

THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

MAY 2010

Belonging to the Body of Christ at St. Mary's

It was good to see an increase in attendance at our APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) on Sunday 25 April. It isn't perhaps the most exciting event in the church year but it is a legal requirement as well as an important occasion for us to come together to take stock of what we do at St Mary's and to consider the future.

Many people who visit St. Mary's remark on the special atmosphere of the church. It has been described as having 'good vibes', which come partly, I think, from the simplicity of the building and the beauty of its surroundings; but I believe that it comes most of all from the quality and seriousness of our daily and weekly worship and from the people who take part in it, from their commitment to prayer and worship and to our life together.

It is our worship that shapes and forms us, giving us our identity as members of the body of Christ. As part of the body of Christ we at St. Mary's form a community that seeks to be welcoming and open, supportive yet challenging, valuing and taking care of each other, and serving, where possible, the people in need in the parish and beyond.

In this connection Ruth Lampard has in the last few months been working hard with others in conducting a Community Audit to find out how we see ourselves, and how our neighbours and people in the parish see us. Once all the information has been collected and collated, it will then be brought to the PCC for consideration and action.

As a result of our decisions and actions, I very much hope that our identity as the body of Christ will grow and be strengthened so that the 'good vibes' resonate beyond the church and its beautiful setting. Watch this space for more information as the audit progresses. As it does so, I invite you to think about your role as

a member of the body of Christ and of St. Mary's now, in the present, and in the future.

Ginny Thomas

Ginny to become Vicar of St Mary's

The Bishop of Kensington has announced that Ginny is to be installed formally as Vicar of the Parish. By way of background, Ginny joined us in 2004 as Associate Vicar on a one year contract, and the following year was licensed as Priest-in-Charge.

The change in status will not make any significant difference to how our church operates on a daily basis, but it is undoubtedly a mark of respect for Ginny's ministry both at St Mary's and for her work outside the Parish, that the Bishop has decided to make this appointment as it is unusual for self-supporting (non-stipendiary) priests like Ginny to be appointed Vicar.

Ginny will be installed as Vicar by the Bishop of Kensington at a special service on the evening of Wednesday 13 October. More details about this will follow nearer the time, but please reserve the date in your diaries now, so that we can ensure that the church is full on this important occasion.

Mark Nichols

New members of St. Mary's PCC (Parochial Church Council)

At the annual parish council meeting on Sunday, 25 April, Kristin-Anne Rutter and Kevin Loprimo were voted onto the PCC, replacing Sheila Gibbs and Fiona Parsons whose terms had expired.

Kristin-Anne currently works for McKinsey and Co. She has medical and neuroscience degrees from Cambridge and an MBA from Harvard. She is married to Mark Swift and they have a daughter, Solveig, 22-months old; they live in the parish. Kristin-Anne was on the Stewardship Campaign Committee last year and has been a member of St. Mary's for 3 years.

Kevin Loprimo is an American from New York and has lived in London since 1996 with his wife Kathy, who is a member of our Sustainability Committee. They have three children, Ben, Olivia and Miranda. Olivia and Miranda are servers. Kevin works in banking, is a coach with the London Warriors American football club, trying to spread the enjoyment of this support in the UK.

Both Kristin-Anne and Kevin will serve a three year term. One place on the PCC remains open and it was agreed that the PCC would co-opt a third new member.

At the meeting Mark Nichols and Leo Fraser-Mckenzie were re-elected as church wardens.

The other members of the PCC are: Jane Bonser, Antony Bryceson, Tara Bromley, Christopher Fowkes, Margarete Geier (Deanery Synod Representative), Brian Hallock, Mary Lewis, Pauline Stephens, Helen Trafford (Deanery Synod Representative), Arthur Tait (Deanery Synod Representative)

Christian Aid Week at St Marys

This year Christian Aid Week is 10 - 16 May and as ever at St Mary's, we will be raising money for this important charity. Joanna Hackett, St Mary's Christian Aid rep, has recently become organiser of the Chelsea Christian Aid Group, which encompasses many local churches, including St Luke's Sydney Street, St Columba's Church of Scotland and the Chelsea Methodist Church.

Every year Christian Aid Week centres on a country in specific need, where the charity aims to raise awareness of the plight of local people, and raise in the order of £5 million for this project. This year Christian Aid is concentrating a lot of its efforts on the slums of Nairobi, Kenya, where five million people live within two square miles, the majority without running water and sanitation. An excellent DVD is available, should anybody wish to learn more about this project. Christian Aid also wishes to confirm that of course they have risen to the challenge of providing aid in Haiti and have pledged £2 million so far to that needy country.

At St Mary's we will be aiming to beat our previous year's records of money raised and

Joanna would be delighted to hear from you should you wish to make a donation (gift aid envelopes can be provided), have any ideas for fund raising activities during Christian Aid Week, or can give any time to help raise funds. We would love volunteers to help with the rattling of tins at Gloucester Road and St Jame's Park Underground Stations or (for those with good eyesight). During that week the Chelsea Committee is also looking for people to help with the counting of the incoming money.

There will be a cake sale after the Sunday service on 16 May, please do support it generously.

Please do not hesitate to speak to Joanna if you have any questions about Christian Aid Week or indeed if you are interested in helping out. Joanna Hackett, 07720 850 482 and joanna@awberymorris.com. Thank you.

St Mary The Boltons Summer Fair Saturday, 19 June 2010, 14.00-17.00

Please tell all your families, neighbours and friends about the Fair!

With the summer quickly approaching, there is much to look forward to at St Marys and one of the highlights of course is our annual Summer Fair. The organising committee of Katrina Quinton and Joanna Hackett would very much appreciate offers of help from 'old hands' as well as anyone new who would like to be involved in the Fair.

As always, areas where members of the church are needed include the staffing of stalls, the donation of goods (see below) and volunteers on the day for setting up and taking down. Like last year, the proceeds from the Fair will go to support our two main charities: the Earl's Court Community Project (our local charity) and the Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza (our international charity). These charities remain our focus for a further year as we have committed to supporting them for a three year term.

Are you able to donate any of the following:

- Bric-à-brac
- Second hand books
- Bottles for the tombola

- Raffle prizes
- Homemade cakes and jams
- Children's toys
- Silent Auction lots
- Volunteering on the day?

If you are able to help in any way with the fair, Katrina and Joanna would be delighted to hear from you. More information will be put in next month's Clarion. Thank you.

Katrina Quinton: 07753 986 523

katrina.quinton@virgin.net

Joanna Hackett: 07720 850 482

joanna@awberymorris.com

Art Exhibition

The Art Exhibition at St. Mary The Boltons will commence with a Preview on Thursday 17 June from 19.30 to 21.30. This will be an open evening with light refreshments and wine. It will give you the opportunity to view the paintings and meet with some of the artists.

The exhibition has been timed to coincide with the Summer Fair and will be open to the public on the following dates: Friday 18 June 10.00–17.00, Saturday 19 June 14.00–17.00, Sunday 20 June, 14.00–17.00 and Monday 21 June 10.00–13.00. We invite you to put these dates in your diary now.

Thank you to all the artists who have expressed an interest in exhibiting their work. Your enthusiasm, contributions and offers of assistance are really appreciated. To any artists in our congregation, amateur or professional, who would like to exhibit, but have not as yet expressed an interest, please let us know. You can do this by leaving your details in an envelope, marked Art Exhibition, at the Church, and you will be forwarded details regarding a pre-exhibition meeting for the artists, dates for submission and collection.

Please do join us for the exhibition. A warm welcome is extended to you all.

Ann Mulcare

Sustainability Group Top Tip for May

The blossom has been marvellous, and many people have enjoyed the glorious spring after

such a long cold winter. Our top tip for May is simply to keep looking out to see spring turn to summer, even in our very urban area. The blossom may go, but flowers will bloom and we have a real diversity of local trees in our gardens and streets, and it is lovely to see the leaves emerge from tight fists to open hands. Closer to home we are looking out to see if the wren who made a nest in our boiler house last year will try again this year. The birds have been very busy collecting nesting material. Dave keeps his eyes open and is happy to share what he spots.

Our tip is simply to take time to look and enjoy it all unfold.

Ruth Lampard

Open Farm Sunday

On Sunday 13 June we are planning a trip to a farm. After the service we will eat our own packed lunches, then set off in a coach from Church at 13.00 to a farm, returning at 18.00.

If the coach is full, the price per seat will be £10. We would like to be able to offer places for children at £5, so if you could make a donation above the £10 to help with costs, we would be very grateful. If you would like to go, then please put your name on the sign up sheet at the back of church.

Parish Outing to Salisbury on Saturday 17 July

This year our parish day out will be to the beautiful city of Salisbury. Salisbury Cathedral has been a place of pilgrimage for over 750 years, has Britain's tallest spire, Europe's oldest working clock and the world's best preserved copy of the Magna Carta.

On our arrival at Salisbury we will have a guided tour of the Cathedral, followed by a Eucharist in the Lady Chapel. After that everyone is free to roam for the rest of the day. Some may want to bring a picnic, others may want to lunch in local eateries; the Cathedral refectory has light lunches and snacks, and there are lots of places to eat nearby.

The afternoon gives plenty of time either to go back into the Cathedral and explore it more deeply or else to delve into the town. Salisbury calls itself 'The city in the countryside': it is a magnificent medieval city with historic streets and alleyways and charming half-timbered buildings. Mompesson House in the Cathedral Close is a National Trust property and the Queen Anne House well worth a visit, and featured in *Sense and Sensibility*. The countryside is close by, giving those fleet of foot a chance to explore footpaths or walk by the river.

Whether visiting Salisbury for the first time or revisiting there is lots to see and do.

We will meet outside Church at 08.15 for a prompt departure, and will depart from Salisbury at 16.30pm, returning to Church by 19.00.

The price of the tour will depend to some extent on how full the coach is: if we have 26 people the cost will be approx £24 for the coach and £6 for the tour. We hope to keep the costs to £30 or less. If we fill a 34-seater coach the cost of travel will be £17.50, bringing the total cost down to £23.50.

We do not want money to be an obstacle for anyone who would like to come; if help is needed towards the cost of the trip, please see Ginny or Ruth. Helen Trafford is organising the trip and is happy to answer any questions.

Please sign up on the sheet at the back of Church.

Edward Reynolds and the General Thanksgiving

Edward Reynolds (1599-1676) was one of the most illustrious divines in the Church of England during the mid-17th century. Deeply embroiled in the controversies of the Civil War, Commonwealth and Restoration, he spent the last sixteen years of his life as Bishop of Norwich. He also wrote one of the best-loved prayers in the English language.

Merton College claims to be the oldest Oxford College and is one of the wealthiest, best-fed and academically most successful. Another distinction is that a senior undergraduate

scholar is called *postmaster*. To this position Edward Reynolds was elected in 1615 and five years later became a probationer fellow. In 1622, he was made preacher at Lincoln's Inn, and in 1631 rector of Braunston, in Northamptonshire. In 1642, on the outbreak of the English Civil War, his career took an unexpected turn. During this war, which was to last for seven years, the English Parliament raised armies against the forces of King Charles I in an alliance with the Covenanters, who by then were the *de facto* government of Scotland. The Church of Scotland had recently overthrown its bishops and adopted Presbyterianism. This calls for some explanation.

Presbyterians derive their name from the Greek word *presbyteros*, or 'elder.' (Acts 14:23; 20:17; Titus 1:5). During the fourth century, after more than 300 years of persecution under various Roman emperors, the church became established as a political as well as a spiritual power under the Emperor Constantine. The authority of Rome remained largely unquestioned until the Renaissance in the 15th century. The invention of the printing press in Germany around 1440 made it possible for people to have access to printed books, including the Bible. This provided traction for religious thinkers who were beginning to question the authority of the Roman Church. Martin Luther, a German monk, triggered the Protestant Reformation by posting a list of 95 grievances against the Church in Wittenberg, Germany in 1517. Some 20 years later a French/Swiss theologian, John Calvin, further refined the reformers' new way of thinking about the nature of God and God's relationship with humanity, in what came to be known as 'Reformed' theology. John Knox, a Scotsman who studied with Calvin in Geneva, took Calvin's teachings back to Scotland. Other 'Reformed' communities developed in England, Holland and France.

It had been noted by the early church fathers that the offices of elder and bishop were identical, and that a plurality of elders was the original norm for church government. St. Jerome (347-420) said, 'Elder is identical with bishop; and before the urging of the devil gave rise to factionalism in religion, so much that it was being said among the people, "I am of Paul,

I of Apollos, I of Cephas”, the churches were governed by a joint council of elders. Later it was... decreed throughout the world that one chosen from among the presbyters should be placed over the others.’ Presbyterianism was first described in detail by Martin Bucer (1491-1551) of Strasbourg, who held that the early Christian church was organised along Presbyterian lines, bishops being a later and unnecessary insertion. The first modern church to adopt this plan was in Geneva under the leadership of John Calvin in 1541.

As a condition for entering into the alliance with England, the Scottish Parliament drew up a ‘Solemn League and Covenant’ with the English Parliament, which required that the Church of England should also abandon bishops and become Presbyterian. In 1643 the English parliament set up a body called the Westminster Assembly, which was to provide official documents for the reformation of the Church of England; 121 Puritan clergymen participated, and Edward Reynolds joined them. By 1646 the Assembly had produced a ‘Confession of Faith’ based on Calvinist standards of doctrine and worship, with catechisms to support it. The Confession was sent to the English parliament to be ratified and to the General Assembly of the Scottish Kirk. After two years of vigorous debate, the Confession was adopted by act of the English parliament as the Articles of Christian Religion, with some sections omitted.

Its more controversial features included predestination, a minimalist conception of worship, and a strict sabbatarianism. It said that the Roman Catholic mass was a form of idolatry, that the civil magistrates have divine authority to punish heresy, and it ruled out marriage with non-Christians. Edward Reynolds, having assented to this Confession, was rewarded in 1648 by being appointed Dean of Christ Church and vice-chancellor of the University of Oxford.

After the execution of King Charles I in 1649 a fresh controversy arose concerning loyalty to the new regime. During this period, hundreds of pamphlets were published in England supporting ‘engagement’ to the new regime or, alternatively, denying the right of English citizens to shift their allegiance from the

deposed king to Oliver Cromwell and his associates. In 1650 the statement of ‘engagement’ took the form: ‘I do declare and promise, that I will be true and faithful to the Commonwealth of England, as it is now established, without a King or House of Lords.’ Participants in the debate were generally regarded either as *de facto* theorists or royalists. *De facto* theorists advocated loyalty to any government capable of taking power and maintaining internal peace and order. They argued that unless people are willing to accept any government that can protect them, humankind will be doomed to perpetual civil war. Most royalists argued that the people of England were already engaged to the King, and could not change their loyalties.

This was a sticking point for Edward Reynolds and he refused the statement of ‘engagement’. Though he promised to obey the law, this was not enough to save him. He lost the vice-chancellorship in September 1650 and was ejected from his deanery the following March, despite a last minute pledge to subscribe in a limited sense. He preached before parliament in January 1657, and the same year he became vicar of St Lawrence Jewry.

After the death of Oliver Cromwell, Reynolds and other Presbyterians sought an accommodation with Richard Cromwell, and on 11 October 1658, on behalf of himself and other London Presbyterian ministers, Reynolds delivered an oral address to the new Protector. In 1659 he was restored to his deanery and preached at the opening session of parliament.

Hugh Beach (to be continued in the June Issue)

Thursday Lunch

Our monthly lunch will be on Thursday 13 May at 12.30. Our speaker will be Alison Naftalin, a government lawyer, who was motivated to set up ‘Lively Minds’ after spending two months volunteering in Ghana in 2007.

Lively Minds is improving the quality of life for children and their families in rural Ghana and Uganda by developing low-cost educational programmes that are run by the communities themselves. The work enlivens minds and empowers communities to use their own skills

and resources to change their lives for the better. This is real sustainability and is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty.

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

Poems from St Cuthbert With St Mathias School

'Six children from year 5 represented our school and the whole Borough of Kensington and Chelsea at City Hall. They presented the work that their class had been doing as part of their project on homelessness to a large audience of adults from the Cabinet office, Education Department and from local councils as well as children from selected other schools in London.

Their project was a credit to the school'
Steve Boatright Head teacher - *Extract from the weekly School newsletter 1 April 2010*

Lonely Sad People

Sad faces of the people of the world,
They sleep on the rubbish,
They beg for money,
They don't have enough food to put in their mouths,
They don't have any family,
They don't have anything.

Ahmed A

Homeless Poem

The sad restless of the homeless – strained by the worries of life,
While kids like us are playing with – Nintendo Wiis – we jump with joy.
When we beat a level,
While the homeless hug their dogs like a tightening Anaconda,
Our smile haunt their min and say "Why can't that be me?"
While kids are getting games for their PS3.
Their heads area burning pot to the wrath of the sun,
They hardly smile,
They scavenge through bins and say to themselves
Why me?

Alain

Homelessness

Home is what I need
Oh my dreams are terrible
My mouth is o desperate with hunger
Eating is what I shout for help
Less good things for me
Echo in my head
Sounds in my head
Smell that make me very hungry
Nighttime is so much worse – it's too cold
Eating makes me so much more hungry
Seeing other eat makes me so upset
Sounds everyday make me so sleepy
Milena

The Smell of Homelessness

The caustic smells strain my body,
I fell like a man in the world with no care.
It's so lonely.
I feels just like yesterday.
The children of earth don't deserve this place.
Help – but it is like hell on earth.
I need you to care for these people.

The smell of no hope fills the air with destruction.
The man in the world has no luck.
The smell of money in the air,
But the poor can't get any – they have been abandoned.
The man with no luck – hunting for food.
But all of the food has been wasted.
Kai and Rhys

My life as a Homeless Person

The innocent homeless people have nothing at all.
All they have is their frozen heart as cold as ice.
24 hours of no-one to turn to is really unlucky.
All they want is happiness and freedom,
but now they do that with nothing to feed them.
Maybe just a piece of bread will do.
I am wondering what to do.
Looking over their bony shoulder they see a flash back over and over.
They understand life is life.
but in their heart nothing is right.
Dua

Homeless Children

Homeless children dream to be a star,
But instead they touch the filthy graffitied walls.
Homeless children lay on the rusty old floor
and wish that they had been a popstar.

Children get angry at their mothers because of
the silly situation.

Children dream to have a mansion,
But instead they have is the street

Joanne

The Streets of Homelessness

Smell the dripping urine from the dusty pipes,
As you taste the cold air as it hits you,
People looking at you with dirty looks like they
don't even care.

No money for any food, looking in the rubbish
every day.

Touch the dirty ground – footsteps
everywhere.

You beg for money every day even though
there is no where to stay.

Go to church every day, pray and pray – even
on a Monday,

I hope that this stops very soon,

But for now I live all alone,

Indre

Homeless

The gentle touch of the rocks on the floor,
This crumbles of the ground.

It falls with rain in the daytime and night-time

With birds singing in the daytime,

Owls hooting at the nighttime

People shove past me in the street

Mohamed

More poems can be found in booklet at the
back of the church. We continue to support
the school with members of the congregation
helping the children with their reading.

*'Printed with permission of St. Cuthbert and
St. Matthias School'*

St Martin-in-the-Fields WC2N 4JJ

Friday 25 June 19.30pm

RACHMANINOV

Vespers

(All-night Vigil)

by candlelight

Nonsuch Singers

Stephanie Allman *alto*

Oliver Johnston *tenor*

Graham Caldbeck *conductor*

Box Office 020 7766 1100

Online www.smitf.org

The performance will have no interval and
should finish about 20.45

Years Mind

George Godbolt

Frances Vernon

Grenville Lake

Ronald Palin

Charles Tait

Joan Garraway

Richard Dowbiggin

Rosemary Hulse

Martin Hulse

Edward Hamilton

Richard Hopkins

**Contributions for the June Clarion should
be sent in to the church office by
24 May 2010.**