

# THE CLARION

The Magazine of the Parish of St Mary The Boltons

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

March 2022

## From the Vicar

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 2 March. Last year, we joked that 2020 had been one extended Lenten season, as we denied ourselves the pleasures of companionship, entertainment, as well as opportunities to mourn together, to visit loved ones and to worship with abandon. Never had the idea that the Lenten fast is not all about giving up alcohol or chocolate seemed so true! It is not what we give up for our own sakes that matters, but what we let go for the sake of others: so we stayed apart, faces covered, doing our best to keep the rules because we believed (and continue to, for the most part) it was for the sake of our neighbours: loving them as ourselves.

This year we are in a new place, thank Heaven, what with vaccinations and milder variants, and a sense of 'endemic rather than pandemic', and we are tired of thinking about Covid.

It is good to remember that Lent is actually about exercising virtues of penitence, self-examination and self-denial, and so I hope that you will think about how you will keep the season and how you might share Lent with us at St Mary's.

I flagged our programme in the February issue of the *Clarion*, and elsewhere in this issue you will find it laid out in detail. I hope that the Study Group's looking at the book *Embracing Justice* will help us to talk about what it means to believe in the justice of God, as revealed in scripture, and what it means for us to seek and work for justice in our day and in our small corner of the world. I hope that by adding weekly night prayers to our regular round of prayer and worship we will be inspired to be more faithful in prayer, more aware of our need to pray with the whole church. I hope that Lent may inspire us to take on a Lenten fast: to give up and let go of the things that bring us comfort, pleasure and so

on, but which turn us from looking for and receiving the comfort and joy and strength of God.

In 2017, Pope Francis offered advice for people who want to keep a good Lent, and particularly to embrace the idea of a good Fast. He said:

Fast from hurting words and say only kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

*Jenny Welsh, Vicar*

## A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,

we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at-risk and in fear,

that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

*Archbishop Justin Welby and  
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell*

## Why do we have a Lent Appeal?

In the February *Clarion*, the Vicar wrote that part of our Lenten discipline ought to include 'the giving of alms'. It is this element of Lent that inspired the Charity Committee to launch its first Lent Appeal. It has since become an important part of St. Mary's year and a valuable contributor to our Charitable Pot. This was especially true when the pandemic disrupted so much of our lives. The Common Worship Liturgy for Ash Wednesday includes an invitation for us to observe a holy Lent by fasting and self-denial. A very simple way of doing this is to give up some food or drink that we enjoy, such as chocolate or a daily take-away coffee, during Lent. The money saved can then become your Lent Offering: your 'giving of alms'.

Marking Lent in this way is common to many churches and is financially painless, but it is only one way. There are others. Perhaps you will give up some activity, or some of your free time to help others. Or decide to make a financial sacrifice or simply make your offering. All that the Charity Committee hopes is that you will want to respond to our appeal to make a financial Lent Offering this year. Everyone attending church is being offered a Lent Appeal card. Please take one as a reminder of your commitment. All the charities for which we are raising money this year, including our five main charities, are shown on the front of the card. On the reverse are the four ways in which you can make your offering. Just choose the one that is most convenient for you. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 2 March and continues until Saturday 16 April. We ask you to make your offering by the end of April if you can. Of course you can make your offering before then if you want to!

*Anthony Williams on behalf of the Charity Committee*



*Photo: St Mary's garden  
J. Ellard*

## Youth Ministry in Communion, YMIC An Event for Secondary School Children

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.

**Sunday 13 March 6-8.30pm,  
St Andrew's Church, Fulham W14 9SA**

Look out for more information 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 is not new, though it is often neglected. We will be considering our own health and wellbeing, 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 would be glad to hear from you soon.

*Jenny Welsh.*



## World Day of Prayer 2022

Friday 4 March, 2pm, Methodist  
Central Hall, Westminster  
*I know the plans I have for you*



One of the last things we did at St Mary's before the pandemic was to host the 2020 World Day of Prayer service. It was a joy to welcome more than 40 local Christians from many different churches to celebrate and pray, using a liturgy prepared by women in Zimbabwe. This year's World Day of Prayer service has been prepared by women in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and will celebrate our diversity and the contribution made to our countries by the many groups and individuals who have made their home here. Using the words from Jeremiah, 'I know the plans I have for you', the service will reflect on some of the issues facing our societies today: poverty, domestic abuse and disability, finding hope and encouragement in difficult situations.

World Day of Prayer services will take place all around the world, beginning in Samoa and moving on through New Zealand and Australia, across Asia, Africa, Europe and finally the United States and South America before finishing in American Samoa. In our own nation, services will take place in villages and towns across the land, too. Our local service this year is at Methodist Central Hall in Westminster.

Bishop Sarah Mullally, the Bishop of London will be present, along with the President of the Methodist Conference and the Chair of the World Day of Prayer UK. A church school choir will be singing.

If you would like to know more about World Day of Prayer, visit <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/>

Everyone is welcome to attend. Orders of service are available from the Vicar.  
*Jenny Welsh, Vicar*

*Logo: World Day of Prayer*

## A good-news story

Some readers may have heard me before now talking about the Human Rights and Nursing Awards that are given yearly to two nurses whose 'contributions and accomplishments [of nominees] must be of international significance to human rights. The contributions of the nominee have influenced health care and/or nursing practice'. I was deeply involved with the Awards for nearly 20 years.

One of the very first recipients in 2001 was Karla Schefter from Germany, who had established and ran a hospital in Afghanistan, in Chak-e-Wardak, some 60km north of Kabul. Karla has stayed in touch with me through newsletters and the occasional telephone call. The hospital is supported by a charity from Germany, which means that anyone presenting at the hospital gets the necessary care entirely free. They treat over 4000 people a month, some 44% women, 27% children, and 29% men. Nobody is refused access or care.

Karla phoned me recently to tell me that everything is working as normal. For all the years that the hospital existed, the Taliban never interfered with the running of the hospital, and especially now, they ensure that all is going well. They have 15 women employees (doctors, nurses, radiographers) and they continue working. The hospital runs a school for children who are ill or depending on sick mothers who are in-patients. The main problem they have is limited access to a bank and they can only take out enough money to pay salaries and essentials, but they manage.

Among all the dire news stories from Afghanistan, it is wonderful to hear this kind of news. Karla is convinced that this is only possible because the charity behind the enterprise is completely free of any political or religious organisations and has always been run in a very open and trustworthy way by a committee in Dortmund, Germany.

If any readers would like to support Chak hospital, please get in touch with me for details.  
*Verena Tschudin*

## Lent 2022

### Ash Wednesday 2 March

Remember that you are dust  
12noon Holy Eucharist  
with Imposition of Ashes  
7pm Sung Holy Eucharist  
with Imposition of Ashes



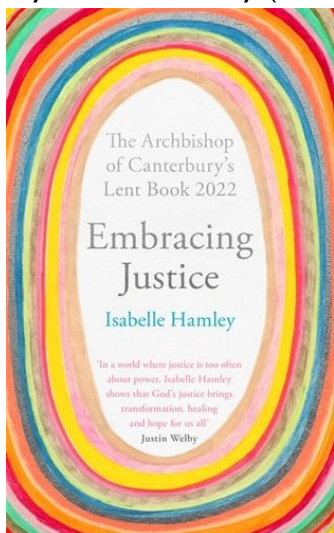
www.commonswikimedia.com



Daffodils,

St Mary The Boltons gardens J. Ellard

**Sundays in Lent** 12noon – 12.30 in church  
Lent Discussion Group using the Archbishop of  
Canterbury's Lent Book for 2022, *Embracing Justice*  
by Isabelle Hamley (available from Church House  
Book Shop or online).



Why not read the book with us, even if you cannot attend the sessions? You may find it will stimulate conversations in other settings. If there is sufficient interest, an additional opportunity for discussion may be offered on Tuesday evenings on Zoom, before Compline (see below)

6 March: Paradise lost: In search of original justice

13 March: From bondage to freedom:  
Exodus and liberation stories

20 March: Building communities of justice:  
legal systems and community justice

27 March: Justice and incarnation:  
Restoring the image of God

3 April: Justice in the shape of the cross

10 April: 'Do this to remember me':  
Holy Communion and the reshaping  
of the imagination

Cover image: SPCK Publishing

### Tuesdays in Lent

8.15pm Night prayers online.

Join us for the Office of Compline via a Zoom link.  
A quiet ending to a busy day.

<https://tinyurl.com/SMTBcompline>

Or join by telephone: 0208 080 6592

Meeting ID: 851 4051 0036

Passcode: 341705

**For details about Holy Week and Easter, see the Lent, Holy Week and Easter leaflet and posters in church.**



### 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 March

13 April

11 May

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.

## Lent 2022: An Ecumenical Course

You may be interested in another Lent series available nearby, organised by Kensington Council of Churches, the local ecumenical grouping. It takes place on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm, in a different church each week, and is called *Following Christ in the footsteps of the Saints*.

<http://ctbi.org.uk/lent-study-2022>

### **Following Christ in the footsteps of the Saints Wednesdays at 7.30pm**

#### **Wednesday 9 March**

Sisters of Zion, 34 Chepstow Villas, W11 2QZ

#### **Wednesday 16 March**

St Sarkis Armenian Church, Iverna Gardens, W8 6TP

#### **Wednesday 23 March**

Methodist Church, Lancaster Road, W11 4AH

#### **Wednesday 30 March**

Carmelite Priory, Kensington Church Street, W8 4BB

#### **Wednesday 6 April**

St John's Notting Hill, Lansdowne Crescent, W11 2NN



## St Mary's Autumn Fair: Save the Date

Volunteers Needed!

Please save the date Saturday 17th September, 12-4pm for the St Mary's Autumn Fair 2022.

We are looking for volunteers to sign up over the next few weeks to help out on the day with setting up, running stalls, barbecuing and general logistics. If you can donate your time to this wonderful annual event that raises much needed funds for the Charitable Pot, please email Jane:

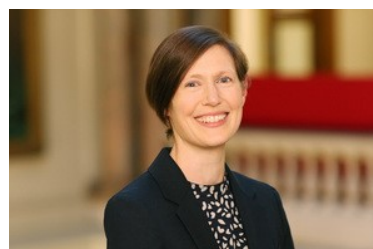
[office@stmarytheboltons.org.uk](mailto:office@stmarytheboltons.org.uk)

Many thanks!

Clair Gordon



[www.images.google.com](http://www.images.google.com)



## Many Congratulations!

Ms Iona Thomas OBE has been appointed British High Commissioner to New Zealand and Governor of the Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands in succession to Ms Laura Clarke OBE. Ms Thomas will take up her appointment during August 2022.

*Iona writes, "Matt and I will be leaving Pakistan in May and will have a few months back in the UK before we move to Wellington in August and we look forward to worshipping at St Mary's when we are back and catching up with all our friends at church."*

## 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](mailto: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*

## Services and Events at St Mary's

### Wednesday 2 March

#### Ash Wednesday

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

### Friday 4 March

10am-1pm Second Half Club  
10.45 Pilates  
12 noon Chair yoga

### 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

### Tuesday 8 March

8.15pm Compline online  
<https://tinyurl.com/SMTBcompline>

### Wednesday 9 March

11am Silent Prayer  
7pm PCC (in hall)

### Friday 11 March

10am Second Half Club, see details above

### Sunday 13 March Second Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)  
10.30am Holy Eucharist  
Readings Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18  
Luke 13.31-end  
12 noon Lent Group  
3pm Baptism of Sebastian Meckiff

### Tuesday 15 March

8.15pm Compline online  
<https://tinyurl.com/SMTBcompline>

### Friday 18 March

10am Second Half Club, see details above

### **Sunday 20 March Third Sunday of Lent**

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)  
10.30am Holy Eucharist  
Readings Isaiah 55.1-9  
Luke 13.1-9  
Speaker: Catherine Hodgson,  
Paul's Cancer Support  
12 noon Lent Group  
2pm Baptism of Brodie Podger

### **Tuesday 22 March**

8.15pm Compline online  
<https://tinyurl.com/SMTBcompline>

### **Wednesday 23 March**

7pm Fabric committee (in the hall)

### **Friday 25 March**

10am Second Half Club, see details above

### **Sunday 27 March Fourth Sunday of Lent, Mothering Sunday**

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)  
10.30am All Age Eucharist  
and distribution of flowers  
Readings 2 Corinthians 5.16-end  
Luke 15. 1 - 3, 11b - end  
12 noon Last Sunday recital, Ed Dean, *Organ*  
12 noon Lent group in hall (tbc)

### **Tuesday 29 March**

8.15pm Compline online  
<https://tinyurl.com/SMTBcompline>

### **Friday 1 April**

10am Second Half Club, see details above

### **Saturday 2 April**

1pm Wedding of Catherine Daniels  
and Lee Hart

### **Sunday 3 April**

#### **Fifth Sunday of Lent, Passion Sunday**

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)  
10.30am Holy Eucharist  
with Come & Sing Choir  
Readings Philippians 3.4b-14  
Luke 8.22-25  
Preacher: Reverend Philip Welsh

### **Year's Mind March**

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



Photo: Edwina Sassoon

**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**

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

**Assistant Treasurer**

Bill Gallagher 020 7384 3246

**Electoral Roll Officer**

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

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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, 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 April Clarion should be sent to the Parish Office by 22 March, please.**

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