

THE CLARION

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

March 2023

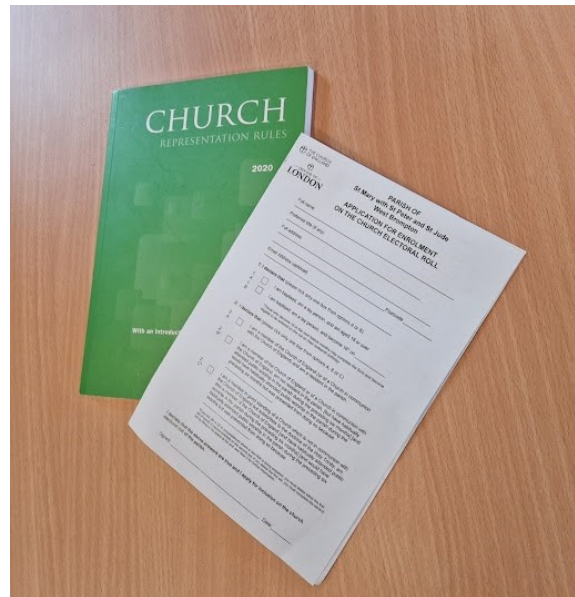
From the Vicar Join us!

Around this time each year we prepare for the most complicated season of the church's calendar: not Easter but the approach of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and the Annual Meeting of Parishioners. These usually take place at the end of April, and there will be more about them in next month's Clarion (do try to contain your excitement). I mention them now because this preparation begins in March, with the annual process of updating and revising our church's Electoral Roll. There is an article about how that happens elsewhere in this issue, from our Electoral Roll Officer, Fiona Parsons, who I think is one of the few people who understands how it all works.

The Electoral Roll for the parish (not to be confused with the civil Electoral Register) enables those eligible to vote in their church's elections to the Parochial Church Council (PCC), and also to stand for election to the PCC or to be a Churchwarden. The number of people on the Electoral Roll affects the parish's representation in the next level of church governance, the Deanery Synod, whose members are then able to vote for (and stand as) members of the Diocesan and General Synods, where lay people join in shaping the future work and ministry of the whole Church of England. Voting in church elections is not just for the people who like that sort of thing, because how we are represented beyond the parish level can make a huge difference to how the church works out its mission and ministry, including how we engage with the wider world.

In addition to enabling people to vote for their PCC, the Electoral Roll provides real data about how many people claim to 'belong' to the Church of England – not just that they attend, or that they

vaguely identify themselves as C of E when pressed, but that they claim their stake in its life and work. Of course there are certain criteria for joining the Roll: are you baptised? Do you see yourself as a member of the C of E or some other Christian denomination? Do you live in the parish, or if not, have you come to church regularly for some while and want to say that St Mary's is your church? If so, you can apply to be on the Roll and be added to the number of people that belong to the C of E and engage with it not just on Sundays, but with its day to day life and work. And you can help St Mary's continue to buck the trend revealed in the last census that the number of identified Christians has fallen below 50% in the last decade. St Mary's



attendance has not fallen, though our congregation has changed. Our Electoral Roll has not decreased either, but it should be higher. If St Mary's is your church, then why not make sure you are on the Roll this year and join in our mission and work in the local area?

Jenny Welsh, Vicar

Image: Church Representation Rules and Electoral Roll form

Lyra in Africa

It was a pleasure to welcome Maria Spink, the Founder of Lyra, to Church on 22 January. Lyra is one of St Mary's charities for 2023 and was set up in Tanzania in 1997. It has nine staff, of which Maria is the founder. Lyra describes its vision as one of building economically sustainable and vibrant communities in rural Tanzania with a specific focus on young girls. Maria shared some very thought-provoking macro-economic statistics with regard to the wider education landscape in Tanzania, in particular how poorly young girls fare within it; extremely low levels of continuing education driven by economic and social circumstances. Currently only 1% of girls go on to attend secondary school and 'drop out' levels are extremely high with pregnancies and teenage brides commonplace.



Lyra is committed to helping to break the poverty cycle through various specific 'sustainable' initiatives and has been awarded for that.

We learned more about current projects where St Mary's support would have a meaningful impact, in particular the construction of conveniently located dormitories – the fourteenth was recently completed – enabling girls to attend school, thus avoiding extremely long journeys, while also creating a real sense of local community. The results have been impressive so far and we were delighted to hear of the case study of the first girl to obtain a degree. Maria also talked through some of the technological challenges present in rural Tanzania; specifically the ability to download teaching material to offline laptops has been a game changer.

The real sense of community that Lyra aspires to create has been further enhanced by the creation of local micro savings and loans (S and L) organisations managed by girls themselves: real mutual benefit and trust in operation!

Alex Burt

Image: Mazombe Secondary School and Hostel, Kilolo District, Iringa Region, Tanzania
From www.lyrainfrica.org Empowering girls and women for good in rural Tanzania



Late Autumn Fair

We are very pleased to be able to confirm that the postponed Late Autumn Fair, which took place on Saturday 19 November 2022 in the church and church hall, raised £10,159 for the Charitable Pot.

These funds will go to support the nominated 2022 and 2023 charities: Lyra in Africa, USPG, Beacon House, Learn to Love to Read, and Paul's Cancer Support Centre.



Many thanks to everyone who helped on the day, running up to the day, and with clearing up after the fair, and to everyone for coming along; we hope it was an enjoyable day for everybody.

Particular thanks must of course go to Clair Gordon for all her efforts in bringing everything together.

Jane Ellard

Image: *J. Welsh*

Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll will be open for revision from Sunday 5 March in advance of the APCM on Sunday 23 April. Please check your entry on the current roll to ensure your details are still correct. If there are any minor errors please contact the Electoral Roll Officer, Fiona Parsons, er@stmarytheboltons.org.uk If there is a major change (i.e. name, address etc.), a new form will need to be completed. The roll can be viewed at the back of the church on Sundays or in the Parish Office during the week. If you are unable to come to the church, then please either email Fiona on the above email address or ring the Parish Office to check your entry.

If you are not on the roll, but would like to join, a person must be over 16 years of age and baptised. They should also either live in the parish or have worshipped at the church regularly for at least six months and should be a member of the Church of England or a church in communion with it, or a member of good standing of a Church not in communion with the Church of England, which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity where those members are also prepared to declare themselves to be members of the Church of England. (Blue) application forms are available at the back of the church. Once completed please place them in the specially marked 'Electoral Roll' box. Completed application forms must be received by **Sunday 26 March**. If you have not completed a form by that date, you will need to wait until after the APCM on 23 April to join.

Fiona Parsons, Electoral Roll Officer

Lent at St Mary's

Each Wednesday in Lent, our discussion group will continue at 10am, reading *Failure* by the Rt Revd Emma Ineson, Bishop of Kensington. It is not too late to join us. For details, please speak to the Vicar.

Additionally, at 9pm on Wednesdays, join us for night prayers online, the Office of Compline via a Zoom link: <https://tinyurl.com/SMTBLentCompline> Meeting ID: 896 3601 3555 Passcode: 972197 Or join by telephone 0203 901 7895 and follow the instructions.

Mothering Sunday at St Mary's

On Sunday 19 March, we will mark Mothering Sunday at St Mary's with a Parish Sung Eucharist and distribution of flowers.



There will also be a crèche with activities for preschool children in the hall, but we hope that members of our congregation of all ages will take part in the service. Please speak with the Vicar if you are willing to lead some of the worship, such as prayers or readings. Everybody is welcome.

Image: public domain



*Daffodils in the rockery, St Mary's Church garden
Photo: Edwina Sassoon*

Introducing our Placement Student

As part of the training at St Mellitus, we have an ordinand joining us at St Mary's to observe and learn about the life of St Mary's. Here Dr Grace Bally-Balogun introduces herself.

I have been attending St Mary The Boltons on a few occasions since September 2022. I grew up in South London as a child and teenager and now live in Kent with my young adult son. I am an ordinand (at St Mellitus College) and am in my final year of training. As such, I am doing an alternative placement with you at St Mary's. This is about observing and participating in a tradition that is different from my own.



I also work part-time at St Mellitus College, leading an introductory course called Beginning Theology. We have various students attending the course, mainly those who are keen to explore their faith further or wanting to discern the call to ministry.

Before I chose to follow the path of ministerial ordination, I worked full time in the Oil/Gas and Retail industries as an IT Business Analyst and then as a Senior Business Change Manager. I was highly ambitious, pursuing a career path towards senior management. However, God had other ideas! Around 2010, I started to sense that God was calling me to the ministry. I was pursuing a PhD in Computing at the time, yet compellingly felt drawn towards studying theology. I withdrew from the PhD course, and a few years later signed up to do a certificate in theology. I would spend the next ten years studying this topic, including finally completing a doctorate, but this time in Pastoral Theology. It was when I first studied at St Mellitus College in 2012 that I began a journey of discernment, discovering during the pandemic years that this was the place where I would realise my vocation.

I am excited as well as nervous about my pending

deacon ordination (all things being equal), but trust that he who began a good work in me will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6).

Grace Bally-Balogun



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>



Holy Week and Easter

Sunday 2 April Palm Sunday

8am	Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am	Sung Holy Eucharist with the Liturgy for Palm Sunday

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
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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 for Good Friday
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



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

A History of the Bible: The Book and Its Faiths

Lecture given by John Barton
Tuesday 21 March, 6.30pm, at St Paul's Cathedral
Admission Free.

The Bible is the central book of Western culture. For the two faiths which hold it sacred, it is the bedrock, a singular authority on what to believe and how to live.

For non-believers too, it has a commanding status: it is one of the great works of world literature, woven to an unparalleled degree into our language and thought. History, society and literature have all been shaped by its authors through its narratives, laws, proverbs, prophecies and poetry.



John Barton is one of the great Biblical scholars of our time. The culmination of a lifetime's work, his magisterial *A History of the Bible* is a Sunday Times bestseller and won the Duff Cooper Prize for non-fiction.

In this event, chaired by Dr Paula Gooder, he will explore the Bible's long and fascinating evolution, what contemporary Biblical scholarship teaches us about it, how translations have shaped our view of it, and what all this means for us as people of faith. Does it threaten belief or can it contribute to living authentically Christian lives? What would it mean to regard the Bible as authoritative in the 21st century?

For more details, and to register, please visit
www.stpauls.co.uk/adultlearning

Image: William Tyndale's New Testament, 1526, St Paul's
library collection
<https://www.stpauls.co.uk/tyndales-new-testament>

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:

8 March

12 April

10 May

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.



Hellebores, St Mary's Garden
Photo: Edwina Sassoon

Services and Events

Sunday 26 February Lent 1

8am	Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am	Sung Holy Eucharist with Come and Sing Choir
Readings	Genesis 2.15-17, 3.1-7 Matthew 4.1-11
12 noon	Simple Lent Lunch

Wednesday 1 March

10am	Lent Discussion Group Information elsewhere in this issue (page 3)
3.45pm	Sunday School on Wednesday
9pm	Night Prayers (Compline) via Zoom Information elsewhere in this issue (page 3)

Friday 3 March

10am	Second Half Club
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Sunday 5 March Lent 2

8am	Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am	Holy Eucharist with Little Lambs Sunday School
Readings:	Genesis 12.1-4a John 3.1-17

Wednesday 8 March

10am	Lent Discussion Group
11am	Silent Prayer
3.45pm	Sunday School on Wednesday
7pm	PCC in church
9pm	Night Prayers (Compline) via Zoom

Friday 10 March

10am	Second Half Club
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Sunday 12 March Lent 3

8am	Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am	Holy Eucharist
Readings:	Romans 5.1-11 John 4.5-42
12.30pm	Baptism of Freya Macleod

Wednesday 15 March

10am Lent Discussion Group
2pm St Teresa's Nursing Home Service
3.45pm Sunday School on Wednesday
9pm Night Prayers (compline) via Zoom

Sunday 19 March Lent 4 Mothering Sunday

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Family Eucharist
with distributions of flowers
Readings 2 Corinthians 1.3-7
John 19.25b-27

Wednesday 22 March

10am Lent Discussion Group
2pm Ellesmere House Service
3.45pm Sunday School on Wednesday
9pm Night Prayers (compline) via Zoom

Friday 24 March

10am Second Half Club

Sunday 26 March Passion Sunday

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist
Readings Ezekiel 37.1-14
John 11.1-45
Preacher Dr Grace Bally-Balogan

Wednesday 29 March

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

Sunday 2 April Palm Sunday

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Sung Holy Eucharist
with Liturgy of the Palms
Readings: Zechariah 9.9-12
Matthew 21.1-11

Year's Mind March

Claire Boag
Phillida Grantham
Helene Raab
Maureen Stainton
Ivy Cooling
Gerth Millar
Olive Smith
Rhoda Bolton-Dignam
John Gairdner
Rosabelle St Clair
Sdenka Corp
Christie Parkinson
Maximilian Heyer
Dorothy Buss
Florence Lidderdale
Ivor Howlett
Peter Myles
Elizabeth Ledochowska
Michael Wilson
Aida Gowan
David Aman
Patrick Sefton
Simon Perks
Alice Lidderdale
David Godwin
Sally Usher
Vera Owen
Hugh Pringle
Dorothy Hale
Maria Celestino



Parish Office

St. Mary's Church House
 The Boltons, SW10 9TB
 www.stmarytheboltons.org.uk
 020 7835 1440

Vicar

Reverend Jenny Welsh
 vicar@stmarytheboltons.org.uk
 020 7835 1440 and 07864 807959
 (Day off Thursday)

Parish Manager

Jane Ellard
 office@stmarytheboltons.org.uk
 020 7835 1440

Verger/Caretaker

David Ireton
 020 7244 8998
 07881 865 386
 (Day off Wednesday)

Churchwardens

Edward Quinton 020 7373 6094
 Candice Lee 078989 70379

Director of Music

John Ward
 boltonsmusic@gmail.com

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

Electoral Roll Officer

Fiona Parsons
 er@stmarytheboltons.org.uk
 or call the Parish Office

Gift Aid Secretary

Philip Bedford Smith
 GiftAid1@stmarytheboltons.org.uk

The Clarion Editor

Verena Tschudin 020 7351 1263
 v.tschudin@btinternet.com

Reading at St Cuthbert's and St Matthias' School

Sheila Gibbs 020 8788 9744

Social Secretary

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 April Clarion should be sent to the Parish Office by 20 March, please.

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