

THE CLARION

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

November 2023

From the Vicar

Some Vicars (and churchwardens) may complain about the Diocese and having to contribute to its Common Fund (£93K in 2023) but I have to say that I am not one of them. For nearly a year the Vicarage was covered in scaffolding, as the Diocese's Property Department replaced stone work, plaster, ironwork and roof tiles, and re-plastered and painted the whole front of the building, spending money raised through Common Fund from parishes like ours across the diocese. What a joy it was to have the scaffolding finally removed, revealing our newly painted front door, to the shock of our neighbours. Gone is the horrid peeling matte beige, replaced now with shiny red, which surprised even us. It turns out Calypso Blush™ is rather brighter than expected and apparently caused quite the stir on the local WhatsApp group. What are the Welshes revealing about themselves, their politics, their world view, their aesthetic taste? In fact, we just like red.

In November, in church we change colour too as our altar, pulpit and Vicar turn red as well. Not as a political or aesthetic choice, but to mark the new mini-season that we have come to call Kingdom Season, culminating with the last Sunday before Advent, now called Christ the King. Lesley Perry will be preaching on that theme at the end of this month. But there is more to Kingdom Season than kings. November has more going on: not only is there the celebration of All Saints and All Souls (remembering those people who have died in the faith of Christ),

but also Remembrance Sunday (remembering those who have died in conflict), with our Act of Remembrance.

Red is a royal colour, one could say, but it is really a colour of sacrifice: it recalls blood shed on behalf of others, on our behalf; it recalls the lives (and the deaths) of the saints and martyrs of the church, who witness to the love of God in Christ, and suffer as a result; it recalls the gift of the Holy Spirit that moves and empowers and sets God's people aflame with that same love. Red is full of meaning.



We are seeing a lot of red lately, not just on my front door, not just in church, but far too much on our screens and in the papers, as blood is shed in the conflicts in Israel and Gaza, in Ukraine and all the other places too easily forgotten with each news cycle. We find ourselves struggling to say anything to make sense of it all: blood shed and people sacrificed by people who have power, and those who desire it

powerful people, and those who cling to it in the name of religion or nation or history. All we can do is pray, and try to recall what this Season is about: the Kingship of Christ, and his kingdom revealed in his life and self-giving, self-emptying love for the sake of the world, where the meek and the small and the makers of peace are blessed, and where the royal throne is the Cross.

Jenny Welsh, Vicar

Photo J. Welsh

Mellow fruitfulness in the church garden

In 2019 when the south garden was replanted, we included four new young medlar trees. Miraculously they produced not only spring blossom but also a good crop of fruit in that first autumn, and even more fruit has appeared year after year. If you have not noticed them, the blossoms are a lovely white colour, against the light green spring leaves; but the fruit by contrast are really rather ugly, hard as rocks, even when ready to pick; with a rough skin, and a rather odd star shaped 'flower' or calyx end;



you can see why one of the less vulgar names for them is 'monkey bottom.' They start off a drab green, but ripen into a warm golden brown colour that glows in the sunshine. Too hard to eat when picked, they need to be 'bled' or given time to soften and even rot before they can be used. At that point they can be made into jelly that is excellent with strong flavoured meat, and also on buttered toast or porridge. This year we hope to have enough jars of jelly to sell in church. We will let you know when they are ready.

Jenny Welsh

Photo: 2023 Medlar harvest, J Welsh

Praying for peace in Israel and Gaza

Bishop Sarah encourages us to join in with Archbishop Hosam Naoum of Jerusalem, who has offered the following prayer:

O God of all justice and peace, we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land.

Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths, Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land.

While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children, for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father.

*In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.*

Christmas is coming, the countdown has begun... (well, not yet, but very soon!)

Are you looking for a traditional Advent Calendar for the children in your life? One that tells the Christian story, rather than advertising the latest children's fad? The new *Follow The Star*



Advent Calendar produced by the Church of England is a fun and educational way for children and their families to mark Advent and celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Featuring a fold-out, stand-up crib scene, stickers for every day of Advent and a rhyming Nativity story sheet, it tells the story of how – and why – Jesus came to be born in Bethlehem. We now have some available to buy from the parish office or in church on Sundays, at £4 each.

Jenny Welsh

Illustration: 'Follow the Star' Church of England

Choral Scholars: An Introduction

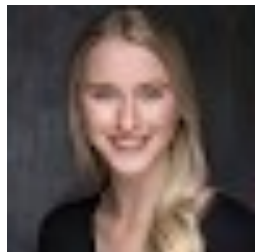
Bass: Joseph Guillon

Hi, I am Joseph, your new bass choral scholar. I am in the fourth year of my undergraduate studies in Civil Engineering at Imperial College and I love singing too. Through this scholarship I hope to meet many of you at post-service refreshments, lunches, events etc. I have really enjoyed the warm welcome of this parish thus far and look forward to enjoying it for the rest of the year. See you soon!



Soprano: Alexandra Francis

I am a New Zealand soprano currently studying at the Royal College of Music, as a Maria Björnson Memorial Fund Award Holder for 2023-2024. I am in my first year of a Master of Performance (Vocal), studying with Sarah Tynan. Previously, I studied at the University of Auckland, where I gained a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music with First-Class Honours studying with Dr Morag Atchison and Dr Te Oti Rakena. I have performed across New Zealand in opera, oratorio and music theatre, most recently appearing as the Princess in New Zealand Opera's nationwide school tour of Respighi's *Sleeping Beauty* and singing as the soprano soloist in Bach's *St. John Passion*. I joined my first school choir at age 9 and this is where my love of singing began – later singing with the New Zealand Secondary Students choir, the University of Auckland Chamber Choir and Voices NZ. I am thrilled to be a choral scholar at St Mary The Boltons, as I am excited to include ensemble singing in my life again and become part of a vibrant musical community.



An Invitation from St Paul's Cathedral

The Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral have invited the congregations of Parish Churches across London to their Advent Carol Service which will take place on **Saturday 2 December at 5.30pm** (please note that this is an earlier start time than in previous years).

We do hope you will join us for this moving and uplifting service in which the Cathedral Choir moves throughout the building singing music which reflects the Advent themes of light and hope, together with readings from scripture and literature, and some of the best-loved of the Advent hymns.



We also invite young people from across the diocese to be part of the procession of light which moves through the Cathedral during the service. There is a rehearsal earlier in the afternoon for this, when the children and their supervising parents/guardians will be taken through the procession.

It would be lovely if a group from St Mary's would like to go along to the Cathedral for this Carol Service. Seating will be on a first come, first served basis, but they ask us to let them know how many people to expect. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to go to this Advent Carol Service, by **Monday 13 November** at the latest, so we can let them know.

Photo: St Paul's Cathedral

Update on Alex's family and the Graduation gift

Currently Alex and his family are living in the house they built using the Graduation Gift, and they are very excited because they no longer struggle to pay rent as they live in an urban set-up with higher costs of living. They also bought land that they are using to plant the crops they eat and sell for their living.



They are still working on the house as they are planning to work on finishing and painting and putting glass in the windows and doors. They are also rearing rabbits and pigs that help them to generate revenue on top of the income the mother gets from her fresh foods business. This was very difficult for them when they were still renting.



They also plant food in the garden that is around the compound to help feed themselves.

Otherwise, Alex and the mother say they are very excited that they now own a house.

Text and photos from Compassion UK



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Many thanks to everyone who baked for and attended the Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning on Friday 20 October. Great fun was had by all and an amazing sum of £276 was donated. Thank you so much everyone for supporting such a wonderful organisation.

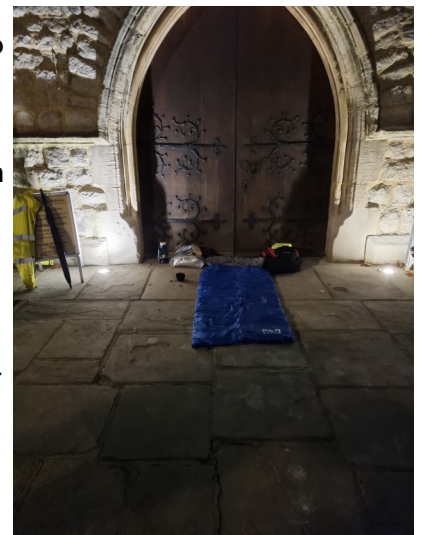


Text and Photo by Fiona Parsons

Glass Door Sleep Out

First, a huge thank you to everyone who sponsored me for sleeping out for Glass Door on Friday evening, 6 October, helping me to raise a total of £861 for their work.

The night was dry so I slept on the York stone paving outside the main door. Even with the gates closed, and twenty four hour security in the street, in a normally safe part of London, I actually felt quite vulnerable and found



I woke up at almost every noise. It does make you think about the effect this way of existence has on the mental health of people who have no choice but to sleep rough on a regular basis.

Dave Ireton

Living in Love and Faith: An Advent Discussion Series, Tuesdays in Advent

We have been talking about the ongoing wranglings of the Church of England about same sex relationships for some time. The PCC has unanimously commended any movement towards allowing clergy in parishes to perform weddings and bless partnerships, but as yet there is no possibility of doing so, at least until the General Synod has voted to change the current practice. This month's General Synod will, it is hoped, take things further towards a greater openness and inclusion in the Church, but it will not be without intense debate.



This Advent we will run a group based on the *Living in Love and Faith* material produced by the Church of England for three sessions, on Tuesday evenings, via Zoom. Details about the course will be advertised in the mailings and pewsheets, but please do put it in your diary and join in the discussions. The sessions will run at 7.30pm, on Tuesday 5, 12 and 19 December, via a Zoom video or telephone link. If you are interested in joining, please let the Vicar know.

The *Living in Love and Faith* Book is available from the parish office free, and is an informative and interesting read. Do ask for a copy.

And please pray for General Synod, our lay and clergy representatives, and our bishops as they meet 13-15 November. If you are interested you can attend the debate, or even watch it on a live stream via the Church of England website.

Jenny Welsh

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 November

13 December

10 January

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 29 October

Last Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist
Readings Leviticus 19.1-2, 15-18
Matthew 22.34-end

Sunday 5 November

All Saints Sunday

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist with Come and Sing
Choir and Little Lambs
Sunday School
Readings 1 John 3.1-3
Matthew 5.1-12
Preacher The Reverend Philip Welsh
4pm Choral Evensong and
Commemoration of the
Faithful Departed

Wednesday 8 November

11am Silent Prayer
7pm PCC in church hall

Friday 10 November

10am Second Half Club

Sunday 12 November

Remembrance Sunday

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist including the
Act of Remembrance
Readings Micah 4.1-5
Matthew 5.43-end

Friday 17 November

10am Second Half Club

Sunday 19 November

Second Sunday before Advent

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist
with Little Lambs Sunday School
Readings 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11
Matthew 25.14-30

Friday 24 November

10am Second Half Club

Sunday 26 November

Christ the King

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist
President and preacher,
The Reverend Lesley Perry
Readings Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24
Matthew 25.31-end

Friday 1 December

10am Second Half Club

Sunday 3 December

Advent Sunday

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist
with Come and Sing Choir,
Little Lambs Sunday School
Readings Isaiah 64.1-9
Mark 13.24-37
12noon Advent Bring and Share
Parish Lunch

Year's Mind November

Margaret Barclay
Patricia Schleger
Clifford Gregory
Oriel Robinson
Roderick Cooling
Lidia Griggs
Barbara Pratchett
Paul Slaymaker
Harry Davson
Lewis Stainton
Helmut von der Heyde
Windsor Richardson
Clare Ziegler
Frederick Greenland
Caroline Hue Williams
Mary Taylor
Harry Langley
Ken Slater
Tim Raphael
Dorothy Coleman
Archibald Murray
Tony Thomas
Enid Channing
Margaret Macnair
Dorothy Shuckburgh
John Bassett
Malcolm Gregory
Pamela Greig



*Image (right): St Mary's
Church Garden
J. Ellard*

Finance and giving Please give generously to support the parish mission and ministry. In 2023 we 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.



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Verger/Caretaker

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(Day off Wednesday)

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Leo Fraser-Mackenzie 020 7384 3246

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

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or call the Parish Office

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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 December - January Clarion should be sent to the Parish Office by 27 November, please.

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