

# THE CLARION

The Magazine of the Parish of St Mary The Boltons

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

November 2022

## From the Vicar In this world and the next...

This month begins with the Feasts of All Saints and All Souls. The first celebrates the saints remembered by the Church as people of holiness and faith; the second remembers those whom we have known who have died, some of whom may well have saintly qualities, but all of whom are remembered with thanksgiving for their part in our lives. Each year at the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, we are glad to welcome back families, spouses and friends whom we have helped to prepare funeral services for their loved ones in the past year. It is always a hugely moving service for everyone involved as names are read out and candles lit, and as we pray for the people who mourn and give thanks for those who have died.

November's remembering of the dead is also a reminder of the importance (and our Christian duty) of facing our own mortality, and of aiding those we will leave behind by preparing well. Last year's study day on Facing Death was a good opportunity to think about how to do that: looking at putting our affairs in order, writing our will, designating Power of Attorney, and so on. It was also a chance to think about our funerals, with input from someone from Chelsea Funeral Directors. As a vicar, I can tell you that this kind of

preparation is invaluable to the people left behind who otherwise may well be anxious, not knowing what their loved one wanted, in case they dishonour them by getting it exactly wrong.

If you have not done so, why not use November this year to think about your funeral, and to make a plan: consider whether you want a service at the Crematorium (or Cemetery) or in church; whether you want particular hymns or choral music; whether you would like someone to give a 'eulogy' or tribute and who else you would like to take part or officiate. Ask yourself the question 'What do I want this service to convey about my Christian faith, my hope and trust in God, or even my doubts?' Many years ago, someone wanted to discuss that very question with me as we prepared him for his coming death, and what a blessing it was for those of us who were tasked with organising his funeral. I would be glad to sit down with you to talk these things through any time. Don't hesitate to be in touch about that.

Having thought about what you want, and discussed it with your own family or friends, do remember to write it all down, and put it where they will be able to find it. And remember to give a copy to the Vicar or the Church Office to put into our files as well. It will provide a helpful starting point for those who will be tasked with organising your service when the time comes.

Our Christian faith tells us that death is not the end, nor is it to be feared, because we believe in Christ who has met it already on the Cross. It is quite right and proper to do what we can to prepare for the inevitable, so that we can live with hope and gratitude each day of our lives.

*Jenny Welsh, Vicar*

*Image: St Mary The Boltons memorial garden*



## Church Hall: An Update

During half term, we took the opportunity to complete the works to refresh the hall. The floor has now been sanded, treated, and varnished. New lights were also installed, making the hall brighter.

The hall is available for hire at the weekend, for parties or other gatherings. Please contact the Parish Office for more information and availability.



## More than Hymn Books

Have you ever thought about how important the role of sidesperson is to the life of St Mary's? The guidance on what is required from a sidesperson is set out in a guide called *The Ministry of Welcome*. We are known as a friendly church, as we talk to each other and to everyone who comes in to attend and we hope enjoy a service. When I walked in to my very first service I was greeted by a smiling face as I was handed a hymn book and whatever else that was being given out that day. I was searching for a new church at the time and very soon knew that St Mary's with its style of liturgy was going to be my new home. For a church that is not on a main road we get a surprising number of visitors. Some are just 'passing through' and others are in London for a purpose, and some find that St Mary's is their spiritual home as well.

Our welcome should embrace everything about the church and the service, from helping latecomers to

find a seat without disrupting the service, then inviting them to join us for coffee after the service. We have to be forgiving of all those who leave their hymnbook and service booklet in their pew and do not hang up their hassock. We have to accept returned hymn books and the booklets with a thank you. Tidying up after a service, returning things to the Vestry and counting the collection are all things we do with good grace. Now that we have returned to collecting the offertory during the service, we have to be sensitive how we do it. We have to remember that no cash into the little bags is probably because a person is donating electronically or signed up to regular Stewardship standing order donations. We then have to reverently offer up the money we have collected in a careful procession to the altar.

What is not so obvious is a sidesperson's duty to look out for people in need of help to come into our building, and arrange our duties so that one sidesperson is at the back of church at all times for security reasons.

We all have to know how to respond in an emergency that requires the church to be evacuated. There are specific procedures for this, which all sidespeople have to know. All are provided in writing and everyone has to attend training sessions to make sure they will be able to play their part should the need arise. I have just conducted three such sessions with feedback, which is invaluable in ensuring everything we do is the best we can make it. I am hoping that the Stewardship Campaign will have produced more volunteers, as we can never have too many. If you have thought about joining this honourable and rewarding role, but not actually taken the plunge, please do so!

*Anthony Williams*



# ST MARY THE BOLTONS LATE AUTUMN FAIR

SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER, 1 - 4PM

IN ST MARY'S CHURCH & CHURCH HALL

ALL WELCOME

FREE ENTRY

- ◆ Raffle & Bottle Tombola
- ◆ Books & Bric-a-Brac
- ◆ Cakes & Home Produce
- ◆ Teas & Coffees
- ◆ Prosecco & Kir Royale
- ◆ Christmas Cake Raffle
- ◆ Christmas Cards



- ◆ Children's Crafts and Activities, including face painting, balloons, name the teddy bear, and Children's raffle prizes
- ◆ Auction at 3pm
- ◆ And much more!

Raising funds for our Charitable Pot in support of:



Kindly supported by

St Mary's Church  
The Boltons  
SW10 9TB  
020 7835 1440



The PCC of St Mary with St Peter & St Jude, West Brompton is a registered charity, no. 1133073

We're very much looking forward to welcoming you to our rescheduled Late Autumn Fair. If you

have any items you are able to donate, please bring them to the church from Monday 14 November.



## Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care

Many thanks to all who joined us for our coffee morning in aid of Macmillan. Together we raised £178.39 for Macmillan.

Fiona Parsons

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



## Spire Works

Our spire works are now complete. Rodells have once again been using ropes and ladders (rather than scaffolding) to access the spire and the roof above the nave of the church and completed the repairs to our masonry and leadwork as needed, as

identified in the Quinquennial Inspection last year. This has mostly involved repairs to the parapets and mortar (or repointing) repairs to some of the stonework on the spire, after removal of loose stone material. While up there, the team were able to complete some more minor (and less urgent) repairs to some guttering, which had been noticed during the Quinquennial inspection. Fortunately, there was only one additional item in need of attention, which was discovered while the team were up the spire, which they have now been able to complete as well. The final step in the works at this stage is for a Radar survey of the spire to take place, which should identify any metal works embedded in the spire. It is now hoped that the spire is stabilised, and the North and South Balustrades of the church also in good order for some time to come.

We are grateful to all those who have looked after our church over the years, and in particular to those who have given generous financial support to maintain and repair the fabric of the church. While completing the works, Rodells were able to take some photos of the angels on the spire, and also of a view of the church, which we do not normally see. We hope to be able to share these with you soon.

*Jane Ellard*



## Advent 2022

It is hard to believe that Advent is just a few weeks away – where did the year go? This year we will once again be keeping Advent in a number of ways:

**Be Quiet!** The approach of Christmas can be fraught with noise and bustle. To help us find some stillness in this busy time, the church will remain open until 6.30pm on Mondays in Advent, beginning on Monday 28 November. Come and enjoy thirty

minutes of silence from 6pm, after Evening Prayer. Everyone is welcome. The church will be warm, and candlelit, for people to simply come and go during that period.

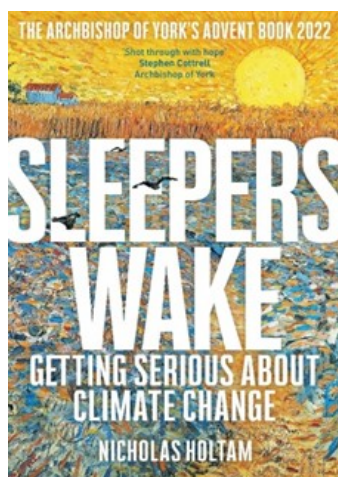


### **Advent Discussion and Study Group**

Four Sessions using Bishop Nicholas Holtam's book *Sleepers Wake; Getting serious about climate change*.

Meetings will take place via Zoom on Tuesday evenings in Advent. *Sleepers wake* is the Archbishop of York's Advent Book for 2022. With daily readings starting on Advent Sunday, each of the four sessions will include a discussion of the theme for the week. We have pledged as a parish to reach net-zero carbon in our church by 2030, in response to the climate emergency. The book is available from Church House Bookshop, and the Vicar can order copies as requested. If you wish to join the group, please let the Vicar know. If there is sufficient interest, a parallel group will run during the day in person and in church.

*Jenny Welsh, Vicar*



*Image: Advent Wreath, St Mary's  
Book cover: Sleepers Wake, SPCK Publishing*

### **Early Carol Services**

We are pleased to be hosting several Carol Services in church, on behalf of local charities, including music from our own St Mary's Singers.

Do come along to support them and warm up your voices for Christmas.

**Thursday December 1, 6pm Susan Metcalfe Estate Agents** are sponsoring their annual Charity Carol Service followed by refreshments. A collection will be made for the Parkinsons UK. Free admission, donations to the charity very welcome.

**Sunday December 4, 5pm Community Carols in Redcliffe Square Gardens.** Once again we are joining with St Luke's Redcliffe Square for an outdoor Carol Sing. Mulled wine, and mince pies sponsored by tlc. All are welcome. Bring your friends and neighbours.

**Wednesday 7 December, 6.30pm Carol Service on behalf of Cruse, the Bereavement Charity.** Tickets £30, or £20 for children under 16. Details via [www.cruse.org.uk](http://www.cruse.org.uk).

**Thursday 8 December, 7pm Carol Service on behalf of The Friends of Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.** Tickets and further details available at <https://cwfriends.org.uk>.

**Wednesday 14 December 7.30pm Carol Service on behalf of Glass Door Homeless Charity.** Tickets £15 or £25 with reception, from <https://www.glassdoor.org.uk>.



## Used postage stamps for the Leprosy Mission

Please remember to bring your used postage stamps with a small margin of envelope still round them, to church to be given to the Leprosy Mission who raise money from them. There is a specially marked collection box at the back of the church.  
Image: [www.leprosymission.org.uk](http://www.leprosymission.org.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:

9 November

14 December

11 January



Image: St Mary's Madonna & Child, with flowers for a wedding in October. D. Ireton

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 at St Mary's Sunday 30 October All Saints Sunday

8am	Holy Eucharist
10.30am	Holy Eucharist
Readings	Ephesians 1.11-23 Luke 6.20-31
4pm	Choral Evensong and Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. Preacher: The Reverend Philip Welsh

## Friday 4 November

10am	Second Half Club (including simple hot lunch)
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## Sunday 6 November 3rd Sunday before Advent

8am	Holy Eucharist
10.30am	Holy Eucharist and Little Lambs Sunday School
Readings	Job 19.23-27a Luke 20.27-38
Speaker	Teresa Harris, Learn to Love to Read Charity

**Wednesday 9 November**

11am Silent Prayer  
 3.45pm Sunday School on Wednesday

**Friday 11 November Remembrance Day**

10am Second Half Club  
 (including a simple hot lunch)  
 11am Two Minutes Silence in Church

**Sunday 13 November****Remembrance Sunday**

8am Holy Eucharist  
 10.30am Holy Eucharist  
 including the Act of Remembrance  
 Readings Malachi 4.1-2a  
 Luke 21.5-19

**Wednesday 16 November**

3.45pm Sunday School on Wednesday

**Friday 18 November**

10am Second Half Club  
 (including simple hot lunch)

**Saturday 19 November**

1pm – 4pm Late Autumn Fair

**Sunday 20 November Christ the King**

8am Holy Eucharist  
 10.30am Holy Eucharist  
 Readings Colossians 1.11-20  
 Luke 23.33-43

**Wednesday 23 November**

3.45pm Sunday School on Wednesday

**Friday 25 November**

10am Second Half Club  
 (including simple hot lunch)

**Saturday 26 November**

1.30pm Wedding of Alexandra Burke-Smith  
 and Tom Macpherson

**Sunday 27 November Advent Sunday**

8am Holy Eucharist  
 10.30am Holy Eucharist  
 Readings Isaiah 2.1-5  
 Matthew 24.36-44

**Monday 28 November**

6.30pm Advent Quiet

**Wednesday 30 November**

3.45pm Sunday School on Wednesday

**Sunday 4 December Advent 2**

8am Holy Eucharist  
 10.30am Holy Eucharist with  
 Come and Sing Choir and  
 Little Lambs Sunday School  
 Readings Isaiah 11 1-10  
 Matthew 3.1-12  
 Speaker Dr Caroline Hoffman, Chief  
 Executive, Paul's Cancer Charity  
 12noon Sunday Recital (performer tbc)  
 5pm Community Carols,  
 Redcliffe Square Gardens

**Year's Mind November**

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

**Parish Office**

St. Mary's Church House  
 The Boltons, SW10 9TB  
 www.stmarytheboltons.org.uk  
 020 7835 1440

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 (Day off Thursday)

**Parish Manager**

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**Verger/Caretaker**

David Ireton  
 020 7244 8998  
 07881 865 386  
 (Day off Wednesday)

**Churchwardens**

Edward Quinton 020 7373 6094  
 Candice Lee 078989 70379

**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**

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 er@stmarytheboltons.org.uk  
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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, Rosie Meckiff Mengel may be contacted at 07905 245652. Alternatively, speak to Sheryl Kent, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser: 020 7932 1224 Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) helpline: 0845 120 4550 Family Lives: 0808 800 222 (Previously Parentline) Childline: 0800 1111.

**Children's Champion**

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



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

**Contributions for the December - January Clarion should be sent to the Parish Office by 24 November, please.**

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