

THE CLARION

The Magazine of the Parish of St Mary The Boltons
rooted in faith • open in thought • reaching out in service

April 2023

From the Vicar Holy Week and Easter: How Does It End?

When Oscar Wilde was studying Classics at Oxford, he had to undertake a viva voce or oral examination, for which he had to translate from the Greek version of the New Testament. The chosen passage for translation was one of the Passion Narratives. After a few minutes, the examiners were satisfied, and told him that he had done enough, but Wilde ignored them and continued to translate. Again the examiners attempted to stop him, and this time succeeded, telling him that they were satisfied with his translation. 'Oh, do let me go on,' said Wilde, 'I want to see how it ends'.

At St Mary's this month, we are coming to the final weeks of Lent and the great celebration of Easter and as we do every year, we will read and hear that same story, but even if we are not fluent in New Testament Greek, we cannot pretend we do not know how it ends. In fact, in church we can only

read it in light of the ending, and it is only because of that ending that we read it at all. It is not like one of those stories that is not worth rereading because we know how it turns out. It is quite the opposite: the more we know the Passion story, the more we go back to it and realise that the ending is woven into the way the story is told in the first place.

We do not just read or hear the story each year: we enact it, to make the story something we do not just hear but inhabit.

On Palm Sunday, we begin by recounting how Jesus came to Jerusalem in great triumph and great acclaim, as we shout our Hosannas, and wave our palm crosses, and declare with the crowds who welcomed him, that 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!'

On Maundy Thursday, we become guests at the Last Supper, welcomed by Jesus to share bread and wine, after which we go with him to Gethsemane to await his inevitable betrayal and arrest and hope we may faithfully watch and pray.

On Good Friday, we will stand at the foot of the cross, and hear his last words to us – with his mother and his friend – reminding us that we belong to each other because of him. And we will watch him die.

On Holy Saturday – the day when Jesus' body lay in the tomb – we wait for the climax of the story.



Finally, on Easter Day, we will celebrate because the ending has come. We will light our Paschal Candle and sing our Alleluias because Christ will be risen again. It is an ending that changes what we make of all that comes before, and an ending that in fact is only the beginning. We hope that you will join in the story this year, whether here at St Mary's or wherever you find yourselves over the Easter period. The details of our services can be found on page 8.

Jenny Welsh, Vicar

Image: Christ's Descent into Hades, Anastasis or Resurrection Icon, Eastern Orthodox Church



Lent Progress

At the beginning of Lent we were invited to the 'observance of a holy Lent'. The invitation never fails to strike me, as the minister issues it in the first person, saying 'I invite you', albeit adding immediately 'in the name of the Church'.

Nevertheless this makes it a very personal and effective invitation.

As Easter approaches it is pertinent to ask how that 'observance of a holy Lent' has been going. Not how many times have we failed to achieve the abstinence targets we may have set ourselves or indeed our success in achieving them. Rather, as the Lent group reading the book *Failure; What Jesus Said About Sin, Mistakes and Messing Stuff Up*, by the new Bishop of Kensington, has learnt, recovering from sin or becoming less sinful is more about 'the ongoing movement of our heart towards a greater love of God and of living more closely in the ways of his Kingdom'. That is some challenge. How might we rise to meet it?

The sermons preached by the Vicar over the first three Sundays in Lent offered some very practical teaching about what we do in church on Sunday mornings. We learnt about Give and Take in our Parish Eucharist, about the importance in our liturgy of the Gathering, and about the place of Scripture in the service too. There was much of value in these sermons.

Yet there was also a less obvious theme running through them, that may encourage us in that ongoing movement of our hearts towards God. That is the great importance of active participation in our worship. There can be no give and take without active participation, no gathering without individuals coming together. Our worship comes alive when we all respond confidently and with meaning to the Greeting, when we actively listen together to the Word of God, when we all concentrate on the Prayers of Intercession. As the Vicar pointed out, liturgy derives from the Greek word for work by the people. Yes, worship is work. We are not bystanders in it, watching on while others do the work, we must do it ourselves.

The rewards that flow from active participation are immeasurable, and flow both to us corporately as the Body of Christ gathered together at church, not least when we are all silent together, waiting on the Holy Spirit, and to us each individually too.

Remember the words of Zachariah at the baptism



of his son, John the Baptist, as they are recited daily at Morning Prayer: 'and you child, shall be called the prophet of the most high, you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation'. Now that really is living in the ways of his kingdom. Yes, we are all called to God, and whether you struggle in response to the invitation to the observance of a holy Lent or with the realisation that Zachariah too is addressing each one of us, active participation in worship will help movement into the nearer presence of God.

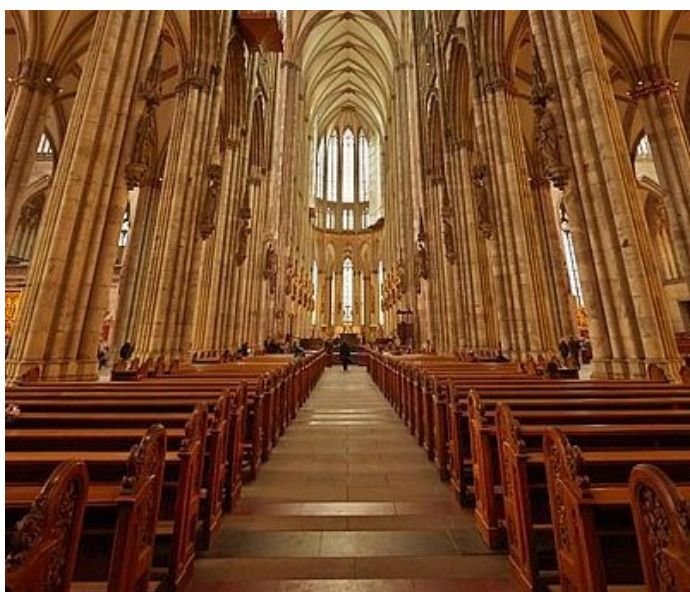
Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

Image: St Mary's Altar, during Lent

Ash Wednesday at Cologne Cathedral

I was lucky enough to enjoy a few days in western Germany in late February, full of my absolute favourite things in life: Berliner donuts, double-decker trains and Gothic architecture.

At Aachen I was completely amazed by Charlemagne's chapel. It is astounding how much of this 10th century building remains, even the 1,200 year old throne, which was used at the coronation of 30 Holy Roman Emperors from Charlemagne until the mid-1500s. This tiny cathedral city was the third most important place of pilgrimage in Europe for many hundreds of years.



By Ash Wednesday I had arrived in the bustling international city of Cologne and it was a privilege to attend the evening mass at this Gothic behemoth. It was an unforgettable experience. There is something particularly spine tingling about a service where you do not understand the words being used but are suddenly brought to attention by recognising the familiar tones of the Lord's Prayer or the Peace.

The service was well attended, with probably 300 people, but we were completely dwarfed by the building, where only the nave was lit and so the recesses in shadow appeared to stretch off in all directions interminably.

The cathedral clergy were out in force for this important day and the congregation were quickly through the administering of ashes and holy communion (in one kind only). The music from the celebrated huge organ was very impressive, though the accompanied singing was not very hearty due to the many different nationalities represented.

I usually wipe the ash cross from my forehead shortly after leaving church on Ash Wednesday, and certainly before I catch my bus home on Fulham Road, but in Cologne I joined the throngs leaving the cathedral and strode off across the main square, attracting a few glances, and a slight nod of approval from my hotel concierge.

I do not recall being abroad for Ash Wednesday before, but attending a service far from home is a wonderful reminder of the universality of God and His message still for so many people today. Commitment to a hopefully calm and reflective Lent is certainly brought to mind by experiencing an enchanting Ash Wednesday service, not to mention the 40 days without donuts.

Joanna Hackett

Image: Copyright: Cologne Tourism



It's time to make this Year's Lent Offering

Lent ends - or ended if you are reading this after Easter - on Saturday 8 April. If you have already presented your offering, a large thank you. If you have not, a reminder that there are four ways you can make your offering and all details are shown on the back of the Lent Offering appeal card.



The image shows a yellow Lent 2023 offering appeal card. At the top left is a small illustration of a church spire. The text on the card includes: "LENT 2023", a quote "God loves a cheerful giver" from 2 Corinthians 9.7, the question "What can I give this year for my LENT OFFERING?", the dates "The Lent Appeal runs from 22 February – 8 April", and instructions to see over for contribution ways and to make offerings by the end of April. It lists charities supported: USPG, learn to love to read, Lyra, Paul's Cancer Support Centre, and the Diocese of London Lent Appeal (Mozambique Conflict Trauma Support).

For the sake of our charities, let us make this year's offering the biggest so far. In anticipation of your helping to fill the Charitable Pot this way, we send a grateful thank you to everyone for doing this. Planning for this year's Fair has already started, so please help this by making your Lent Offering before the end of the month.

From the Charity Committee

News from the Diocese

The Bishop of London has just announced that our Vicar is to be made a Prebendary (along with five other clergy) of St Paul's Cathedral, in recognition of her valuable ministry in the Diocese. You can read about it on the Diocesan website <https://www.london.anglican.org/articles/six-new->



prebendaries-for-st-pauls-cathedral. The role is an honorary one, involving being given a designated stall in the Quire, and belonging to the Cathedral's Greater Chapter, as well as being invited to preach once a year at the Cathedral. Jenny will be installed on Sunday 28 May, the Feast of Pentecost.

The text on the stall reads 'Mora. Confitebor tibi, in toto', which is taken from Psalm 138, which translates as 'I will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, with my whole heart'. The Psalms allocated to the Prebendary of Mora are 138 - 143.

What is a Prebendary?

The short answer is that a prebendary is an alternative name for an honorary canon, used at a number of cathedrals including St Paul's.

You will not be surprised to know that there is also a longer answer. In the Middle Ages, cathedrals were of two types: about half were monastic foundations, usually Benedictine (e.g. Canterbury, Durham, Winchester); the other half were run by 'secular clergy', i.e. not members of religious orders (e.g. London, Salisbury, York).

Each member of the clergy was supported by the income from one of the cathedral estates, known as prebends (from the Latin *praebere*, to support or furnish). At the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 1530s, Henry VIII imposed new constitutions on the monastic cathedrals, which thus became known as cathedrals of the New Foundation. The system of prebends was discontinued, and in due course the title 'prebendary' was replaced by 'canon'.

The secular cathedrals, however, continued unchanged, and became known as cathedrals of the Old Foundation, and the title of prebendary has remained in use, even after prebendal incomes were centralised by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in the 19th century.

So now you know.

It serves to remind us that our cathedral, so greatly identified with Christopher Wren's building, was in existence for many centuries previously, until Old St Paul's burned down in the Fire of London. Jenny will be installed as Prebendary of Mora, which was an estate within the City parish of St Giles, Cripplegate. One of her predecessors was Chaplain to Edward III and later Cardinal of Naples; another was Lord Chancellor.

The role is now almost entirely honorary, and used by the Bishop to recognise service to the diocese. It is a happy coincidence that Jenny's Installation on 28 May (Pentecost) will be the 36th anniversary of her ordination as deacon, the year before she was ordained priest.

Philip Welsh



Report of the March PCC Meeting

St Mary's Church Council met on 8 March for the last meeting before the APCM on 23 April.

The main focus of the meeting was for the PCC to adopt the 2022 Accounts. The annual Report and

Accounts had been ably produced by our Treasurer, Carolyn Stubbs, and she went through the Accounts in an easy to understand manner and answered queries from the PCC. The Accounts were adopted in their draft form and, after they have been independently audited, will be formally adopted at the APCM.

Safeguarding is an important subject, that appears as a standing agenda item at every PCC meeting. At the March meeting our Safeguarding Officer, Clair Gordon, was in attendance to give her annual report, and it is good to hear from Clair about any Safeguarding initiatives or new regulations from the Diocese. Clair outlined the Diocese's new online central hub for all Safeguarding matters, which she believes is an excellent resource where all policy information and documents are kept in one place and where advice can be sought. It is good to know the Diocese is supporting its parishes and providing the tools to enable best practice.

Also at the meeting, Leo Fraser-Mackenzie, on behalf of the Fabric Committee, brought the PCC up to date on the plans for the refurbishment of the west end of our church building. A lot of work has gone into devising a thorough plan that will future-proof the building, making it most suitable to our needs and also ensuring that we achieve our pathway to net zero goals. The refurbishment programme includes, but is not limited to, insulating the two offices, removing two rear pews and making good the tiled floor, adding electricity sockets, refurbishment of the notice boards and replacement of the wheelchair ramp. These ambitious plans have been given to our architects for them to produce a detailed and fully costed scope of works. If you would like more information on these plans, please speak to a member of the Fabric Committee.

At the APCM next month the PCC looks forward to the opportunity of thanking retiring members of the PCC, especially our outgoing Church Warden, Edward Quinton, as well as welcoming new members to the committee.

Joanna Hackett
PCC Secretary

Annual Meetings 2023

Sunday 23 April 2023 at 12.15pm

Annual Meeting of the Parishioners for the election of Church Wardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

at 12.20 pm

Light refreshments will be served before the start of the meetings.

Our Annual Meetings are coming up in the next few weeks. The first of them, the Meeting of Parishioners, is open to all who live in the parish or who are on the Parish Electoral Roll. This is a short meeting with only one item on the agenda: the election of the Churchwardens.

The second meeting, following immediately, is the APCM, open to everyone on the Electoral Roll, i.e. everyone for whom St Mary's is their church. At the APCM we receive the financial accounts for 2022 and appoint the Independent Examiner for the 2023 accounts. Other reports on the church's activity are also received, and new members of the PCC are elected. The APCM is a combination of legal requirements and recognition that the life and mission of our church is supported by good representation and governance by our lay people.

This year we will thank those standing down from

duties: our Churchwarden Edward Quinton has served his full 6 years, and two elected PCC members, Mimi Waterbury and Ann Mulcare, have completed three years of service. We hope and pray for good people to step into their places for the coming term.

We will also elect two representatives to the next level of church governance, the Deanery Synod, which is the body that represents all the churches in Chelsea. Synod representatives are automatically on the PCC, and so make that link between the parish and the wider community.

Nominations for all these positions will open on Sunday 2 April. We are keen to engage new members on the PCC who will help us to grow in creativity, in confidence and in compassion over the course of the next years. If you are interested in being part of our PCC, or would like to know more about how it works, please speak with the Vicar or one of the current members.

Papers for these meetings, including nomination papers for PCC and Wardens will be available in the next weeks before the meeting. Please make it a priority to be there if you can.

Jenny Welsh, Vicar



*ASSEMBLÉE des QUAQUERS à Londres
A Quakeresse qui prêche*

*Illustration: Assemblée des Quakers à Londres
A young Quaker woman officiating at a service in London, circa 1723 engraving by Bernard Picard (1673-1733).*

Messy Cathedral: A Free Family Event at St. Paul's

With activities for all ages followed by Holy Communion.



Saturday 1 April, 10.30am – 1pm

Make your way to St Paul's Cathedral for a morning of activities for all ages, including crafts, singing, and storytelling to take us through the journey of Holy Week.

The morning will culminate in a service of Holy Communion. **Everyone is Welcome.**

For more details and to register, please see <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/messy-cathedral-2023-tickets-519774899717>

Coronation Weekend 5 - 7 May

Join us for prayers on the eve of the Coronation at 6pm on Friday 5 May in Church.

On Sunday 7 May, a special service of Holy Eucharist will be celebrated to give thanks and pray for King Charles.

After the service, we will have a 'bring and share' picnic lunch to celebrate the coronation, which we hope will be a good opportunity to be together as a community around this national event. Please save the date!



Family Day at St Margaret's Church, Westminster

Saturday, 15 April

Come and celebrate the 500th birthday of St Margaret's Church, a church of Westminster Abbey since Tudor times. Take part in free family activities and explore the story of St Margaret and the building's exciting history.



Art and craft 10am - 1pm Make your own dragon inspired by the one defeated by St Margaret.

Family tour Join a family tour to explore some of St Margaret's dramatic and unusual history, which has connections to kings and queens, rebellion, parliament and even a fire. Tours will take place at 10.30am and 12.15pm.

Storytelling Get comfortable with storyteller Margaret Bateson-Hill and hear exciting tales of fabulous dragons gathered from around the world. There will be two sessions: 11.15am and 1.00pm. For more details, please see <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/abbey-events/family/2023/april/free-family-day>

Photo: St Margaret's Church interior, <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/st-margarets-church/our-history>

Letter

The Editor received a letter from a parishioner questioning faith, God, and Christian practice in the light of the war in Ukraine.

In response, we hope to provide opportunities for all of us to look at these difficult questions together: if God is good, how can he allow such evil in his world; if God is powerful, why does he not intervene; how do we pray for the end of tyranny and war; and how does our prayer spur us to action?

More information about these discussion opportunities will be forthcoming.

Verena Tschudin, Editor

Holy Week and Easter

Sunday 2 April Palm Sunday

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Sung Holy Eucharist with the Liturgy for Palm Sunday and Little Lambs Sunday School
Readings Zechariah 9.9-12
Matthew 21.1-11
Preacher The Reverend Philip Welsh

Monday 3 April – Wednesday 5 April

9pm Night prayers and meditation for Holy Week online
<https://tinyurl.com/SMTBHolyWeek2023>
Meeting ID: 878 8016 5724
Passcode: 974034
Or join by telephone 0203 481 5237

Wednesday 5 April

10am Lent Discussion Group

Maundy Thursday 6 April

7pm Sung Holy Eucharist with Footwashing and Vigil

Good Friday 7 April

10.30am The Way of the Cross for children and families
12noon Music and Meditation for Good Friday: Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*
2pm The Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday 8 April

5.30pm Keeping Watch
Vigil for Holy Saturday

Easter Day 9 April

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Festal Eucharist for Easter with Renewal of Baptismal Promises
Readings Acts 10.34-43
Matthew 28.1-10

Image: Craigie Aitchison window, St Mary The Boltens (2008)



A New Garden Shed

Our old garden shed needed replacing, as a large hole in the roof and rotten timbers meant it was no longer safe.



On Monday 13 March, ably assisted by the office manager, the old shed came down. A new shed arrived, then the site was cleared ready for the installation, which happened at 8am on Thursday 23 March.

Dave Ireton, Verger



Photos: Old Shed, and below, New Shed, D. Ireton

Silent Prayer in Church

The Silent Prayer meetings continue in church on the second Wednesday of each month, 11am to 12 noon.

The next dates are:

12 April

10 May

14 June

A group of people gather to sit together in silence for some 40 minutes. No spoken prayers are said, just the tinkle of a bell at the beginning, end, and half-way through. Being silent for a little while is an invitation to listen to what is happening inside. In our liturgies we are used to address God in praise and song, but listening to the inner 'still small voice' may take some more attention. Doing it with other people forms a creative power that can be felt and can be powerful. Letting go of the need to be busy even for a little time is not only relaxing, but will eventually lead us to the truth of our selves that seems to be the big task of all our lives. There is no need to join anything, book or apologise; just come if and when you can.



Photo: Edwina Sassoon

Services and Events

Saturday 25 March clocks go forward one hour

Sunday 26 March Passion Sunday

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist
with Come & Sing Choir
Readings Ezekiel 37.1-14
John 11.1-45
Preacher Dr Grace Bally-Balogan
Followed by simple Lent Lunch

Wednesday 29 March

10am Lent Discussion Group
3.45pm Sunday School on Wednesday
9pm Night Prayers (compline) via Zoom

For Holy Week and Easter Services and Events, please see page 8.

Monday 10 April Easter Bank Holiday

Church closed

Wednesday 12 April

11am Silent Prayer

Sunday 16 April Second Sunday in Eastertide

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist
Readings Acts 2.14a, 22-32
John 20.19-end
12.30pm Thanksgiving for the gift of
a child: Merritt Wickes

Wednesday 19 April

11am Communion at St Teresa's
Nursing Home Roland Gardens

Friday 21 April

10am – 1pm Second Half Club resumes

Sunday 23 April Third Sunday in Eastertide

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist
Readings Acts 2.14a, 36-41
Luke 24.13-35
12.15 Annual Meeting of Parishioners and
Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Friday 28 April

10am Second Half Club

Saturday 29 April

12 noon Wedding Justin Cook
and Alena Makhanova

Sunday 30 April Fourth Sunday in Eastertide

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist
Readings Acts 2.42 - end
John 10.1-10

Monday 1 May Bank Holiday Church closed

Friday 5 May

10am Second Half Club
6pm Prayers on the eve of the
Coronation of King Charles III

Sunday 7 May Fifth Sunday in Eastertide

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist
to mark the Coronation
Readings Acts 7.55-end
John 14.1-14
Followed by Parish Coronation Picnic

Monday 8 May Coronation Bank Holiday Church closed



Year's Mind April

Linda Beauchamp
Anne Simmonds
Geoffrey Hopkins
Evelyn Kyle
Roy Denman
Edward Bye
Vera Sloane
Alan Payne
Geoffrey Payne
Timothy Gwyn-Jones
Arthur Fell
Polly Mitchell
Edward Mason
William Rogers
John Warwick
David Lewis
Elsie Nield
Clas Groth
Alan Carlton-Smith
Karl-Hans Osbahr
Margaret Stubbs
Elizabeth Lowry Corry
Molly Kemm
John McLean
Gillian Brown
Betty Brookhouse
Jytte Lynner
Diana McLean
Geoffrey Sanderson
Robin England
Claudine Allport
Constance Tennant
Marianne Barker
Michael Bryceson
Richard Barton
Jytte Mackenzie-Charrington
James Bolton-Dignam
Yvonne Madley
Sidney Perry



Photo: Edwina Sassoon

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020 7835 1440

Verger/Caretaker

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07881 865 386
(Day off Wednesday)

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Candice Lee 078989 70379

Director of Music

John Ward
boltonsmusic@gmail.com

St Mary's Church Bank Details

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PCC of St Mary with St Peter & St Jude
Account number: 80692190
Sort code: 20-80-14

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Sunday School

children@stmarytheboltons.org.uk

Safeguarding at St Mary's

The St Mary The Boltons' Safeguarding Officer is Clair Gordon. Her role is to help us to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk. She is the first point of contact for children, adults at risk and other members of the congregation regarding suspicions of abuse and other safeguarding concerns. If you have any concerns, please contact Clair on 07850 944 834. In the event of Clair not being available, Rosie Meckiff Mengel may be contacted at 07905 245652. Alternatively, speak to Sheryl Kent, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser: 020 7932 1224 Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) helpline: 0845 120 4550 Family Lives: 0808 800 222 (Previously Parentline) Childline: 0800 1111.

Children's Champion

The St Mary The Boltons' Children's Champions are Chris and Katie Fowkes. Their role is to ensure that the voices and needs of the children and young people are heard and reflected in parish life. They can be contacted via: children@stmarytheboltons.org.uk.



There is a Hearing Loop in operation at St Mary The Boltons

Contributions for the May Clarion should be sent to the Parish Office by 24 April, please.

The PCC of St Mary with St Peter & St Jude, West Brompton is a Registered Charity, No 1133073