

THE CLARION

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

March 2024

From the Vicar Let us go with him...

Holy Week begins on Sunday 24 March, Palm Sunday. The Liturgy for Palm Sunday begins with the Blessing of Palms and our little procession from our church garden into the church, singing our Hosannas as we go. We declare that, as Christ entered the city for his final work of suffering, and dying and rising again, so we go with him in faith and love, praying that united with him in his sufferings we too may share his risen life.

During Holy Week we make that journey to the cross with Jesus. After Palm Sunday, we will follow the traditional sequence of events through the rest of the week to Good Friday, and I hope you will join us to meditate on the scriptures and live through the drama of the Gospel accounts of Holy Week.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

evening we shall gather, on Zoom, for Compline, or Night Prayers. Accompanying Compline will be three meditations on the events during that final week of Jesus' ministry.

On Maundy Thursday we gather in church for the Maundy Thursday Liturgy, which incorporates the celebration of the Eucharist, the enacting of Jesus' washing the feet of his friends and the Vigil in our own Garden of Gethsemane (set in the chancel), as we watch and wait for 'just one hour' with Jesus, recalling his agony and desolation.

On Good Friday we walk the way of the Cross with Jesus. In the morning, the Way of the Cross

for Children and Families will retell the story of the Crucifixion as we move about the church and church grounds, and share hot cross buns at the end in the hall. At 1.30pm, a more solemn service with choral music, the reading of the Passion according to St John and a sermon will take us through that final hour to Christ's death and burial.

On Holy Saturday at 5.30pm in church, we will keep vigil once again in a service of Readings for Holy Saturday, hearing the story of God's saving work in the world, from the very beginning, and anticipating what comes next on Easter Day (and remembering to put our clocks forward an hour).



After the Passion and Death comes the Resurrection of Christ, which we mark with the lighting of the Easter Candle, the singing of the Exultet, and renewing of our baptismal promises at the font, and a glorious Choral Eucharist, with

festal music from our professional singers. We will also celebrate with festive refreshments after the service, and with an Easter egg hunt in the church garden for the children.

This year, we hope that as many people as possible will join us for this most important week. If you are going to be out of town this year, why not go along to the local church wherever you are? We would love to hear your experience of a different church! Full details of our programme for Holy Week are found on page 3.

Jenny Welsh, Vicar

Image: Santa Maria della vita. Compianto del Cristo Morto (Lamentation over the Dead Christ), Niccolò Dell'Arca, Bologna

The Fourth Sunday in Lent: Mothering Sunday, 10 March

In the secular world of commerce (at least in the UK), Sunday 10 March is Mother's Day, a day for giving gifts to our mothers, and indeed receiving them if we are mothers ourselves. This is all lovely, except for those whose relationship with their mother is difficult, or whose mother has died, or for those who have not had children for one reason or another.

Instead of Mother's Day, the Church celebrates Mothering Sunday on the 4th Sunday in Lent, halfway between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day. On that Sunday in the Book of Common Prayer, the Epistle to the Galatians speaks of the two women: Sarah the wife of Abraham and the mother of Isaac and his descendants; and Hagar the slave who was the mother of Ishmael. St Paul identifies Sarah with faith, righteousness, and freedom, and with Jerusalem 'which is the mother of us all.' Traditionally,

Mothering Sunday was a day when people made a pilgrimage to the cathedral, the mother-church of the Diocese. It was also, by extension, a day when people visited their own mothers, bearing flowers and cakes as gifts (giving rise to the Mother's Day trend perhaps).

Mothering Sunday is also known as Refreshment Sunday, a halfway point in the austerity of Lent when the disciplines of the season are lightened, to give the faithful a respite from their Lenten fast, so they can make the rest of the journey to Good Friday without flagging. In some churches the deep purple hangings and vestments are changed for lighter rose coloured ones, though this has never happened here at St Mary's. Instead we keep Mothering Sunday with less formality than usual, with an All Age Service (hopefully with lots of children lifting the mood, and perhaps even lowering the tone). We bless flowers and give them to the everyone in the congregation: not just to mothers

and not just to the women, but to everyone: men and women, old and young, harking back to Galatians again, where St Paul says that in Christ there is no longer man and woman (or Jew or gentile, slave or free) because in Christ all are one. Mothering Sunday is about having a mother (or having had one) rather than being one, and giving (and receiving) spring flowers to everyone reminds us of that fact.

If you can come along to church to help prepare the flowers on Saturday morning (9 March), from 10.30am, you would be most welcome.

We hope that lots of people will come along to St Mary's on Mothering Sunday and that lots of youngsters will be enticed to join in. I am looking for a couple of readers, people who can lead the prayers, and help with giving out the flowers. Do contact me if you can help.

Jenny Welsh

ST MARY THE BOLTONS MOTHERING SUNDAY 10 MARCH



**8am BCP Holy Eucharist
10.30am Family Eucharist
with distribution of flowers**

www.stmarytheboltons.org.uk
The PCC of St. Mary with St Peter & St. Jude, West Brompton is a Registered Charity, No 1133073
Image: Jane Dass

Holy Week and Easter at St Mary's

Sunday 24 March Palm Sunday

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)

10.30am Holy Eucharist with Procession of Palms

Monday 25 March – Wednesday 27 March

Holy Week

8.30pm Night Prayers and meditation

for Holy Week on Zoom <http://tinyurl.com/SMTBLentCompline2024>,

or by telephone 02034815240 and follow the instructions given Meeting ID 88047834468

Passcode 632337

Thursday 28 March Maundy Thursday

7pm Holy Eucharist with Footwashing and Vigil

Friday 29 March Good Friday

10.30am The Way of the Cross

for children and families

1.30pm The Good Friday Liturgy

Saturday 30 March Holy Saturday *

5.30pm Keeping Watch – Readings and prayers for Holy Saturday

Sunday 31 March Easter Day

8am Holy

Eucharist (BCP)

10.30am

Choral

Eucharist for

Easter with

renewal of

baptismal

promises

* (NB clocks go forward tonight)

Photos: Craigie Aitchison Window, St Mary The Boltons.



2024 Lent Charitable Giving

A reminder that the Lent 'Charitable Pot' collection will run until the end of March, with collections gladly received until 14 April. The following charities will benefit from your contributions.

Beacon House helps 16 single homeless young people from 16 years of age who have medium to high support needs and require access to staff 24 hours a day.



USPG Partners in Mission/Delhi Brotherhood Society Women's Helpline

This charity will be well known to readers, and on this occasion we have decided to support the invaluable support service that this helpline in Northern India offers.



Earls Court Youth Club aims to provide a safe and welcoming environment for young people of all abilities and backgrounds to come and enjoy a wide selection of activities aimed at promoting personal, social and educational development.



Learn to Love to Read meets the needs of the Wandsworth community by supporting toddlers as well as children in the early years of primary school. They equip and engage parents to support reading at home.



Through the Roof / Wheels for the World changes the lives of disabled people and their families in developing countries through the gift of a wheelchair.

On behalf of the Charity Committee



The Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll will be open for revision from Sunday 10 March in advance of the APCM on Sunday 28 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 (ie 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 that 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 31 March**. If you have not completed a form by that date, you will need to wait until after the APCM on 28 April to join.

Fiona Parsons, Electoral Roll Officer



Inclusive Church

Following our discussions about blessings of same sex relationships, two people have written to us giving their view. It is good when people engage in the issues debated in the wider church. We welcome your comments and questions as we seek to be a more inclusive church.

From Ann Mulcare:

In preparation for the recent Advent course I made reference to the recommended reading, *Living in Love and Faith*. I found this to be a powerful, well researched, challenging book and I was moved by the depth and quality of the written word. For the first time I began to understand the difficulty experienced by anyone whose faith is rooted literally in the Bible. As a result, I think our Vicar and PCC made a wise decision that we will offer a blessing to same sex couples. I think this will change in time, and same sex couples will have their own special service, maybe even write their own vows.

I support the decision to become an inclusive church.

From Anthony Williams:

I began attending St Mary's some 15 years ago. I found it to be a welcoming and friendly church and I have happily worshipped here ever since. The decision for St Mary's to publicly become an Inclusive Church is to be welcomed. As God loves us all, whatever a person's sexuality, a willingness to bless same sex couples is also to be welcomed. I struggle, though, to accept same sex marriage. To me, marriage has always been – and should still be – between a man and a woman. Same sex unions can be as strong as a traditional marriage, but for me they are just not a marriage.

Daffodils, St Mary The Boltons garden

Thank You from Beacon House

When local communities come together with compassion, kindness and purpose, incredible things can happen.

For us at *Evolve Housing + Support*, the generosity of St Mary The Boltons demonstrates this perfectly. You have donated to us for several years, and these donations have helped to improve the lives of young people experiencing homelessness in Kensington and Chelsea.



Homelessness is isolating, traumatic, and difficult to escape from once it has started. Each person experiences it differently, which means that the way we support them must differ as well.

From mental health support for past traumas, to help finding work or further education, we are there to provide whatever our young people need. They can stay with us for up to two years, in which time we work with them to plan the future they want. Everybody has dreams and aspirations, and we see every day how these can be realized if people get the right support.

However, this support takes time, effort, and money. In fact, we can only run our supported housing services with the help of members of our local community like St Mary The Boltons.

Your latest donation has funded new opportunities and facilities for young people staying at Beacon House. It has paid for a music production station that provides equipment to produce and record music. It has also covered the cost of plants to go

in each young person's room, improving their private space. Some money has been used to deliver artistic workshops that help them to express themselves creatively and improve their mental health. On top of that we have bought prizes to give to residents when they achieve new things like qualifications or personal milestones.

For our young people, a crucial part of finding their feet is deciding what they are passionate about, and what they want to achieve. By providing workshops that introduce them to new things, and equipment to help them build new skills, we can help with that process. We can give them the tools to discover new talents, build their confidence, and plan for the life that they truly want. That is not only good for them, but for us all. When people are free to chase their dreams and achieve their goals, the whole community benefits. Our young people go on to do all sorts of amazing things, from becoming artists to chartered accountants or entrepreneurs.

As support from community partners like you helps the young people to thrive, their success will in turn feed back into the communities in which they live. Homelessness is a challenge that we must all come together to face and in turn, we all benefit. We very much hope that we can keep coming together as a community and making incredible things happen long into the future.

Naomi Langan
Beacon House, Bina Gardens

Photo: Zack, resident at Beacon House, during a recording session in the new studio.

Exploring the Christian Faith: Confirmation 2024

We are beginning to prepare candidates for Confirmation with the aim of presenting them to the Bishop on Thursday 23 May at St Mary Abbots, Kensington High Street.



Confirmation is the means by which we make a decision in our own right to be a member of the Christian church, and in the Church of England it also admits us, officially, to be able to receive Communion. Preparation involves meeting with the Vicar for about 5 or 6 sessions, to learn about how we pray, read the Bible, serve God and our neighbour in the world, and participate in the life of the Church. At St Mary's, we are glad to prepare adults, teenagers and older children (year 5 and over).

If you have not been confirmed, and would like to be, or want to find out more, do speak to the Vicar as soon as possible. If you were confirmed some while ago and think a refresher course would be useful, you are welcome to join in. Times of sessions will be determined by the various needs of the candidates – evenings may be best for many, or perhaps Saturday mornings. Get in touch with the Vicar and we will see how we can go forward together.

Jenny Welsh

Image: Dove window, St Mary The Boltons

Big Church Clean

On Saturday 23 March (the day before Palm Sunday), please join us in a big Spring Clean of the Church as we get ready for Holy Week. 10am-1pm, come for as much or as little time as you can spare. Cleaning products and equipment will be provided (along with tea, coffee and biscuits!)



Image: Clipart, public domain



Save The Date:Autumn Fair 2024

It is a long way away, but please save the date for the Autumn Fair which this year will be on Saturday 21 September.

If you would like to offer your help, or find out more, please speak to Clair Gordon, or email her at clairgordon@aol.co.uk, or speak to the Parish Office.

Illustration: www.publicdomainpicture.net

From Westminster Abbey: New exhibition on Notre Dame de Paris opens

Explore the story of the French gothic masterpiece, Notre Dame de Paris (Our Lady of Paris) from its earliest origins in the 12th century and its illustrious 850-year history to its painstaking restoration following the devastating fire of 2019. There are special features for families: a virtual treasure hunt to collect stained glass window fragments to win a diploma, and a fun selfie studio which superimposes faces onto the cathedral's fantastical beasts.

This exhibition is an immersive and interactive journey through Notre Dame's past including the lavish wedding of King Henri IV, the glittering coronation of Napoleon Bonaparte, and the 19th century construction of Notre-Dame's iconic spire of Viollet-le-Duc, which was tragically destroyed by the fire. The skill, artistry and vision over the ages of its architects, craftsmen and builders, and the 21st century experts who are bringing it back to its former glory are brought to life in the show.

Notre Dame de Paris is due to reopen again after restoration work on 8th December 2024.

Notre Dame de Paris, The Augmented Exhibition is part of Fraternité, a spring season of events at Westminster Abbey celebrating the links between the UK and France with music, talks and events.

The exhibition is free but you will need to book a slot when purchasing your tickets to the Abbey. Exhibition tickets are released in conjunction with Abbey tickets, up to two months prior.

Parish Pass: We have a Parish Pass giving free entrance to the Abbey for up to four people per visit, which can be borrowed on request from the office. We also have four free passes to St Paul's Cathedral, which includes access to the long climb up to the Golden Gallery at the very top of the dome. Ask in the office if you would like to borrow them.

Image and text adapted from: www.westminster-abbey.org/abbey-events/special-tours-and-events/2024/february/notre-dame-de-paris-the-augmented-exhibition-1



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:

13 March

10 April

8 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.



St Mary The Boltons garden

Services and Events

Friday 1 March

10am – 1pm Second Half Club
5.45pm Watch and Pray Silence in Church

Sunday 3 March Lent 3

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Sung Holy Eucharist with Come and Sing Choir and Little Lambs
Sunday School
Readings: Exodus 20.1-17
John 2.13-22
12noon Lent Discussion Group

Tuesday 5 March

(NB change of day this week)

NB No Evening Lent discussion this week
8.30pm Night Prayers on Zoom
<http://tinyurl.com/SMTBLentCompline2024>,
or by telephone 02034815240 and follow the instructions given
Meeting ID 88047834468
Passcode 632337

Wednesday 6 March

7pm PCC in hall

Friday 8 March

10am – 1pm Second Half Club
5.45pm Watch and Pray Silence in Church

Sunday 10 March

Mothering Sunday

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Family Eucharist
with distribution of flowers
Readings: Colossians 3.12-17
Luke 15.11-32
12noon Lent Discussion Group

Wednesday 13 March

11am Silent Prayer
7.30pm Lent Group additional discussion on Zoom (use link below, as for Night Prayers)
8.30pm Night Prayers on Zoom
<http://tinyurl.com/SMTBLentCompline2024>,
or by telephone 02034815240 and follow the instructions given
Meeting ID 88047834468
Passcode 632337

Friday 15 March

10am – 1pm Second Half Club

Sunday 17 March Passion Sunday (Lent 5)

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Sung Holy Eucharist
with Little Lambs Sunday School
Readings: Jeremiah 31 - 34
John 12. 20 - 33
12pm Lent Discussion Group

Wednesday 20 March

11.15am Nursing Home Service, St Teresa's Home, Roland Gardens
7.30pm Lent Group additional discussion on Zoom (use link below, as for Night Prayers)
8.30pm Night Prayers on Zoom
<http://tinyurl.com/SMTBLentCompline2024>,
or by telephone 02034815240 and follow the instructions given
Meeting ID 88047834468
Passcode 632337

Friday 22 March

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

Sunday 24 March Palm Sunday

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
 10.30am Holy Eucharist
 with Procession of Palms
 Readings Zechariah 9. 9 - 12
 Mark 11. 1 - 11

Monday 25 March – Wednesday 27 March Holy Week

8.30pm Night Prayers and meditation for Holy Week on Zoom
<http://tinyurl.com/SMTBLentCompline2024>,
 or by telephone 02034815240 and follow the instructions given
 Meeting ID 88047834468
 Passcode 632337

Wednesday 27 March

2pm Service at Ellesmere House,
 Nightingale Place

Thursday 28 March Maundy Thursday

7pm Holy Eucharist
 with Footwashing and Vigil

Friday 29 March Good Friday

10.30am The Way of the Cross
 for children and families
 1.30pm The Good Friday Liturgy

Saturday 30 March Holy Saturday

(NB clocks go forward tonight)
 5.30pm Keeping Watch – Readings and prayers for Holy Saturday

Sunday 31 March Easter Day

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
 10.30am Choral Eucharist for Easter
 with renewal of baptismal promises
 Reading Acts 10. 34 - 43
 Mark 16. 1 - 8

Monday 1 April Bank Holiday

Church closed

Sunday 6 April Second Sunday of Eastertide

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
 10.30am Holy Eucharist
 12noon Interment of Ashes of
 Geoffrey Davies

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
Christobel Peers
Dorothy Buss
Florence Lidderdale
Ivor Howlett
Peter Myles (curate)
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

Finance and giving Please give generously to support the parish mission and ministry. We need to raise more than £6,750 every week to maintain our current level of activities. The church benefits from the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme for small cash or card donations.

Please consider giving regularly through the Parish Giving Scheme; information can be found at the back of the church, or by visiting www.tinyurl.com/PGSStMaryTheBoltons.

If you prefer to make online banking payments, 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)



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(Day off Thursday)

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Verger/Caretaker

David Ireton
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020 7244 8998
(Day off Wednesday)

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Leo Fraser-Mackenzie 020 7384 3246

Director of Music

John Ward
boltonsmusic@gmail.com

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

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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 Wednesday 3 April, please.

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