish our charitable pot.

The organizing committee of Fiona Brown and Joanna Hackett would now like to receive firm offers of help on the day – manning a stall, helping to set up and take down etc – and pledges to donate items to the fair. There will be plant, bric a brac, book and homemade cake stalls, raffle, BBQ, bottle tombola and things for the children. We cannot start to collect any items at church until *the week before the fair* but promises now would be gratefully received.

We would be particularly keen to receive offers of items to be used as lots for the Silent Auction. These should be something not generally or easily available; a piece of art work, tour of a studio etc, a day's fishing / shooting etc, signed football etc strip, first edition etc, and something for which people will be willing to bid (large sums of money!).

We look forward to hearing from you!

## The Festivity of Jesus

'The first preaching of the gospel is the festivity of Jesus – eating, drinking and taking pleasure in the company of just about anyone'. This sentence from Timothy Radcliffe's book *Why Go to Church?* jumped clean off the page at me when I was thinking about the focus of our activities at St Mary The Boltons this summer. We will be hosting the Summer Fair (Saturday 20 June), an evening of contemporary reflective music by Pete Downes and Martyn Barker (Saturday 11 July), The Boltons Big Lunch (Sunday 19 July) and a series of conversations in June and July that will form a 'Community Audit'. Each in their own way will involve some eating, drinking and taking pleasure in the company of just about anyone.

These events embody the commitment of Ginny, the PCC and the Church to the vision of St Mary's as a Church rooted in and reaching out to the local community. It carries forward the PCC theme 'Our Door is Open': just as we welcome people into the Church, so we also reach out beyond the Church to serve our local community. The five key values that characterise our common life are Welcoming, Exploring, Respecting, Empowering and Reaching Out, and we hope that these will be seen in each of our summer events.

The Summer Fair is our regular annual chance to eat, drink, shop and play in the summer sun: a great Church tradition and opportunity to welcome and engage with all who come. It also helps us to reach out to people in need by raising funds to support our charitable giving: to the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza and The Earls Court Project, and to our charities pot.

We are delighted that the next two events are part of the Earls Court Festival, a connecting of our life here with the wider community: look out for us in the Earls Court Festival publicity. Any surplus raised from these events will also support our charitable giving.

Pete Downes and Martyn Barker who are sharing their music with us on 11 July are both former residents of the parish, now both professional musicians. Martyn tours with Billy Bragg and will be playing the hang drum – come and find out just what it is - and Pete is an acoustic guitar player. Pete and Martyn's acoustic music is hard to pigeonhole. It has been described as 'atmospheric' and 'mystical' and draws on contemporary, classical (including Bach), jazz and world influences. The conversation between their instruments opens up a space for reflection and contemplation within the musical journey and they hope to interact with the audience as part of the event. They will be bringing schoolchildren to sing a couple of pieces. Do come and hear them: it's a good event to invite friends to, and a rare chance to have a conversation with contemporary musicians. We hope to be able to reach out to attract people young, old and in-between, to listen and reflect in the peace and tranquillity of this Church. Pete and Martyn's event could be of interest to young

people attracted to music or the life of contemporary musicians, and possibly music teachers at school, so if you can spread word, please do. Tickets (free) are available from the Parish Office from 1 June.

The second event is The Big Lunch on 19 July – I have written about this in previous editions of The Clarion – and Leo has hints for growing things later on in this Clarion. The day is about opening up to the community, sharing (the meal, its preparation and eating, and the money raised from donations), and having fun together. We are delighted that we are part of a national event as well as connected to the Earls Court Festival. Our small planning group was involved in the national launch (*see the team photograph*). Tickets are limited to 150 as we want to make sure we keep a balance between eating together as a Church and reaching out to the local community. There are up to 75 tickets for Church people, available from the Parish Office from 1 June.

If you would like posters or flyers to distribute for any of these events, please contact the Parish Office.

Finally, in June and July the PCC will be carrying out a 'Community Audit', which is really a time to be curious about our church and our community, the trigger for some interesting conversations, and 'taking pleasure in the company of one another'. We will first reflect on our Church life: what we have found to be life giving about the Church and how we can build on that. The second is to ask people in the area about what they like about living or working here, and to explore with them what the local needs are, not to assume that we know them. We would also like to find out what people think about us at St Mary's, even if they know we're here! I may be contacting you to help with this, but please feel free to contact me first and offer any help you can give. You might feel happy to have the chance to chat with people, curious to find out about the view 'from the street', or you might prefer to help 'behind the scenes' in some way: perhaps you have knowledge about local voluntary organisations, charities active in the parish or local government services for people in need. A report on these conversations will go to the PCC in the autumn.

## **PCC Report (delivered to congregation on Sunday 17 May at 10:30am service)**

Ginny and the PCC are committed to developing a real sense of connection, commitment and service to our local community. Service is at the heart of our calling as a Church and vital to our own health as a Church. An outward-looking focus of Church life is one of the Seven Marks of a Healthy Church identified by Robert Warren,<sup>1</sup> which he describes as being deeply rooted in the *local community*, working in partnership with other denominations, faiths, secular groups and networks; passionate and prophetic about *justice and peace*, locally and globally; making connections between *faith and daily living*; and responding to human need by *loving service*.

In the season of the Church year we are just entering – the many Sundays ‘After Trinity’ – we will be attending to the ministry of Jesus out and about among the people of his day, mainly based in Galilee. In a few instances will we encounter Jesus in the synagogue or in formal ‘religious’ settings. Jesus scandalised some people by eating and drinking and having a good time with ‘the wrong sort’, and he was clearly an attractive person to be with and good fun too, as well as being deeply serious. So let’s take the opportunity we have this summer to join in ‘the festivity of Jesus – eating, drinking and taking pleasure in the company of just about anyone. See you there!

*Ruth Lampard*

Robert Warren *The Healthy Churches Handbook*, 2004, Church House Publishing

The PCC met on Thursday 14 May for the first meeting of the new year, and welcomed new members Christopher Fowkes, Anthony Bryceson and Mary Lewis to the meeting. Tara Bromley is the fourth new member.

We discussed the connections Ginny and Ruth are forging with the local Church of England primary school in Warwick Road, St Cuthbert & St Matthias, particularly the help members of the congregation give with reading with the children and their upcoming involvement with the Big Lunch to be held at St Mary’s in July. Coincidentally we are collecting the Tesco and Sainsburys schools vouchers for St Cuthbert & St Matthias so if you do have any please bring them into church.

The big issue we discussed, which ties in with the Big Lunch, is the community audit which the Rev Ruth Lampard is organizing and which we are hoping to begin in June. This will be an opportunity to learn more about our congregation, the visitors who attend services here and the community as a whole. The aim of this enterprise is to learn how we can help the wider community and how they can help and support us. More details about this will follow over the next few weeks.

Our Easter Day service this year was very well attended however the services on the three days leading up to Easter Day had a low number of attendees. As a PCC we would urge as many of you as possible to attend next year’s beautiful services in the run up to Easter Sunday. A date for your diary is 4 April, Easter Sunday 2010. We would also encourage as many people as possible from our congregation to come to the Carols by Candlelight service to be held on 13 December this year. A final date to remember is Sunday 31 May when we will be holding a meeting after the 10:30am service to discuss the 2010 pilgrimage.

Please keep the work of the PCC and clergy in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you.

*Fiona Brown*

### **Thursday Lunch Club**

Iona Thomas will be our guest speaker this month and the title of her talk is 'Inside Government: From Working with a Cabinet Minister to the Soft Side of Counter-Terrorism'

The lunch will be on Thursday 11 June at the usual time of 12.30pm and will follow the monthly Thursday Eucharist at 11.45pm.

If you would like to attend please put your name on the sign-up sheet at back of the church.

### **Evan Davis**

Evan Davis does not fit the usual BBC model for its correspondents and reporters. If he had started his BBC career on radio, it is hard to imagine him moving over to television, and yet it is on BBC2's Newsnight where he came to prominence. His ability to explain often complex issues simply and concisely quickly led him to become the BBC's Economics Editor, a role he clearly deserved and seemingly enjoyed.

His appearance at St Mary's was not subject to the time limitations imposed by television or radio. We were therefore able to appreciate and enjoy the uncut version of Evan's impressive fund of knowledge about economic affairs; but not just knowledge as a reporter or observer. Also on display were his analysis, theories and explanations, all displayed modestly, I should add, and with grace.

Evan attributed the world economic crisis to three different problems all occurring at the same time, with one of these being China, which has effectively been distorting world trade by exporting everything and not developing its home market. I found this intriguing, as I had put the American sub-prime explosion and general banking greed as the main reasons. I refrain from commenting further, as unfortunately I did not take notes, either during his introductory comments or during the volley of very informed and perceptive questions that he answered with great intelligence and in often unexpected ways. Someone said to me afterwards that perhaps Evan Davis' explanations and comments were too simplistic. I had to disagree. If you cannot

explain something simply it is probably too complicated and most likely hides one or more flaws. It was partly because the directors and senior managers of some of the world's largest financial institutions did not understand the complicated financial instruments and derivatives being invented and traded by their staff that these institutions nearly destroyed the world economic system.

Evan told us right at the beginning that as an economist he had made his career move to radio at the worst possible moment, just as the world's greatest economic crisis was erupting. I think he is missed on Newsnight, but in his new role on Radio 4's 'Today' he is able to bring an economic perspective to the BBC's most prestigious and important programme at a time when such knowledge is greatly needed. St Mary's was therefore fortunate to have had such direct access to Evan as economist. I doubt any other church will have managed to have had such an impressive (financial) evening as part of its Stewardship campaign!

*Anthony Williams*

### **Fun in the Sun**

#### **The St Mary's Children's Party**

Earlier on this month and to resounding success and positive feedback, St Mary's hosted its (inaugural) Children's Summer Party. As with all the events organized by Ginny, thanks to her team and incredibly hard-working volunteers, the day went off without a hitch. Even the weather played its part with sunshine all day.

Stalls and amusements surrounded the church. The wide variety ensured that few went away empty handed: children thrilled with painted faces; balloons and lots of sweets; adults clutching spoiling vouchers won in the raffle, and all washed down with the first Pimms of the summer. Everyone had a good time; not one fractious or grumpy child all day. As the mother of a happy face-painted two year old, who had to be persuaded to go home for tea, this is certainly an achievement. A huge 'well done' for all who helped to pull this off. In anticipation of next year's event!

If you missed the Family Day, do come along to the Summer Fair on Saturday 20 June at 2pm.

*Katrin Roskelly*

## Treasures at St. Mary's



On the back of the cross on the altar in the south transept is an engraving that says 'OMAR RAMSDEN ET ALWYN CARR ME FECERUNT'. David Ireton, our vergier, did some research on the internet and discovered this article by Jeremy Astfalck. By e-mail I asked if we might include his article in the Clarion, which he agreed to with pleasure.

Omar Ramsden was born in Sheffield 1873 into a family active in the silver trade. His friend and rival Alwyn Carr was born in Sheffield 1872. They met at the Sheffield School of Art and together would bring traditional craftsmanship combined with modern manufacturing techniques back into the reaches of all members of their community.

The age of Victorian mechanisation was well established when Ramsden and Carr formed their partnership in 1898 and opened their workshop in London. Both had been influenced by the emerging Art Nouveau and Arts & Crafts movements.

To appreciate their contribution to the world of silver one needs to see how they distilled the central tenets of both Art Nouveau and Arts

and Crafts. In the Art Nouveau style, sinuous free flowing curving lines, the use of asymmetrical natural motifs and ethereal human forms dominated.

In what is today known as the Arts & Crafts movement, the Victorian pursuit of mechanisation and industrialisation which resulted in a smooth, uniform factory look was largely rejected. Instead hammered surfaces are visible, where the indentations can be clearly seen as a duller shade of grey. This was due to copper oxide known as 'fire stain', which occurs on all hand made silver. It was not removed by sanding, polishing or electro-cleaning or concealed by electro-plating.

The combination of the Art Nouveau style and Arts & Crafts techniques gave Ramsden and Carr their unique look. This was further augmented with the use of enamelled bosses, semi-precious stones and enamelling.

Enamelled bosses were manufactured by the carefully controlled melting of coloured glass onto silver and gold sheet resulting in an object resembling a semi-precious stone. These were then set into the silver pieces copying an earlier medieval look. This process was probably overseen by Alwyn Carr who was a skilled enameller.

Engraved on many of the pieces is the artists' trademark signature, found in various forms until the end of their careers, reinforcing the perception of commissioning a piece of silver from a craftsman. This was not common practice, as general silverware would have been designed, manufactured and retailed with no input from the client himself. Ramsden and Carr marketed the idea that any of their clients could commission a unique piece, no matter how humble, to his own specifications. This option would have been highly appealing to many of the newly rich clients of the day and ultimately led to a successful business strategy. Although Omar Ramsden and Alwyn Carr's partnership ended in 1919, they both continued to produce silverware, with Omar Ramsden becoming the more well known of the two. Ramsden died in 1939 and Carr died eight months later in 1940.

*Jeremy Astfalck*

I did further investigation and found that their first workshop was in Stamford Bridge Studios, Fulham Road, in 1898. They moved to Albert Studios in Albert Bridge Road in 1901 and finally to St Dunstan's Studios in Seymour Place, Fulham Road. This was retained by Omar Ramsden after the break up of the partnership in 1918.

Margarete Geier, David and I studied the two candlesticks either side of the cross and came to the conclusion that they were by Ramsden and Carr, although they are not engraved purely because the flowing lines at the base of each candlestick are similar to the flowing lines at the base of the cross.

*Malcolm Goddard*



### **St Mary's Christian Aid Contribution**

This year St Mary the Boltons has raised the handsome sum of **£383.24** for Christian Aid: a good effort as Christian Aid Week fell in the middle of our Stewardship Campaign and people's time and treasure were being demanded elsewhere!

Tube Station Collection	£86.59
Supper Parties	£200.00
Coffee Money	£26.65
Donations	<u>£70.00</u>
	<b>£383.24</b>

Thank you to everyone who helped with collections and attended events.

This year Christian Aid Week the charity hopes to raise £15 million for its work in 57 countries.

Christian Aid

'We believe in life before death'

[www.christianaid.org](http://www.christianaid.org)

### **Ready Steady, grow grow grow .....**

Our Big Lunch is on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July and it is definitely not too late to grow your own to bring and share and even to have some left over to enjoy for the rest of the summer. Many salad leaves and lettuces can be grown on a cut and come again basis and many can be ready within 6-8 weeks. Basil and dill can be cropped after 8 weeks in good growing conditions and so too can young chives. Other crops like mustard and cress and radishes can be ready in as little as 4 weeks or less. And we need all these types of salads and herbs for our Big Lunch.

So **sow, sow sow - now.** The equipment needed for growing your own at home in containers is very simple. All you need are little pots and compost. Best to buy in the seed compost, a multi-purpose one, but you can make your own pots. You can use yoghurt pots or just cut up a plastic water bottles or milk containers and pierce a few holes in the bottom. You can even use egg boxes. Just firm the compost gently in the container, and make sure it is nice and moist. Then scatter the seed thinly and cover with a light sprinkling of the compost. There is no need to bury the seeds deeply, just a light covering is enough, about half a centimetre for lettuce/salad leaves, no more, less for some other herbs. Water gently again and place the pots on a bright window sill. Covering with a clear polythene bag will help contain heat and moisture and assist germination, but remove as soon as the seeds have come through. Seedlings should appear in about a week, longer if conditions are cooler. Thin out the seedlings when there are 4 leaves, gently teasing them out with a teaspoon or knife, leaving the strong ones in situ. Hold the thinnings by their two seed leaves and re-pot in their final growing position. This can be outside in the ground or in a grow bag on a balcony or

in a bigger pot for growing inside - even a large yoghurt pot would be enough for some rocket or chives. But when thinning be sure to leave one or two in the original pot undisturbed as they will grow on much faster than any that have been thinned out. Seeds started off in egg boxes can just be planted transplanted directly into the final growing container as the egg carton box will disintegrate. Be sure to keep lettuces and salad leaves well watered but do not drown them.

**What to grow.** Rockets and many types of Salad Leaves can be ready for harvesting in 6-8 weeks, so get them planting now. Good varieties to look out for are Lollo Rosso, Bijou and Salad Bowl. We also need Dill and Chives for the Big Lunch and they will be young and especially tasty in July if sown now. They are surprisingly easy to grow and chives need no thinning if sown sparsely. Mustard and Cress and Radishes are especially easy to grow in containers and can be ready in just a few weeks. Finally Mint will grow in the most surprising places, so beg a piece of mint root from a neighbour, plant it in a pot of multi purpose compost or just garden soil, water it and just watch it grow, anywhere outside in a bright sheltered position. Be sure to water your herbs and salads well in hot periods as they can wilt and die very quickly without water, but equally do not drown them. Just keep moist at all times.

Growing herbs and salad leaves is fun and rewarding and very easy, even for beginners. There is much good advice on the Big Lunch website - [www.thebiglunch.com](http://www.thebiglunch.com) and also from the BBC's Dig In campaign [www.bbc.co.uk/digin](http://www.bbc.co.uk/digin) or ask me. If we are to feed 150 with home grown salads, we need as many people as possible to grow something. So please think about what you can grow and then **sign up, sign up, sign up** (there is a list at the back of church) and make your contribution to the miracle that will be the Big Lunch Salad for 150 people from home grown produce.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

**St Martin-in-the-Fields WC2  
Friday 17 July 7.30pm**

**MOZART:**

**Requiem  
Serenata Notturna K239**  
and other choral works

**JAMES MACMILLAN**

**Christus Vincit**  
and other motets

**Nonsuch Singers**

**London Primavera**

**Mary Bevan** *soprano*

**Charlotte Stephenson** *mezzo-soprano*

**Philip Conway-Brown** *tenor*

**George Humphreys** *bass*

**Graham Caldbeck** *conductor*

Box Office 020 7766 1100

Online [www.smitf.org](http://www.smitf.org)

This concert is given in celebration of James MacMillan's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday [16 July] and is kindly supported by the PRS Foundation for New Music.

**June's Year Mind**

Joan Palin

Pamela Shaw

Gary Davies

Britta Osbahr

Leonard Berry

David Dixon

Evelyn Davson

Madge Terry

Hugo Pdhil

Marjorie Cooling

Kenrick Prescott

Gisela Osbahr

Doreen Allen

**Contributions for the July/August Clarion  
should be sent in to the church office by  
27 June**