

THE CLARION

The Magazine of the Parish of St Mary The Boltons

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

May 2022

From the Vicar If you open the doors, people will come in

We are glad at St Mary's to be able to keep our church open most days, most of the time. I had not realised how unusual this practice is, as many of the churches around London are only open when there are services or other events going on. This is partly for reasons of security, where there is anxiety about things being damaged or stolen, or when there is no-one to supervise the building. It is also, I suspect, partly because of a sense that the building is just a building, and less of a holy space where God can be encountered even when worship is not taking place.

Here at St Mary's we are firmly of the opinion that our church is indeed a place of encounter with God. Our church is a big visual aid, full of things like candles, images, and 'furniture' (font, altar, even pews) that speak of what our faith is about. Most days, several people will come into the church, to sit or kneel down to say their prayers; light candles for the situations that concern them; look around at the beautiful images; and very occasionally stop into the office to chat or to ask questions. They also get a sense of what our own concerns are as Christians: they find us offering hospitality each Friday at the Second Half Club; they see our Food Collection Boxes; they read our posters about resources for vulnerable people, respond to our invitation to write prayers for the situations that trouble them. They discover musicians rehearsing, local school children doing RE classes, and florists making their arrangements for weddings and funerals. When doors are open, people come in.

We know that sometimes people come to church knowing very little about the Gospel, or what goes

on in church. They may have never learned the Christian story, or come from a different tradition entirely. We know that it can be scary to step over the threshold for the first time, but that some people are just intrigued by historic churches and interested in exploring the meaning behind them. These are all good reasons why we do our utmost to make St Mary's a place of welcome, acceptance, and of invitation to discover more.

Thank GOD! And why?
Because he's good, because
his love lasts.' Psalm 106.1*

Dear God,
Thank you for all the good things
in my life, big and small.
Thank you for the people
who care about me.
Thank you for the
beauty of the world –
the birds, the trees, the sky.
Thank you for everything
that makes me who I am
or helps me grow as a person.

www.explorechristianity.info

*The Message Copyright © 1993, 2002, 2018
by Eugene H. Peterson. All rights reserved

EXPLORE

We have joined in a project called Exploring Christianity, an ecumenical initiative encouraging open churches to be places where such discovery can take place. You may have seen the little rack of very attractive cards and booklets at the back of the church. They include prayers that help people address concerns like loneliness or anxiety, as well as expressing gratitude. These have been produced and distributed free to churches and they are being used by visitors here. They also provide a very accessible website <https://explorechristianity.info/> for people to explore, with suggestions of where they might find out more, including in churches like ours. Do have a look yourselves. I would be glad of your comments.

Jenny Welsh

Stewardship Update

Last month I flagged up the prospective Stewardship Campaign, explaining that we would be inviting parishioners to look again at our giving to St Mary's, and particularly how we support the parish financially.

As was described in the Fabric Report at the APCM, we need to raise substantial funds to pay for extensive repair and refurbishment work planned for our church building, and to further our Net Zero Carbon Action Plan. While some of that work will take place this summer, much of will take time, requiring permissions from the Diocese, consultation with our architect and seeking quotes.

With that in mind, we have decided to postpone the Stewardship Campaign until the autumn, when we can provide a fuller indication of the costs of these works, so that parishioners can know how their donations will be spent. It is not just about our building, but also our running costs for fuel, lighting, staffing and so on. Most importantly, it is about how we sustain the ministry and work of St Mary's as we work towards the parish vision, to help all parishioners to encounter the love of God in Christ.

Our building is not just a lovely building. It is a holy space; a gathering place for much of what we do as a church; a welcoming place for visitors, babies being baptised, couples being married; families mourning their loved ones; a community space for local groups and institutions with whom we work in our neighbourhood. Paying for all of that is not just about paying the bills, but furthering the mission of God's church here in the parish.

Postponing the campaign does not mean that looking at our giving needs to wait. If you have not thought about your offerings to St Mary's, and you want to know how to give regularly, or you are keen to know how our money is spent, do speak with me or our Treasurer, Carolyn Stubbs, or have a look at the accounts that were received at the APCM at the end of April. They are on display in the porch and copies are available in church.

Jenny Welsh, Vicar

Christian Aid Week 15-22 May Bake Sale Sunday 22 May



Christian Aid works to bring an end to world poverty, working with local partners and communities to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies, campaign for change, and help people, including many refugees, claim the services and rights they are entitled to since 1945. This international charity's biggest supporter is the combined efforts of thousands of UK parish churches.

This year at St Mary's we will be supporting Christian Aid in a small, but important, way by holding a Bake Sale at coffee time on Sunday 22 May. If you could bake a cake/cupcakes or anything else, please bring it along on the Sunday to help make a delicious display for this very important cause. Alternatively, please bring your money and make a purchase!

One of Christian Aid's highlighted programmes this year is the fight against hunger in Zimbabwe and Jessica's story is detailed below.

'In Zimbabwe, the climate crisis is causing aching hunger for families like Jessica's.

The combined effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflict, and drought have robbed her of the power to provide for her children. And 7,000 miles away, the war in Ukraine will drive up food prices in Zimbabwe and around the globe. Without the fertiliser and food – like wheat and cooking oil – that Ukraine and Russia produce, vulnerable families will be pushed even deeper into hunger. Yet hope does not disappoint. Hope lives in you. Your gifts this Christian Aid Week could help Jessica set up water taps on her farm, learn to grow food, and provide seeds that thrive in drought, giving her all she needs to turn her dry, dusty land into a garden of hope. Join us this Christian Aid Week, and help turn hunger into hope. With every gift, every action,

every prayer, we celebrate and share hope with our sisters and brothers facing crisis around the world, from Ukraine to Zimbabwe’.

If you would like more information about the important work of Christian Aid or wish to make a donation please see <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-to-donate> or speak to me.

Joanna Hackett,

Parish Representative for Christian Aid



Photo: Edwina Sassoon

Dispatched from Warsaw

Danae Eleni is one of the many professional singers who have supported our music for some years. She now lives in Warsaw. She writes:

How I miss singing and worshipping with you all in London!

I am instead here in Warsaw, helping on the ground as we move Ukrainian musicians and their families out of Ukraine to safe havens elsewhere. Yesterday I picked up a lady from Kyiv, who is going to Berlin. Later today a family of three will arrive from Dnipro (after a 36+ hour journey) and hopefully will have the correct paperwork for me to be able to put them safely onto a plane to Norway tomorrow after hosting them for one night. It's been pretty full on, and I think will continue to be here for some time, so I've set up a small initiative called www.helpmusiciansukraine.com where we are fundraising to support the emergency activities here through a justgiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/help-musicians-ukraine>). Our aims are to find musicians and music-lovers who are in a position to host Ukrainian musicians in Europe, and further afield (<https://byom.host>), and highlighting emergency residencies and job opportunities for Ukrainian musicians. (All of the links are available on the first website)

I will be back in the UK for a couple of days in May, and hope to be able to see you then! Sending you and yours all our love and best wishes for Easter and sending all love,

Danae Eleni

Soprano & Educator

danaeeleni@gmail.com

www.danaeeleni.com

Charity Matters

Lent is over. If you have not yet given your Lent Offering, please do this now. The pandemic has not only affected us here in the UK, but the Sunday School's Alex has had his education disrupted. He now will not graduate until the middle of this year so we are continuing to support him and his family until then. The money specially raised for his graduation gift is being held and will not be sent until he finishes his education.

Anthony Williams on behalf of the Charity Committee



St Mary's Autumn Fair: Saturday 17 September, 12-4pm. Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers to sign up over the next few weeks to help out on the day, even an hour of your time would be hugely appreciated. If you would like to help in any way, or would like to sponsor an activity, please do let us know.

We are specifically looking for:

- Help with Face painting/glitter tattoos/children's entertainment
- Help with front of house for the barbeque
- Help with the raffle stand, selling and writing out tickets

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

Many thanks!

The Autumn Fair Team

70th Jubilee Celebration Bring and Share Parish Picnic

Please join us for the Jubilee Celebration Parish Picnic on Sunday 5 June, after the 10.30am Family Eucharist. It will be a Bring and Share Picnic, so this is your chance to dust off your royal recipes for Coronation Chicken etc. All are welcome.

If you can come, please sign up on the signing sheet in church. It would be helpful to know how many are in your group and what you have in mind to bring to share.

Jenny Welsh, Vicar



Illustrations: Jacob King/PA Wire/PA Images.
<https://platinumjubilee.gov.uk/>

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 May

8 June

13 July

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.



Photo: Edwina Sassoon

**Services and Events at St Mary's
Sunday 1 May Third Sunday of Easter**

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist
with Come and Sing Choir
Readings Acts 9.1-20
John 21.1-19

Monday 2 May Bank Holiday – Church closed

Wednesday 4 May

11.30am Memorial service of Sally Usher

Friday 6 May

10am Second Half Club
4.30pm Wedding of Carmel Bamford
and Niall Sheridan

Sunday 8 May Fourth Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist
Readings Acts 9.36-end
John 10.22-30
Speaker Naomi Langan, Beacon House
2.30pm Baptism of Esme Riley

Wednesday 11 May

11am Silent Prayer
7pm PCC (in Hall)

Friday 13 May

10am Second Half Club

Sunday 15 May Fifth Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist
Readings Acts 11.1-18
John 13.31-35
President and Preacher The Reverend Philip Welsh

Friday 20 May

10am Second Half Club

**Sunday 22 May Sixth Sunday of Easter
(Rogation Sunday)**

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist
Readings Acts 16.9-15
John 14.23-29
President and Preacher The Reverend Lesley Perry
12noon Christian Aid Cake Sale

Friday 27 May

10am Second Half Club

Sunday 29 May Ascension Sunday

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist or
Readings Acts 16.16-34
John 17.20-end
12 noon Last Sunday Recital

**Thursday – Friday 2-3 June Queen's Jubilee
Holidays – Church closed**

**Sunday 5 June Pentecost and Celebration of
Queen's 70th Jubilee**

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Family Eucharist
with Come and Sing Choir
12 noon Parish Jubilee Picnic



Photo: Edwina Sassoon

Year's Mind May

Victor Smith
George Godbolt
Helene Stockton
Frances Vernon
Grenville Lake
Ronald Palin
Charles Tait
Noël Santanna
Jean Garraway
Patricia Behr
Richard Dowbiggin
Norman Griggs
Richard Branston
Frieda Bilger
Bisera Tweed
Rosemary Hulse
Martin Hulse
Paul Newall
Ivor Porter
Edward Hamilton
Richard Hopkins



Photo: Edwina Sassoon

Parish Office

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Vicar

Reverend Jenny Welsh
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020 7835 1440 and 07864 807959
(Day off Thursday)

Parish Manager

Jane Ellard
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020 7835 1440

Verger/Caretaker

David Ireton
020 7244 8998
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(Day off Wednesday)

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Edward Quinton 020 7373 6094
Candice Lee 078989 70379

Director of Music

John Ward
boltonsmusic@gmail.com

St Mary's Church Bank Details

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Account number: 80692190
Sort code: 20-80-14

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Safeguarding at St Mary's

The St Mary The Boltons' Safeguarding Officer is Clair Gordon. Her role is to help us to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk. She is the first point of contact for children, adults at risk and other members of the congregation regarding suspicions of abuse and other safeguarding concerns. If you have any concerns, please contact Clair on 07850 944 834. In the event of Clair not being available, Rosie Meckiff Mengel may be contacted at 07905 245652. Alternatively, speak to Sheryl Kent, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser: 020 7932 1224 Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) helpline: 0845 120 4550 Family Lives: 0808 800 222 (Previously Parentline) Childline: 0800 1111.

Children's Champion

The St Mary The Boltons' Children's Champions are Chris and Katie Fowkes. Their role is to ensure that the voices and needs of the children and young people are heard and reflected in parish life. They can be contacted via: children@stmarytheboltons.org.uk.



There is a Hearing Loop in operation at St Mary The Boltons

Contributions for the June Clarion should be sent to the Parish Office by 23 May, please.

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