

THE CLARION

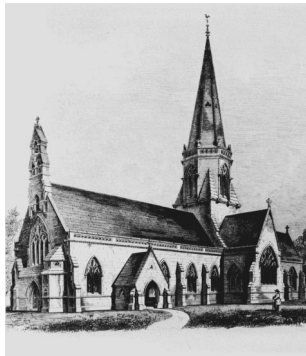
The Magazine of the Parish of St Mary The Boltons
rooted in faith • open in thought • reaching out in service

October 2023

From the Vicar Dedication Sunday: Giving Thanks for our Church

This year our church turns 173 years old on 22 October, the date of its Consecration in 1850. Our church's history is written elsewhere (see the short book by Arthur Tait, available in the church), and the more recent story is held in memory of, and shared by, a sadly diminishing number of longstanding members of the congregation. It is timely that an update detailing the years since the book was published is being prepared, so that the story is not lost.

Our history gives us much to be thankful for: the parish community in which we are set; the ministry we have been glad to exercise here; the huge numbers of neighbours who have come through our doors to be baptised, or married, or to mark the deaths of loved ones at their funerals; the many people whose attendance at services may be infrequent, but very regular, as they come along each year to celebrate Christmas and Easter. Our church has provided a place to raise our children in the faith through preparation for baptism and confirmation, and through Sunday school too. We have welcomed local schoolchildren in for school assemblies and RE lessons; and offered food and refreshment to older local people. Our church also offers the particularly precious gift of an open door into a quiet and holy space for anyone and everyone who walks in when nothing is happening at all – most unusual in our part of London, where many churches are locked during the week. And our church gives us a base for community activity and support, through things like the Fair, food collections, 12 Step Groups, and local community meetings. St Mary's Church has been a home for so many people over the decades, and that is why each



October we celebrate the anniversary of our dedication and consecration with a festal Eucharist, giving thanks for our church building and all it stands for, for us and for our local community too.

This issue of *The Clarion* includes a few articles that help illustrate much of what we think is important about St Mary's: there is an article about what is currently happening to the exterior of our building, as we repair and restore the stonework, making it both beautiful and waterproof; there is another about our Fair, with pictures showing just how many people came along to enjoy the day with us; there is a little advertisement about an event coming up when we will share some of the clippings, photographs and articles about our church, which were found in the loft when we insulated it last year. Do come along if you are interested in seeing pictures of old friends when they were not so old! And of course there is the advertisement for our Dedication Festival, on Sunday 22

October, our 173rd anniversary. At that service we will have special music with a professional octet of singers leading our worship, and it will be followed by special festive refreshments, so do come along if you can.

Dedication festivals are not just about giving thanks and celebrating: they remind us of the constant call to dedicate ourselves to the life of our church, to keeping it open and secure, to making sure the building is in good shape, so that it can continue to offer that home to everyone who comes, and to the ministry of worship and of care, of love towards God and towards our neighbours, too. Will you join us as we do that this autumn? We hope you will.

Jenny Welsh, Vicar

Image: St. Mary's Church, The Boltons, exterior (a) From the south-west as originally proposed. Survey of London: Volume 41, Brompton. Originally published

Harvest Thanksgiving Gifts

Our annual Harvest Thanksgiving service will be on Sunday 1 October. We will welcome any harvest gifts on the day, or if you are not able to come to



the service, you can still bring in your harvest gifts. We are also receiving gifts from local schools and we can add your donations to the collection, for Dads House, Glass Door and St Cuthbert's Centre.

Here is a reminder of the items these charities have told us

would be particularly helpful:

- Instant coffee, tea and hot chocolate
- Sugar
- Ketchup
- Rice
- Pasta
- Canned tomatoes, chickpeas, beans, vegetable soups, sweetcorn
- Jams and spreads
- Cereals
- Toiletries, and feminine hygiene products
- Household cleaning products
- Biscuits and other snacks

The food bank boxes are always available in church for any other donations during the week.



Autumn Fair

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us at the Autumn Fair on Saturday 23 September in the Church, hall and gardens.

We were delighted to be able to welcome people to a fun afternoon of activities, children's games, magic and music, as well as delicious food, teas, coffees, and many more stalls for people to enjoy.



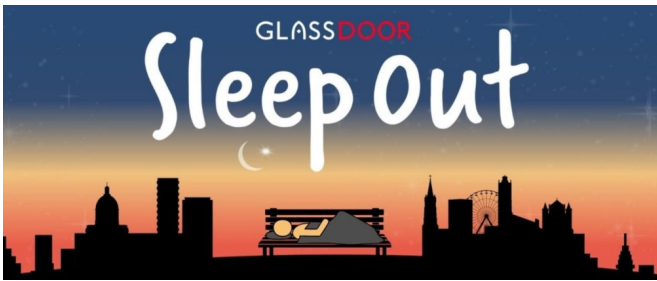
Particular thanks must go to Caroline and Calvin Jackson, and Clair Gordon, for all their efforts in helping to bring together everything on the day, as well as to everybody who helped either with running stalls on the day, or with planning, set up,

organising, and clearing down; none of this would have been possible without lots of help.

We don't yet know the final total raised for the Charitable Pot, but will be able to let you know soon, we hope.

Photos by Priscila Lehto, Bill Gallagher, Clair and Sophie Gordon





The Glass Door Sleep Out 2023

Dave Ireton and I will be sleeping out to raise funds for Glass Door Homeless Charity on Friday 6 October, in our church grounds. We are so grateful to those really generous people who have already sponsored us, helping us to reach our respective fundraising goals. If you haven't yet got round to sponsoring one or other of us, there is still time, until the end of October to do it. We are glad to receive donations via our giving pages;

Dave's sponsorship page is: <https://tinyurl.com/DavelretonSleepOut2023> (or using the QR code below)



and the Vicar's sponsorship page is <https://tinyurl.com/JennyWelshSleepOut2023> (or using the QR code below).



Or we can receive cash donations, and simply add them to the total amount given.

Together with your help we are making a big difference to Glass Door's work with homeless people giving shelter, hot meals, advice and support, and a generous hospitality to up to 150 people this winter. Dave and I have the easy job – we just have to lie down and go to sleep; your job is much harder – so thank you very much for helping us.

Jenny Welsh, Vicar

Evensong

Wednesday afternoons on Radio 3 feature Evensong from a myriad of locations around the country and are very lovely. In September I have been lucky enough to enjoy two such services because of St Mary's. The first at church for the Feast of the Blessed Virgin and then eleven days later Evensong at Southwark Cathedral on what felt like the wettest day of the year!

The St Mary's service saw a gathering of some of John's amazingly talented friends in the choir loft and with more friends boosting the singing from the pews. The music selection was perfect and it was a treat to be part of the congregation for such a wonderfully restful yet uplifting service with truly spectacular singing. The celebrations after were great fun too and such a treat to meet John's friends and colleagues from his other life away from St Mary's who had travelled from all over the country to join him in this delightful way to celebrate (albeit late) his recent significant birthday.



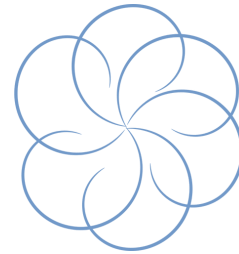
Southwark Cathedral hosted the choir of Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School whose Director of Music is a certain Mr J Ward. I arrived having paddled my way through Borough Market (which for some reason I had totally forgotten was at London Bridge Station) and as usual in my search for the entrance into a Cathedral walked round its entirety before I found the way in. I had also forgotten how utterly charming Southwark

Cathedral is; it is not huge and awe inspiring in a tremendous way, but more domestic in its proportions. The choir was still practising when I arrived and then as the time for the service began they ambled down the side aisle and the organist started to play. People were whispering, the vergger was handing out orders of service for those who did not have one with a few additional hastily photocopied ones too, because of the turnout, then there was a stillness and down the aisle they came, led by the Verger. The slightly ragtaggle ambling teens with slightly harassed teachers transformed itself into a dignified, confident, groomed, elegant, respectful with a hint of nerves, procession. The singing was magical. There was no flapping of papers or straggling standing up and sitting down, it was as if they sang Evensong in a cathedral every week. The only thing that let the service down was the singing of the clergy, but that



Tower Bridge, the string of lights came on, which made me smile even more. I never cease to be grateful for the sheer quantity of lovely things there are that cost nothing and make you feel better: church music of the highest quality is one, London's architecture is another, being an optimist is a third!

Text and Photos by Katrina Quinton



is probably me being uncharitable, but Jenny was definitely better!

I realise that readers may want to know what was sung on both occasions and being hopeless I cannot remember. Needless to say John will know. I just know it was very lovely and it was a treat to be part of both these services at the end of the day, with their lovely familiar words from the Book of Common Prayer put to glorious music.

I decided to walk over London Bridge to get the District Line home; the rain was torrential and London was very grey apart from the buses but it did not seem to matter and as I looked towards

Your Suggestions for 2024 Charities to Support

This is a reminder that our annual request for suggestions of charities we support during the following year, which was officially launched on Sunday, 24 September, has a deadline for submissions of Sunday, 8 October. For 2024 we are seeking one international charity and three UK based charities who work in our defined local area. This is the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea or one of the adjacent boroughs. In accordance with our Terms of Reference we are seeking charities who are small enough for our modest donations to make a difference, or alternatively be a special project of a larger charity that would not be possible without our support. If you have any queries about eligibility and are interested in speaking directly to any of the members of the charity committee, please email office@stmarytheboltons.org.uk. Submission of your suggestions through the Parish Office, please.

If you have made a suggestion over the last few weeks or months, be assured that is already on the Charity Committee's list of charities to be considered. We will then make formal recommendations at the next PCC in early November.

It is extremely pleasing to report that the Autumn Fair on Saturday 23 September was very well attended, especially as we were blessed with glorious autumn sunshine after a few days of extremely inclement weather. The newer format of 'embracing' the Church edifices as opposed to using the wider gardens worked extremely well, in particular the detailed maps handed out on arrival significantly aided from a 'traffic management' perspective. The decision on this occasion to outsource the BBQ and introduce the coffee 'tuk tuk' was a notable success. The bookstall's proximity to the 'food court' enhanced the experience, and the ability to sell cash and card and plastic tokens from the table helped. As always, Margarete's cream teas in the hall were a sell out!

We were very pleased that the Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, wearing their badge of office, attended for a time. We were especially pleased that representatives of our current charities were able to accept our invitation to be with us on the day. Councillor Marie Therese Rossi drew the raffle prizes and publicly thanked St Mary's for our support. Simon Nelson's trio once again provided excellent music during the Fair and we were delighted to welcome the 'Songs and Soup' choir from Holy Trinity Sloane Square for a few songs in the church. As ever, magic performances throughout the afternoon enthralled young children on the lawn.

The Charity Committee thanks everyone who helped in some way, both before the Fair and during the day, and contributed to making it such a success. A special vote of thanks must go to Jane Ellard and Caroline and Calvin Jackson for their tremendous support in project managing the Fair so well. At the time of writing we do not know how much money the Fair raised, but are hopeful

for a record amount, which is tremendous against the backdrop of the challenging economic environment that our chosen charities are operating in.

Alex Burtt on behalf of the Charity Committee



Update of the Fabric, October 2023

At its September meeting the PCC was informed of the latest position with the major project works currently in hand.

Firstly there was the news concerning the application to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) for approval of the plans to alter the layout

at the west end of church by removing the two pews nearest to the Parish Office and to bring the ramp access to church up to the required standard



by raising the level of the external approach from the street to the west door. At the same time we asked for approval to upgrade the thermal insulation of the west end by installing new internal doors, and by insulating the vicar's office and the two rooms at the back of church. The DAC's role is to advise both the Parish and the Diocesan Chancellor who has the final say in granting a faculty for any changes to the inside of the church. A Faculty is the equivalent of planning permission, so it is an important step. DAC

approval was granted, which was good news.

However, as work was also necessary on the outside of church, Local Authority Planning permission was also required. As the formal application to the RBKC Planning Department was being prepared it became apparent that the original



design may not have delivered sufficient improvement to the ramp access to meet the statutory requirements. This has meant that the project, which we had hoped would start this autumn, will not now start until the early part of next year, possibly later in 2024, depending on the nature of the changes that have to be made to the original plan.

The work at the west end of church started at the beginning of September. This is required both to remedy the damp in the gallery stair well and to maintain the condition of the external stonework on the area that is now covered by scaffolding. This too hit problems. As the work to remove the loose and rough parts on the lime stone proceeded, so called defrassing, it became apparent that 13 stones needed to be replaced. (see photo on the right).

This has added nearly £2,000 to the cost. There will also be a delay of several weeks while the new stones are procured and dressed. The external walls of the church are faced with Kentish Ragstone. While this stone was once widely quarried in Kent, there is apparently now only one supplier, and so our order simply takes its place in the queue. During the heavy rain and wind during the night following the PCC meeting, a significant leak occurred in the area where the masons had been working, but they returned early on the Saturday morning to make a temporary repair.



Finally inside church our lighting contractors have worked out why some of the LED lights on the corbels have stopped working. (The corbels are those projections around the church at the level of the top of the windows which appear to support the roof beams). Apparently there is a fault with a LED Driver and we are now waiting for a new one to arrive from the original supplier, we anticipate under warranty. LED lights need a very constant and precise amount of power. The driver is the part of the system that ensures that the supply from the grid is regulated to meet these specific requirements.

While these delays are frustrating, in the background each of the contractors and our professional advisers have been responsive and helpful. Thank you to Hanslip and Company Ltd, CES Lighting, and Stone Edge Conservation Ltd.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

Photos: J. Ellard and Hanslip and Company Ltd

Dedication Festival
Sunday 22 October
10.30am Choral Eucharist



Please join us for refreshments after the service.
Everyone is Welcome.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

St Mary's will be hosting a **Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care on Friday 20 October**. There will be a special service of Morning Prayer at 9:30am followed by the coffee morning from 10:00am. Closer to the time there will be a sheet in church for the names of people to be remembered at Morning Prayer, and one to sign up if you are able to bring a cake, but in the meantime please do put the date in your diary.

Fiona Parsons

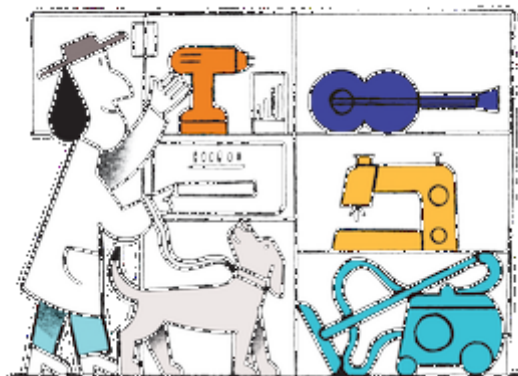


Illustration: Macmillan Cancer Charity

A New 'Library of Things'

From October 2023 a Library of Things will be coming to Kensington, based at Kensington Leisure Centre, Silchester Road.

Library of Things is a social enterprise that helps people save money and reduce waste by affordably



renting out useful items like drills, sound systems and sewing machines from local spaces, and by helping neighbours share practical skills. It works by requesting an item via an app, paying a small borrowing fee, then collecting your item with a unique code from a locker at the leisure centre. Anyone can use it, but Borough residents can get a 25 per cent discount on borrowing items.

Follow this link to find out more and sign up at <https://participate.libraryofthings.co.uk/northkensington>.

Happy Birthday, Hilda

On Sunday 24 September, we shared cake after the service to celebrate Hilda's 95th Birthday.



Photo: Clair Gordon

Afternoon Tea and Archives

You may recall that in the last year or so, we have spent some time clearing and sorting the items put up into the loft, principally to enable the loft insulation to be installed last winter.

In doing this, we have discovered a number of photos and objects from St Mary's over the years, and would love to know more about their story, the people in the photos, and any other details people may know.

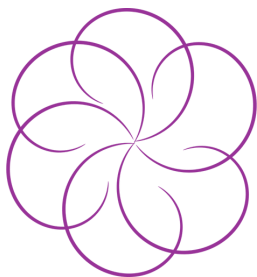


To this end, please join us for an 'Afternoon Tea and Archives' in the Church Hall on Saturday 21 October, 3 - 5pm. We will get all the photos and anything else that might be of interest out, and it would be really interesting to put together some memories of St Mary's over the years, and identify some of the people in the photographs.

Please let the Parish Office know if you would like to join us, for catering purposes.

Jane Ellard

Illustration Clip Art, Public Domain

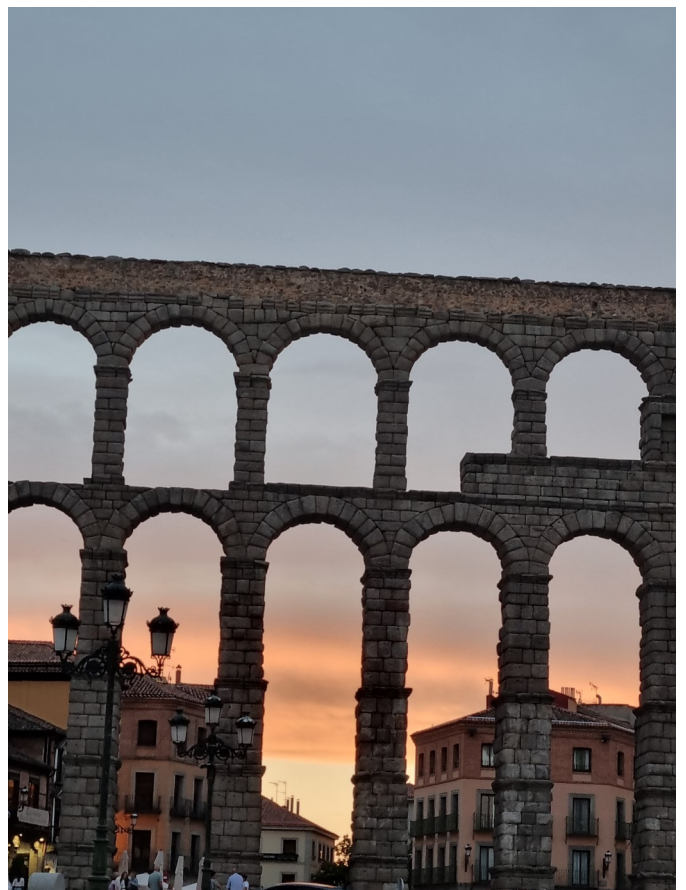


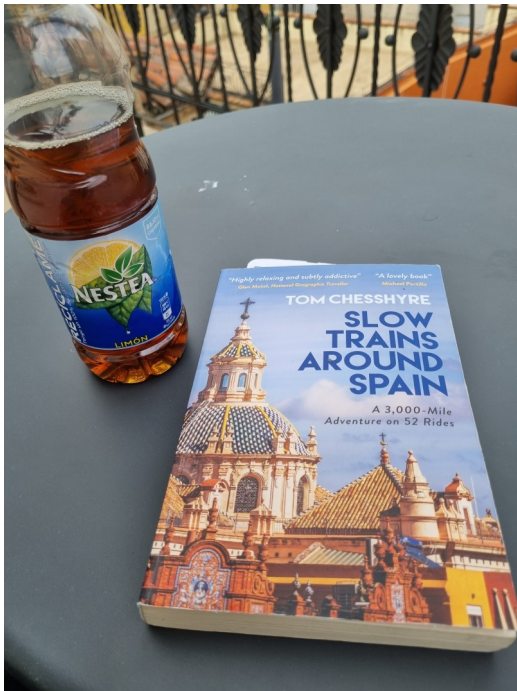
By Train around Spain

Flying from a packed Gatwick airport after the much publicised Air Traffic Control meltdown on the previous weekend was an experience. However, with only a fifteen minute delay I arrived in Bilbao, staying close to the Guggenheim Museum on the riverside walk in Bilbao's old town. The following morning, I travelled to Durango, using the Basque rail network (Euskotren) to spend a few days with my brother Peter, his wife Nerea and my niece Elana.



My first long train journey: Bilbao to Segovia. Spain's long-distance trains are smart, clean, and fast, so a thoroughly pleasant journey. I arrived in Segovia just in time for sunset, a bus dropping me by the awesome Roman aqueduct. The following morning, a visit to the Alcazar (Castle of Segovia) and the





Cathedral, both close to where I was staying. The cathedral was amazing, very peaceful and quiet. The Alcazar had an amazing collection of arms and armour.

Valencia to Barcelona (303km). Here I stayed in the Gothic quarter within walking distance of Barceloneta with its reasonable-priced restaurants, enjoying awesome seafood. Then I caught a local train to Vilanova la Geltra, to visit the Catalan Railway Museum, seeing lots of steam trains. Because I arrived early, I had the whole site to myself. In the afternoon I managed a paddle in the med before catching the train back to Barcelona (this time a double decker).

All in all a fantastic time; the trains were brilliant, and the staff very helpful. I enjoyed delicious food and seeing some amazing places. One small tip is to always check how near the railway station is to the town: Segovia was unexpectedly far away from the town centre.

*Dave Ireton
Photos from D. Ireton*

Segovia to Salamanca was only a short journey (129km). I arrived at the same time as a major festival was taking place, and managed to get a free ticket to a concert by Vanesa Martín Mira (a star in Spain and Latin America). How come the free ticket, you may ask; the concert began at 11pm approx. 50 feet away from the hotel I was staying.

Salamanca to Cordoba, via Madrid (315km). My train left at 6.15am, and travelling across Spain I was able to see some amazing scenery. My hotel in Cordoba, being a little way from the train station, needed a bit of searching for, and was within walking distance of the historic Jewish quarter with amazing atmospheric small streets. Saturday morning I found the Botanical Gardens, and had them almost to myself. Lastly, a visit to Cordoba Zoo in the afternoon.

Cordoba to Valencia via Madrid (421km). It took most of Sunday for the journey to Valencia, where I was staying right by the central market. The following morning I got a bus to the city of arts and science in Valencia, amazing modern buildings and a visit in the morning to the Oceanographic – the biggest aquarium in Europe – then the BioPark Zoo.



Photo: Bilbao Abando Station

All Saints and All Souls

We will mark All Saints Day on Sunday 5 November with a special service at 10.30am.

We will also have a special Commemoration of the Faithful Departed at evensong on the same day, for All Souls, at 4pm.

There will be a sheet at the back of church for you to add names of people to be commemorated. At the All Souls Evensong, or please email the Parish Office to add names to the list.



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

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:

11 October

8 November

13 December

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 1 October Harvest Thanksgiving and Climate Care Sunday

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am All Age Eucharist with Come and Sing Choir, and crèche for preschool children
Readings 2 Corinthians 9.9-11
John 6.1-13
Followed by Parish Bring and Share Lunch

Friday 6 October

10am – 1pm Second Half Club
9pm Sleep out for Glass Door – do not forget to sponsor the Vicar and Verger!

Sunday 8 October Trinity 18

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist with baptism of Thaleia Jakobides
Readings Philippians 3.4b-14
Matthew 21. 33 - end
12.30pm Baptism of Stella Jamieson

Wednesday 11 October

11am Silent Prayer

Friday 13 October

10am Second Half Club

Sunday 15 October Trinity 19

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist with Little Lambs Sunday School
Readings Philippians 4.1-9
Matthew 22. 1-14
President and preacher, the Reverend Lesley Perry

Wednesday 18 October

11.30 Nursing Home Service: St Teresa's Care Home, Roland Gardens

Friday 20 October

9.30am Special Morning Prayer for people affected by Cancer
10am Second Half Club and Macmillan Coffee Morning

Sunday 22 October Dedication Sunday

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist
Readings Isaiah 61.10-end
Luke 1.46-55

NB: NO Second Half Club this week due to Half Term Break

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
Preacher The Reverend Philip Welsh

Sunday 5 November All Saints and All Souls

8am Holy Eucharist
10.30am Holy Eucharist for All Saints
With Come and Sing choir, and
Little Lambs Sunday School
Readings 1 John 3.1-3
Matthew 5.1-12
4pm Choral Evensong with
Commemoration of the
Faithful Departed

Year's Mind October

Mary Challen
Charles Lawther
Margaret Singer
James McNair
John Marryat
Moira Tompkin
Richard Cook
Belinda Morse
Mary Proctor
John Williams
Anne Williams
Julia Gordon
Parvis Changizi
Gavin Hodge
Verena Wilson
John Symons
Sandra Ockwell
Florence Payne
Mary Pretymann
Gillon Aitken
Peggy Smekal



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.

Parish Office

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The Boltons, SW10 9TB
www.stmarytheboltons.org.uk
020 7835 1440

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(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

Candice Lee 078989 70379
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

Electoral Roll Officer

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or call the Parish Office

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Philip Bedford Smith
GiftAid1@stmarytheboltons.org.uk

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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 November Clarion should be sent to the Parish Office by 23 October please.

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