

THE CLARION

The Magazine of the Parish of St Mary The Boltons

rooted in faith • open in thought • reaching out in service February 2022

From the Vicar

At the January PCC meeting, after covering familiar ground like our finances and our fabric, we were surprised and delighted by a question raised under Any Other Business: when will we be able to take Communion in both kinds again? That is, when can we receive the wine again, as well as the bread? The discussion became quite lively as we talked about, not just the nuts and bolts of our church life, but the foundation of it: our worship and fellowship together.

After two years of being careful not to spread infection, keeping those rules of hands, face and space, and following the guidance from the Church of England, that brief discussion revealed a wide variety of opinion and experience.

Some people really want to have the 'common cup' restored: it completes the Communion. Not to receive the wine feels like ignoring the command of Jesus to 'drink this, all of you'. A few thought that the 'commonness' of the chalice was important to them (myself included).



Other PCC members felt very uncomfortable with the idea of drinking from the same vessel as someone else. This has always been true, but with Covid in the picture that anxiety is more acute and



widespread. The use of individual cups was raised: why can we not just use these like the Methodists do?

I wonder what you think. Perhaps you come along frequently to St Mary's, or maybe only very occasionally; maybe you have been missing receiving both the bread and the wine, or perhaps you have got so used to taking Communion in the Covid-secure way that you have forgotten what it is like to do things differently. Habits are easy to form, especially in company.

As the person who is usually presiding at the altar each week, my experience is a little different: the Eucharist is only valid if both the bread and wine are blessed and shared, and that is why we continue to have a chalice on the altar, and why a small amount of wine is poured into it, which I then 'receive' at Communion on behalf of all of you, so to speak. Yet I really long to share it with you. It is a powerful sign of our belonging to each other, of our relationship in Christ, of our being part of each other, even those we do not know very well.

The Church has always said to receive only the bread or indeed only the wine when necessary is sufficient, but it is also always said that the Eucharist

is something done in company: giving thanks, praying, receiving together. Our Eucharist service is full of signs that this is so. Our language reflects it, as we say *We confess, We believe and We break this bread*. Our actions ideally reflect it too, as we share the Peace, or sing our hymns, or gather at the altar. Covid has meant that those actions have been tested and strained as we kept physical distancing, wearing face coverings and queuing to receive the bread. Let us remember that those rather strained actions also reflect that we do this together, and for the sake of one another as perhaps the greatest act of Communion of all.

The conversation in the PCC will go on. I hope it will with you, too.

Jenny Welsh, Vicar

Chalice images: Emma Myrtle



Photo: Edwina Sassoon

Exploring the Christian Faith: Confirmation 2022

Confirmation is the rite that takes us into a fuller relationship with Christ and his Church. In the Church of England it is also the rite that makes it possible for people to take Communion: receiving the bread and (when we can) the wine at the Eucharist (see the first article in this issue). It is an important moment in a person's growth in faith and a kind of completion of the work begun at their baptism, as they take a full part in the life of the family of God.

Usually, to be confirmed, candidates engage in some preparation, i.e. learning about the Christian basics, to do with who God is; the life and ministry of Jesus; the working of the Holy Spirit in the world; the importance of prayer and fellowship; how to read the Bible, and how to be a confident follower of Jesus. Here at St Mary's, this preparation tends to be far more of a discussion process than formal learning and usually takes place over six or so sessions as we read a book together, and talk about what we have learned.

Perhaps you are one of the several people who come along to St Mary's who have not been confirmed, but have thought you ought to be and to finish what your parents started when they had you christened. Or maybe you are very new to the Church and want to know more of what it is all about, so that you can make a decision about committing yourself. Perhaps you have not been baptised yet, but you would like to be.



<http://clipart-library.com/>

I am also aware that there are several of our Sunday school children who are now in the right age group for Confirmation. Having missed them during the pandemic, I know that when they come back, the old pattern of Sunday School will not suit them at all. Some of our parents have been asking us to take them on to this next step. I will be pleased to prepare those children who are 10 or over in a different series of sessions, covering the same range of themes.

I am hoping to present candidates to the Bishop at the Confirmation service at St Mary Abbot's, Kensington, on Thursday 9 June, in the evening. This feels like an age away, but as diaries fill, I hope that if you are thinking about being confirmed, or would like your child to be confirmed, you will contact me, and put the date of the service in your diary.

Both classes will begin after Easter, at the end of April, and the timetables will be confirmed much nearer the time, when I know who will be joining in. Also, some of us were confirmed decades ago. I am happy to welcome anyone who wants a refresher course to join as well.

Jenny Welsh



'Single Snowdrop' drawing by Jane Baxter Art - find her on Facebook or at <https://www.janebaxter.co.uk/>

Lent 2022

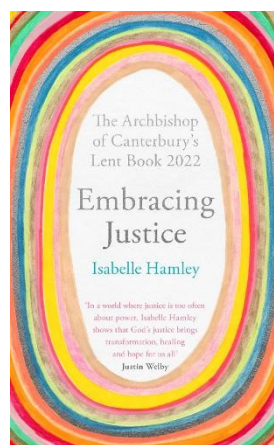
I invite you... in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

From the Common Worship Liturgy for Ash Wednesday

This year, Ash Wednesday – the first day of Lent – comes at the very beginning of March, so there is plenty of time for us to consider how we can keep a good Lent together. We are glad not to be locked down as we were last year, but we are still observing good practices to keep one another well and safe.

I will write more about the themes of Lent in the next issue, so here I want simply to let you know what will be going on at St Mary's this year.

The *Ash Wednesday Liturgy* on Wednesday 2 March will be our Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes. There will be two services: a said service at 12 noon and a choral service at 7pm.



The *Lent Discussion Series* will take place on Sundays from 12 noon - 12.40pm. We will read the book commended by the Archbishop of Canterbury, *Embracing Justice* by Isabelle Hamley. Dr Hamley is Theological Adviser to the House of Bishops. Archbishop Welby says of it, 'In a world where justice is too often about power, Isabelle Hamley shows that God's justice brings transformation, healing and hope for us all'.

I hope this book will inspire our conversations together this Lent. Even if you do not want to join the discussion, do read the book along with us. You

can buy the book from Church House Bookshop or Amazon, or if you speak to me, I'll be glad to order it for you.

If Sundays aren't convenient for some people, we may also run a parallel series on Tuesdays at 7.30 on Zoom. Those who join on Sundays may want to continue the discussion and would be welcome to join the online sessions as well. Please let me know what you think. Night Prayers (Compline) will be said on Zoom, on Tuesday evenings in Lent beginning at 8.30pm. The link will be in the weekly pew sheet and the next issue of the Clarion.

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The Lent Appeal. Part of our Lenten discipline ought to include 'the giving of alms', that is, charitable contributions. Our Lent Appeal raises funds for our Charitable Pot, which is shared among the charities we are supporting. There is more information about the Appeal on the following page in this issue.

Jenny Welsh

Cover image SPCK Publishing



Photo: new school uniforms, USPG

A Report from the Charity Committee: Looking forward

After two years of huge restrictions, limitations and uncertainties about our lives and activities, it appears that 2022 is going to be a much better year. Hopefully it will bring us closer to normality. This is heartening, enabling the Charity Committee to arrange a full programme of Sunday morning visits by representatives of the charities we are supporting this year. This was something that was not possible in either 2020 or 2021, although we did manage a small number of talks from the pulpit, plus attendances at the Autumn Fair.

We began 2022 by welcoming the Chairman of USPG, John Neilson, on Sunday 16 January. As well as explaining the history and current activities of USPG, he generously gave us a short sermon based on the Bible readings for that day. This was unexpected and greatly appreciated by the congregation. Since its original establishment in 1701, USPG has undergone a fundamental change of ethos. It has moved from the earlier colonial model of sending individuals from this country to serve the church overseas as missionaries, to working in partnership with Anglican churches across the world in supporting projects selected and overseen by those local churches. Our donations to USPG are dedicated to its Partner in Mission programme, in which we are partnered with the Anglican Council of Churches in Malawi. Our money is supporting work in four rural communities where the programme is helping families to become more self-sufficient and have a more secure future. John highlighted one person who, from small beginnings, and with the support given by the programme, had managed to develop a profitable little business. After the service John and his wife mingled with members of the congregation over coffee. www.uspg.org.uk (The picture shows two girls who have been inspired by the programme to continue their education).

On 20 March Catherine Hodgson from Paul's Cancer Support Centre will be joining us. www.pauls.org.uk/ Then, on 8 May, Naomi Langan from Beacon House will be explaining how they

help vulnerable and homeless young people in Kensington & Chelsea gain the skills needed to live independently. Beacon House is in our parish, in Bina Gardens. In the autumn (11 September) Maria Spink, the founder and chief executive of Lyra in Africa, will be telling us about its hostels for rural girls in Tanzania. www.lyrainafrica.org

Lastly, on 6 November, Learn to Love to Read will be briefing us on how they provide literacy support to pre-schoolers and primary-age children in Wandsworth, so that they are not handicapped by a lack of reading skills. www.learn2love2read.org.uk

First though comes Lent, which is a period of fasting and self-denial. Our annual appeal is one way we can each observe this period in a simple and helpful way as the congregation's Lent Offerings are a great help in funding the Charitable Pot. Lent this year is from Ash Wednesday on 2 March until Saturday 16 April. We shall be launching the appeal on Sunday 27 February, when we shall be giving everyone a card to use as a reminder of the Offering we hope you will be presenting at Easter. The idea behind the scheme is very simple: that we should all mark Lent by giving up something. The money we each save then becomes our Lent Offering. We ask that you present your Offering no later than Sunday, 1 May. Details of the various ways you can do this will be provided on the Lent Offering card.

Anthony Williams on behalf of the Charity Committee



An update from one of our charities: Supporting people affected by cancer in our community and beyond

For almost forty years Paul's Cancer Support has provided support and care to anyone affected by cancer, regardless of stage or diagnosis. We are based at our support centre in the heart of Battersea and our services can be accessed online and from 2022 also via our relaunched Home Support Service.

We are enormously proud to be named after Paul d'Auria, a long-standing and greatly loved Centre member who died in 2006, who showed tremendous courage, determination and support for others. We strongly believe that each person's experience of a cancer diagnosis is unique and we aim to provide individualised and holistic support.

A client recently said about us: 'A place of complete peace in a friendly, non-hospital-like environment'.

When clients first contact Paul's they have an initial assessment of their needs, and how we can best help them, with our Support and Wellbeing Officer Eric. Our support is varied and can include counselling, peer support, physical activity classes, touch therapies, group and wellbeing sessions.



We want to reach as many people who need us in our community and beyond. We would like to support more men and more younger people. We have recently launched a successful Prostate Cancer Support Group which will be complemented by the provision of acupuncture to help men cope better with the effects of chemotherapy. In 2022 we will be busy as we will launch a new Breast Cancer

Support Group; relaunch our Home Support Service with the aim of providing emotional support and practical help while alleviating loneliness and isolation; and launch a new Young Adults' Service for the 25 to 39 age group, who often have very particular support needs after a cancer diagnosis.

We are particularly proud to be still here and supporting our clients and doing what we do so well after a very challenging two years for the charity sector, when we have seen a drop in our fundraising and our ability to get out into our community. Many of our clients have been affected by the pandemic and have received late diagnoses and experienced delayed or cancelled procedures.

A recent client said: 'My husband was diagnosed with colon cancer. I just didn't know what to do or where to go. At Paul's, the first thing I noticed was the calm and the kindness. I was in a place where I could say how frightened I was and how I just couldn't stop the waves of fear and tears. Paul's has also been there for my husband. He gets great solace from counselling, which helps keep him to be on a mentally positive track'.

Our service is needed now more than ever.

Catherine Hodgson
Chief Executive
<https://pauls.org.uk/>
020 7924 3924

Photo: Paul's Cancer Support Centre



Iris Reticulata <https://www.longfield-gardens.com/article/all-about-iris-reticulata/>

Report of the January PCC Meeting

A 'mixed mode' PCC meeting was held on 19 January, with most people attending the church hall in person, and some joining via Zoom, including our Treasurer Carolyn, all the way from her home in the Netherlands.

St Mary's continues to be in a satisfactory financial position, and an in principle budget has been drawn up for 2022. This year will see some major expenditure to the fabric of our building, including the installation of new boilers, repairs to the stonework and refurbishment works in the church hall. If you are interested in the maintenance of our historic building, do consider joining the Fabric Committee, and if you have a flair for fundraising, do consider joining the Stewardship Committee, which will be launching a campaign in May.

The Christmas services at St Mary's were all considered a success, with special mention made of the Community Carols: an outdoor event held in conjunction with our neighbours from St Luke's, Redcliffe Square.

St Mary's new website is being developed, and the PCC have seen a draft version on a large screen. We look forward very much to the launch of our fresh, modern and informative website.

A PCC Away Day is planned for early February, when we will be discussing the Diocese of London's Vision 2030, and how St Mary's should play its part in the Diocesan vision 'For every Londoner to Encounter the Love of God in Christ'.

It was agreed that St Mary The Boltons is in a good position for a return to the 'new normal'. If you have any questions about the workings of the PCC or the life of the church in general, please do not hesitate to contact Joanna Hackett or the Parish Office.

Joanna Hackett
PCC Secretary

Youth Ministry in Communion - an event for secondary school children

Sunday 13 March 6-8pm, St Andrew's Church, Fulham W14 9SA

Another event for young people is coming up in March, and it would be great to muster a group to go along from St Mary's - along with any friends that want to join in. Details are still being worked out but what we are planning is to have laser tag, craft, break-out space for games and socialising, simple worship and lots more. More will be confirmed soon.

The focus will be a good one for the beginning of Lent: Looking inwards and outwards, with a particular emphasis on mental health. The issue of mental health is a very live one after Covid, but it's not new, though it's often neglected. We'll be considering our own health and well being and how we look after others, too

YMIC is a grouping of churches in RBKC and Hammersmith and Fulham - working to encourage our teenage children to be more engaged with their faith and with the church. Please do encourage your kids to come along - and let me know if you are able to accompany the group on the night (for safeguarding purposes). I need to register any who are coming so I'd be glad to hear from you soon.



The Prayer Network

The parish's Prayer Network started in 2000, or so some calculations indicate. It has been going without a break, but with some changes to its structure over the years. Despite this, a largely stable group of about 16 people are part of the Network. It works entirely by email and anyone wanting to join is most welcome.

The basic idea is that anyone can request prayers by contacting the Parish Office, the Vicar, or myself and I pass the request on to the people on the Network as soon as possible. It is then up to the person who receives the request how they use the Network. There are no instructions given. Anyone can pray as often as they want, in what form they want, or how often they want.

Once a month I send a Bulletin to the Network with all the names given, including any updates that had come in. Names are added and taken off, depending on the current situation and need. The names are divided into blocks of seven, for ease of reading and possible use. Every Sunday the names of one of these blocks are used in the Intercessions at the main Eucharist in church.

Some names on the list have been there for a very long time; some requests come for urgent prayers and then they may not stay on the list for long. Having regular updates and fresh information is therefore very important for everyone concerned. One or two names on the list are changed for the sake of anonymity. Beside each name the reason for the request is noted, and also the name of the sponsor is included, and there is space for naming one or more persons to be included in the prayer for any person.

This is a very 'quiet' ministry at St Mary's that has been valued and supported by the parish community. Indeed, most churches and parishes have some such scheme, and it is one of the expected things to happen in a church. If you would like to be part of the Network, please contact me and I will add your name to the list for as long as you would like.

Verena Tschudin, v.tschudin@btinternet.com

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:

9 February

9 March

13 April

A group of people who gather sit together in silence for some 40 minutes. No spoken prayers are said, just the tinkle of a bell at the beginning and 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.



Illustration of the Pieta, St Mary's

Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll will be open for revision from Sunday 6 March in advance of the APCM on Sunday 24 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, the criteria are that 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 27 March**. If you have not completed a form by that date, you will need to wait until after the APCM on 24 April to join.

If you have any questions about the electoral roll, please speak to Fiona.

Fiona Parsons, Electoral Roll Officer

Events at Westminster Abbey

Family activity: Crown making

This year, as we celebrate 70 years of HM Queen Elizabeth II's reign, Westminster Abbey are inviting people to join them to make a crown fit for a coronation.

Art and craft

Make and decorate a crown to wear as you explore the church where coronations have taken place since 1066. At the North Door (where you first enter the Abbey)

Family paper trails

Collect a free family activity guide for the main Abbey church from the activity desk. If you have bought tickets for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries, explore the space with a free crown trail.

Collect from the North Door or the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries foyer.

Available dates:

Saturday 5 February

Saturday 12 February

Half term

Monday 14 - Friday 18 February

Monday 21 - Saturday 26 February

Booking information: Family activities are free to join in when you purchase a ticket to the Abbey.
<https://tickets.westminster-abbey.org/>

Activities are suitable for children aged 3+. All children must be accompanied by an adult throughout their time at the Abbey.

Image: The Queen's Window by David Hockney, Westminster Abbey
<https://www.westminster-abbey.org/about-the-abbey/history/the-queens-window>



Services and Events at St Mary's

Tuesday 1 February

10.30am Funeral of Michael Zurbrugg

Wednesday 2 February

12noon Wedding of Jock Bowes-Lyon and Posy Brinkley

Friday 4 February

10am Second Half Club
10.45 Pilates
12 noon Chair yoga
3pm Wedding of Mark Stewart and Camilla Henderson

Sunday 6 February

Fourth Sunday before Lent

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist
with Come and Sing Choir
Readings Isaiah 6.1-7
Luke 5.1-11

Wednesday 9 February

11am Silent Prayer

Friday 11 February

10am Second Half Club, see details above

Sunday 13 February

Third Sunday before Lent

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist
Readings Jeremiah 17.5-10
Luke 6.17-26

Friday 18 February

NB No Second Half Club due to Half Term break

Sunday 20 February

Second Sunday before Lent

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist
Readings Revelation 4
Luke 8.22-25
Preacher The Reverend Lesley Perry
3pm Baptism of Rory Williams

Friday 25 February

10am Second Half Club, see details above

Saturday 26 February

11am Thanksgiving for a child,
Giacomo del Balzo

Sunday 27 February

Sunday next before Lent

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist
Readings Exodus 34.29-35
Luke 9.28b-36
12noon Last Sunday Recital
3pm Baptism of Magnus Turnbull

Wednesday 2 March

Ash Wednesday

12 noon Holy Eucharist
with Imposition of Ashes
7pm Holy Eucharist
with Imposition of Ashes

Sunday 6 March

First Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist
with Come and Sing Choir
Readings Deuteronomy 26.1-11
Luke 4.1-13
12noon Lent Group (see details on page 3)



Cherry Tree, J. Ellard

Year's Mind February

Ivy Rogers
Gerald Conrad
Edward Lidderdale
Christopher Morse
Mary Pilkington
Peter Hamilton-Davies
Robert Hannay
June Brudenell
Thomas Spicer
Anthony Clives
Rachel Broster
Storm Larkins
Gwyneth George
Thomas Barclay
Anjoli Fernando-Kleinsorge
Bella Callan
David Hancock
Roderick Owen
Heather Allen
Simon Perkins
Lily Dwight
Lynette Hopper
Gary Marshfield
Derek Pilkington
Iris Warwick
Madeline Habgood
Kinbarra Morse

Snowdrops

Do you know what I was, how I lived? You know
what despair is; then
winter should have meaning for you.

I did not expect to survive,
earth suppressing me. I didn't expect
to waken again, to feel
in damp earth my body
able to respond again, remembering
after so long how to open again
in the cold light
of earliest spring--

afraid, yes, but among you again
crying yes risk joy

in the raw wind of the new world.

(Louise Glück)



Cherry Tree, J. Ellard

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

Antony Bryceson 020 7937 1055
 Edward Quinton 020 7373 6094

Director of Music

John Ward
boltonsmusic@gmail.com

St Mary's Church Bank Details

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

Assistant Treasurer

Bill Gallagher 020 7384 3246

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

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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, Kelly Webb may be contacted at 07971 552 014. 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 March Clarion should be sent to the Parish Office by 21 February, please.

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