

# THE CLARION

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

July - August 2023

## From the Vicar *Living in Love and Faith:* The Debate Continues

Late in 2022, the PCC commended the call by a number of bishops for the Church of England to allow clergy (supported by their PCCs) to bless same sex marriages and civil partnerships in church. This call was in response to the *Living in Love and Faith* (LLF) report, which explores questions of marriage, sexuality, gender and identity. Our PCC's views joined those across the CofE who want to see a change in the way the Church has treated LGBTQI+ people through the years.

At February's General Synod this year, the House of Bishops commended a draft set of Prayers of Love and Faith, for use in church for Liturgies of Blessing of Same Sex Couples, and also pledged to produce a new Pastoral Guidance document for LGBTQI+ lay ministers and clergy, and a set of measures to be put in place for the protection of those who oppose the introduction of same-sex blessings. The Prayers will be finally commended in the July General Synod, but it is clear that the Pastoral Guidance and Measures will not be presented for debate and approval until at least November.

The CofE struggles to hold together as a 'broad church' in these matters, as it does, more or less, over the ordination of women, but it may not be possible, in the end. For some congregations and their clergy, it is obvious that same sex couples should be allowed to marry in church: lifelong covenanted relationships of love and faithfulness are to be supported, however they are expressed; and gay and lesbian Christians need to know they are welcomed to church. Other congregations and

clergy find this stance unacceptable, declaring that the sacrament of marriage can only be between a man and a woman, that sexual intimacy apart from marriage is sinful, and to engage deliberately in sin without repentance is to risk divine judgement. Between these two extremes is a range of views, all supported one way or another by a particular reading of scripture and understanding of the Church's history and tradition. Clearly they cannot all be right, and so the question is how the CofE and the Anglican Communion can hold together, and what it will mean if it cannot. As I write, some

churches are considering what they will do if the CofE allows any change, e.g. withdrawing their Common Fund, seeking alternative episcopal oversight, even in some overseas Anglican provinces, questioning the

authority of the Archbishop of Canterbury within the Communion.

We know that there may well be a range of views within our own congregation, and we hope that in the Autumn there will be opportunities to bring people together to express them in a wider discussion, without judgement or prejudice, but with care and love. There will be more about this in the September *Clarion*, but don't hesitate to contact me meanwhile if you would like to have a conversation.

We have several copies of the *Living in Love and Faith* Report available, should you want to read it. Just ask in the office.

Jenny Welsh, Vicar

Image: <https://gender.indiana.edu/activism-resources/marriage-equality.html>



## Summer Coffee Mornings

The Summer break is a very quiet time in St Mary's with so many people away on holiday. But some of us know that August in London is great, and many of us have time to just enjoy the quiet of our neighbourhoods.

If you are in town in August, why not join us for coffee or other refreshment on Friday mornings between 10 o'clock and 11.30am? There will be a space for children to play in the church and for adults to sit for conversation and refreshment. All ages welcome! Children must be accompanied by their parent or carer.

We would be pleased to receive any offers of help for these sessions – speak to the Vicar or Parish office for information about what will be helpful.



## Sunday Recital

### Dear Friend: Words and Music as a Gift Sunday 16 July 12noon

Charlotte Jane Kennedy presents a selection of music around the theme of gifts, including music from Debussy, Mozart and Copland, finishing off with a dollop of Vanilla Ice Cream ...

Charlotte has been a choral scholar here at St Mary the Boltons since 2021, and is a soprano currently studying at The Royal College of Music

All are welcome to the recital. Coffee and tea available beforehand. Donations welcome to support the music programme at St Mary's.



## St Mary's Autumn Fair, 23 September, 12 - 4pm



For those of you who might not have experienced a St Mary's Fair, the warming-up

process starts now, even though we all think September is such a long way away. As with every community event, we need help, we need donations, we need raffle and auction prizes. We need bottles of anything and everything for the tombola stall, we need you to use the summer holidays to sort through your book shelves, toy cupboards, kitchen cupboards and any other cupboard you can think of (except your wardrobe I'm afraid). The bric-a-brac stall covers a multitude of sins but we also hope to have a gift stall, as well as the brilliant book stall and terrific toys and games. Cakes and produce all go down well and sell rapidly so the more jams and cakes and loaves of bread and biscuits and whatever else you fancy making the better. Maybe we can have a plant stall if anyone has the time, inclination, ability and space to propagate over the summer!

All this is to raise money for the charities chosen by St Mary's (see details on the next page) and it is also a highly enjoyable day: please save the date in your diary now.

Space at church is a bit of a premium so we ask for donations to be delivered to church the week before the fair and if we need to come and collect to make life easier, please get in touch nearer the time and someone with a car (could that be you?) will be happy to come and collect. Many hands make light work and the whole process is a happy time, working together for a common aim that is to bring people together to give them a wonderful afternoon with food, drink, fun and games and live music, and where the profits continue to make the world a better place.

*Katrina Quinton*

# ST MARY THE BOLTONS AUTUMN FAIR

SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER, 12 - 4PM

IN ST MARY'S CHURCH, GARDENS & CHURCH HALL

ALL WELCOME

FREE ENTRY

- ◆ Food & Drink
- ◆ Raffle & Bottle Tombola
- ◆ Live Entertainment
- ◆ Cakes & Home Produce
- ◆ Teas & Coffees
- ◆ Children's Crafts, Activities & Games
- ◆ Books & Bric-a-Brac
- ◆ Face Painting
- ◆ Auction at 3pm
- ◆ And much more!



Raising funds for our Charitable Pot in support of:

USPG<sup>+</sup>



Lyra

Kindly supported by:

St Mary's Church, The Boltons  
SW10 9TB  
The PCC of St Mary with St Peter & St Jude, West  
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## Confirmation, Baptism and Reception at St Mary's on the Feast of St Barnabas

It was a pleasure to welcome The Rt Revd Emma Ineson, Bishop of Kensington to St Mary's in June to confirm, baptise and receive our candidates. Sophia D'Souza joined the service at St Mary Abbots to be confirmed there the week beforehand.

Many congratulations to everyone involved, and thank you to the congregation for supporting them.

### Two accounts of their Confirmations

My confirmation was about confirming my baptism. I was baptised last year when I was 9 years old, at St Mary the Boltons. I had to prepare by going to Sunday school, which is funny because our Sunday school is on Wednesdays. Jenny taught us about stories in the Bible and about Jesus' life and also about praying.

I had to prepare this before the confirmation and I was a bit nervous because I had never been in front of so many people. I wasn't alone, though. I had my two best friends with me and also three other adults were getting baptised and confirmed. Also,

My dad and my nanny (who is also my godmother) were there and also my friends' mom (who is my other grandmother) and their family from Brazil. The church was very full! Bishop Emma was very



kind to us and made us feel more relaxed, and Jenny, whom we know well, was there in the front too, looking after us.

When our turn came to have communion, I went to the front with my mom and friends and the other adults and ate the bread and had a sip of wine for the communion, like Jesus did with his friends at the last supper.



my own mother was being received into the Church of England. It was very special that I was with my friends and my mom.

I wore a white dress, which my father bought me and I borrowed beautiful white shoes from a friend who had her first communion a few weeks before.

At the end of the service there was a lot of yummy food, ordered especially for the occasion. I was given a candle; Emma gifted me with an oak cross and Jenny gave me a card and a teenage Bible. It was a beautiful day and we were all very happy.  
*Gabi Lopes Kettle*

Having been brought up in the Catholic faith, I understood well the sacraments and their role in a devout person's life. Like many, once teenage years came along – and with it, a developing, curious and inquisitive mind – it meant I distanced myself from the faith to ask about and experience the secular world.

Fast forward several years (a few decades, in fact!) I find myself slowly circling back to church, physically orbiting closer and closer, firstly, through just living in the same neighbourhood. This was followed by the local neighbourhood school and the many events my daughter and her school friends join each Easter, Harvest Festival, Christmas and other festivities; then, through some charity events; later, via the garden adjacent to church, which became a second home during the pandemic/lockdown months.

Eventually, when looking into getting my daughter baptised and offering her a spiritual education, I found myself with my best friend and her daughters attending Sunday service regularly. It felt strange and awkward at first after so many years of absence and it felt equally incredibly familiar, like a sort of homecoming.

We have always been welcomed by Jenny each Sunday to come and have communion or alternatively, 'come for a blessing anyway' she always says, which we did. And so – always the inquisitive – I enquired with Jenny what would be necessary for me to have communion with the rest of the congregation, and so, naturally, a conversation on my 'reception' started.



Why, one could ask, once I was already in attendance and very much feeling part of the St Mary The Boltons family, do I not have a straight answer. The most immediate answer is 'it just feels right'. A very important answer to that question is the way we have always been made wonderfully welcome despite our decades' lack of practice, and of course, that we too were doing it for the children, so it made sense we modelled the example ourselves too.



Ultimately, however, a particular sermon in our early months of attending St Mary the Boltons had resonated particularly strongly with me. I could write several pages about it here and why it spoke so directly to me, but the part that has stayed relevant all these months and years is a direct quote:

When I hear passages like this, I am always encouraged by the words spoken by a friend who said the Gospel of Jesus is always good news, always, even if the words of scripture seem difficult or uncomfortable; our job is to dig away at it until we find it.

It essentially spoke about the importance of having hard conversations; about us keeping at it until we find the good news; and that questions should not deter us from seeking all the goodness from the church family and Jesus' teachings. As a psychologist friend said, 'you are not the finished article'. I agree and believe we are work-in-progress until our last day. It has been a true honour to be received into a church that allows me to come in with my conversations, questions, doubts, complexities, and yet which makes me feel accepted and welcomed.

The sermon's last few words encapsulate the spirit of this homecoming:

The good news then is the fact of God's love, no matter what; the fact of his forgiveness when we fail and the fact of his grace, even when our hearts are hard.

*Renata Molina Lopes*

*Photos: Katrina Quinton, Bill Gallagher, Priscilla Lehto*



## Installation of Jenny as Prebendary of Mora at St Paul's Cathedral

Thank you to everyone who came along to evensong at St Paul's for the installation of the new Prebendaries, including our Vicar Jenny.



## Sheila Gibbs Celebrating 60 years at St Mary's

On Sunday 25 June, we were very lucky to enjoy a glass of bubbles kindly brought in by Sheila Gibbs, to mark her 60 years as part of the Congregation here at St Mary's.

Many congratulations to Sheila, and thank you for all you have brought to us here.

*Photo: Beth McGregor*



# GLASS DOOR

## The Glass Door Sleep Out (or in) So That Others Don't Have To

Last year an intrepid group of youngsters joined forces with St Matthew's Wandsworth Bridge Road, giving up the comfort of their beds to raise money for Glass Door Homeless Charity. Not to be left out this year, the Vicar and Verger of St Mary's hope to lead a similarly adventurous group to sleep out in our own church grounds. Will you join them?

There will be a lot more information available in the September issue of the *Clarion*, but meanwhile, have a look at the Glass Door Sleepout website [www.glassdoor.org.uk](http://www.glassdoor.org.uk) to learn about what they do in our part of London and to find out how you can be part of the Sleep Out, and get your friends and family to sponsor you. Children are particularly invited to do it at home or with friends on a sleepover; over-elevens are welcome at church, but must be accompanied by a parent (who can also be sponsored, of course!)

Let's do what we can to support Glass Door's winter night shelters and their impossibly large number of guests this coming winter.



Illustration: Design for the east saucer dome in the Quire vault by F. C. Penrose (SPCAA/D/1119/2), c.1873-1891 <https://www.stpauls.co.uk/penrose-architectural-drawings>

**Summer Events at Westminster Abbey Brass on the Grass: Lunchtime Recitals** in College Gardens, every Wednesday from 19 July to 30 August.

Spend your Wednesday lunchtime enjoying great brass band music in the wondrous College Garden.

Refreshments will be available to purchase, so you don't even need to pack your lunch.

*More details available on the Westminster Abbey Events page.*



## Summer Events at St Paul's Cathedral Family activities: amazing architecture Saturday 12 August, 10am - 3pm

St Paul's Cathedral invite you to join their Schools and Family Learning team and the RIBA Learning team to find out how St Paul's Cathedral was designed and built. Discover more about our amazing architecture with inclusive family activities, including lots of opportunity for object handling.

Please remember that St Mary's has a Parish Pass for visiting both St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey as part of the Diocese of London. Speak to the Vicar or Parish Manager if you would like to visit either of these places over the summer.





## St Paul's Cathedral Summer Lates

St Paul's Cathedral invite you to visit them this August and explore the Cathedral after hours. More details and tickets will be released at a later date. (For details, please see <https://www.stpauls.co.uk/whats-on/summer-lates>)



## Invitation from St Paul's

St Paul's Cathedral faithfully prays for each parish in the diocese week by week. They have written to let us know that St Mary's (our parish, staff and congregations) will be prayed for at all three of the services (8am Eucharist, 12.30pm Eucharist and 5pm Evensong) on Wednesday 19 July. If anyone from our church or parish would like to join them for their services that day, we are most welcome. If a group would like to go along to Evensong at 5pm, they will reserve seats for us in the Quire and welcome us at the beginning of the service. If you want to form / join a group, please will you let Jane in the Office know, and she can make sure there are seats reserved for us.



*Pieta, Naomi Blake, St Mary The Boltons*

## 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 July

9 August

13 September

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.





## Services and Events

### Sunday 2 July Trinity 4

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)  
10.30am Holy Eucharist  
with Little Lambs Sunday School  
Readings Romans 6.12-end  
Matthew 10.40 – end  
Preacher The Reverend Philip Welsh  
Charity Cake Sale directly after the service

### Wednesday 5 July

3.45pm Sunday School on Wednesday  
7pm PCC in hall

### Friday 7 July

10am – 1pm Second Half Club

### Saturday 8 July

3.30pm Wedding of Kate Pantin  
and George Bowen

### Sunday 9 July Trinity 5

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)  
10.30am Holy Eucharist  
Readings Romans 7.15-25a  
Matthew 11.16-19, 25-end  
12.30pm Baptism of Max and Georgie Hardy,  
and Nat Coaker  
3.30pm Baptism of Astrid Bailey

### Wednesday 12 July

11am Silent Prayer  
3.45pm Sunday School on Wednesday  
(final session of term)

### Friday 14 July

10am – 1pm Second Half Club

### Sunday 16 July Trinity 6

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)  
10.30am Holy Eucharist  
Readings Isaiah. 55.10-13  
Matthew. 13.1-9, 18-23  
President and preacher The Reverend Lesley Perry  
Little Lambs Sunday School  
(last of term)  
12 noon Dear Friend: a gift of music and  
words. Recital by  
Charlotte Jane Kennedy

### Friday 21 July

10am – 1pm Second Half Club (last of term)

### Sunday 23 July Trinity 7

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)  
10.30am Holy Eucharist  
Readings Isaiah 44.6-8  
Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43  
President and preacher The Reverend Lesley Perry

### Sunday 30 July Trinity 8

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)  
10.30am Holy Eucharist  
Readings 1 Kings 3:5-12  
Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52  
President and preacher The Reverend Lesley Perry

### Friday 4 August

10 - 11.30am Morning Coffee in Church

### Sunday 6 August

#### Transfiguration of our Lord

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)  
10.30am Holy Eucharist  
Readings 2 Peter 1.16-19  
Luke 9.28-36

### Wednesday 9 August

11am Silent Prayer

### Friday 11 August

10 - 11.30am Morning Coffee in Church

### Sunday 13 August Trinity 10

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)  
10.30am Holy Eucharist  
Readings 1 Kings 19.9-19  
Matthew 14.22-33

### Friday 18 August

10-11.30am Morning Coffee in Church

### Sunday 20 August Trinity 11

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)  
10.30am Holy Eucharist  
Readings Isaiah 56.1,6-8  
Matthew 15.21-28

### Friday 25 August

10 – 11.30am Morning Coffee in Church

### Sunday 27 August Trinity 12

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)

10.30am Holy Eucharist

Readings Romans 12.1-8  
Matthew 16.13-20

**Monday 28 Late Bank Holiday**, Church closed

### Friday 1 September

10 – 11.30am Morning Coffee in church

### Sunday 3 September Trinity 13

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)

10.30am Holy Eucharist

Readings Romans 12.9-end  
Matthew 16.21-end

### Year's Mind July - August

Alison Harbottle

Mary Harrington

Roy Redgrave

Julia Pringle

Elizabeth Davson

George Bridge

Lorraine Seely

Robert Hawker

Dorothy Patrick

Derek Wood

Abbe Jean-Paul Mahieu

Julian Ridsdale

Rosemary Everett

John Harris

Hazel Bosworth

Enid Ingle

Poppy Readman

Ruth Lock

David Messerlian

Keith Doran

William Stanley

Yelena Green

Anthony Goodens

Patricia Barton-Jones

Thomas Harrington

Richard Bond

Vernon Parkinson

Olga O'Grady

Wilga Smart

Joanna Simon

Caroline Redgrave

Geoffrey Bellman

Roland Sutcliffe

Rosemary Lake

Alec Westley Skempton

Christa Soell

Anne Morrison

Nancy Smith

Milosh Gregovich

Zia Ahmad

Joachim-Albrecht von Bethmann-Hollweg

Clarissa Lada-Grodzicki

Adele King

Charlotte Aitken

Minnie Warwick

Lorna Wallis



Photo: Bill Gallagher



Robert Jackson  
Genevieve Maw  
Murat Akiner  
Peter Canadine  
Marguerite Farrell  
Anne Garten  
Britta Mahler  
Annette Worsley-Taylor  
David Brown  
Bryan Peers  
Margaret Levin  
Norah Bowen  
Betty Greenland  
Joan Metcalfe

**Finance and giving** Please give generously to support the parish mission and ministry. In 2023 we will need to raise more than £6500 every week just to maintain our current level of activities, as well as maintaining our buildings. The church benefits from the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme for small donations of cash or using the contactless devices, but if you prefer to make a regular donation please consider joining our Stewardship scheme by giving via Standing Order. Please ask for gift aid form. Our bank details are: Account name: PCC of St Mary with St Peter & St Jude  
Account number: 80692190  
Sort code: 20-80-14  
Alternatively, you can donate here: <https://tinyurl.com/SMTBDonate>, or using the QR code below.



*Interior, St Mary The Boltons  
By James Parfitt*

**Parish Office**

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**Parish Manager**

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(Day off Wednesday)

**Churchwardens**

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Leo Fraser-Mackenzie 020 7384 3246

**Director of Music**

John Ward  
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**St Mary's Church Bank Details**

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

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Margarete Geier 020 7373 1639

**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 September Clarion should be sent to the Parish Office by 28 August please.**

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