

THE CLARION

The Magazine of the Parish of St Mary The Boltons

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

October 2022

From the Vicar Four Ts

We are finally starting our Stewardship Campaign for 2022, after several months of anticipating its arrival. Our last Campaign focussed on inviting church members to look at what they give to the church to support its ministry, i.e. to pay the bills, the staff, and to cover the costs of running a large Victorian church.

This time though our focus is much broader: we do need to raise more funds because our costs have risen just as everyone else's have, but our life together is more than just our bank balance and our budget. Christian Stewardship is about Time and Talents as well as our Treasure, because it is all about how we help our church to be more faithful, more open and more engaged in the world where we are placed. In addition to how much money we might be able and willing to give to the church, we need also to think about what time we can give to its life, and what skills we might bring that could be shared for its benefit.

We have prepared a brochure about the Stewardship Campaign that describes what we need in the coming year: not just what it will cost us, but what we need from our congregation, in terms of

volunteers to help with Sunday worship, teach Sunday School, join the PCC, and so on. It also includes a form to fill in and return to the church to say what you plan to do in response: will you begin to give regularly, or if you already do, will you be able to give more (or less)? Will you offer to be a reader or an intercessor, sing in the choir, serve on the PCC, visit people in need, support our charitable work or help serve coffee?



The brochure will be available to everyone who comes along to church, and it is being posted to everyone whose details we have on our database. If you do not receive yours in the next few days, then do let the Parish Office know and we will send it out to you, or take one away with you next time you come to church. And please do take time to consider your own part in the life of St Mary's and how you can respond to this Campaign.

The thing that it is easy to forget in this kind of Campaign is that we do not

just give our time, talents and treasure to the church so the church can grow and flourish. Our giving needs to be seen as a response to all that we have received from the God who loves us, and that brings us to the fourth T, which is Thanksgiving. Thank you in anticipation for your response to this Stewardship Campaign.

Jenny Welsh, Vicar

Stewardship and Serving

When I joined St Mary's I began my personal journey of faith and I shall be forever grateful to the members of the congregation who helped to direct my first footsteps. They helped me not only to explore my relationship with God, but to become a member of the church family. I did it in the way I knew: through service.

My first task was to buy the milk for the coffee morning. This was followed by serving refreshments after the service on a Sunday. My next role was as a sides person, meeting and greeting people as they came to the Sunday service. I really enjoyed doing this, and by now I knew most of the regular members. This was followed by becoming a reader, then joining the PCC, becoming a Church Warden, and then leading the intercessions during the service, which filled me with terror. I will never forget my debt of gratitude to Leo Fraser-Mackenzie, who stood at the back of the church and helped me to pitch my voice. Should the microphone break down, and sometimes it did, this is an invaluable talent. Despite all this, I still lived in dread of making a complete idiot of myself one day, and that day did come.

I had to make an announcement at the end of the service one Sunday, but when I reached the lectern, I realised I had forgotten my script. I ran back to my pew, only to discover that I had not brought my precious notes with me. I returned to the lectern looking desperate. Looking up at me in the third row of pews was a friend, Hugh Beach. He smiled and chuckled, and then we both burst out laughing. The congregation joined in. They were laughing with me, not at me. I learned then that I did not have to be perfect, no one criticised me, and I managed to deliver the announcement. I have no recollection what it was about, which is probably just as well!

There are many ways in which one can support a Stewardship campaign. If you have 'time' to give, do find the opportunities to serve that St Mary's can offer. I have named a few possibilities. Please speak with our vicar, Jenny, with the Parish Manager or with any member. The rewards are many. To be at the heart of a warm, caring and socially active

church community is indeed enriching. I have had great joy and fellowship in serving at St Mary's. However, I now feel that it is time that I shall look to hand over the baton, preferably while I am still able to run.

Ann Mulcare



Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care

Will be hosted at St Mary's on Wednesday 5 October. There will be a special service of Morning Prayer at 9:30am followed by the coffee morning from 10:00am. There is a



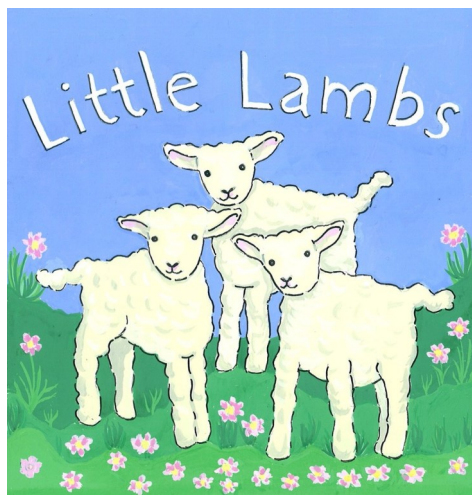
sheet in church for the names of people to be remembered at Morning Prayer, and we look forward to you coming along. All are welcome.

Fiona Parsons

Image: www.community.macmillan.org.uk

Sunday School 'Little Lambs'

With so many new families at St Mary's, we are delighted to be re-starting Sunday School 'Little Lambs' for our pre-schoolers during the 10.30am service. We hope that people with young children will join us in the hall for these sessions, exploring Bible stories, playful learning, songs and prayer. Our first session will be on Sunday 2 October, and the next one on Sunday 6 November – please put the dates in your diary.



When you first come to Sunday School, we will ask parents/guardians to complete a registration form.

Thank you to the volunteers who have been in touch about helping to run the Sunday School; we will be in touch with you individually about the DBS checks and next steps.

Finally, just a reminder for everyone that Sunday School is optional. Children are very welcome to continue to sit with their families in the main service (although we do hope they will embrace the new Little Lambs).

As before, please contact Rosie directly if you are interested in volunteering, or with any questions call 07905 245652, or use rosiemeckiff@hotmail.co.uk or sundayschool@stmarytheboltons.org.uk.

- * All under 5's welcome
- * Helping children on their faith journey
- * Share and learn more about God together
- * Welcoming children into the Christian faith
- * Encounter Jesus, explore faith

Rosie Meckiff Mengel

Illustration: Jane Dass

Autumn Fair 2022

We will be holding the postponed St Mary the Boltons Autumn Fair on Saturday 19 November, 1 - 4pm, as a Late Autumn Fair, and we hope you will join us to help make it a lovely day.

More details will be forthcoming in due course, but we will be holding the Fair in the church and church hall (possibly spreading out into the carpark if the weather is fine).



We will serve tea, alongside a Prosecco/Kir Royale bar kindly sponsored by tlc. There will be a selection of stalls including Bric-a-Brac and Toys, Books, Cakes and Produce, a Tombola and the wonderful Raffle. There will be Church Christmas Cards on sale (proceeds to St Mary's) alongside some Christmas crafts and various children's activities and crafts.

We hope that this will help us raise a good amount for our Charitable Pot charities, and have a lovely community day as well.

If you are able to help, please speak to Clair Gordon or Caroline Jackson.

Clair Gordon

Charity Changes

Our annual Fair is the main money raiser for the St Mary's Charitable Pot, so the cancellation of the Autumn Fair this year will leave a large hole in the donations we hoped to make to this year's charities. As the Fair was planned for a date that was during the unexpected period of national mourning and two days before the State Funeral of the Late Queen Elizabeth II, St Mary's had no alternative to abandoning the Fair. The Charity Committee therefore recommended to the PCC that we should take the same action as we did when we lost the 2020 Summer Fair due to the Covid pandemic. The PCC has agreed and approved our 'rolling-over' of the 2022 charities to become our 2023 charities. The arrangements that were detailed in the September *Clarion* for selecting 2023 charities will no longer be needed.

The death of The Queen also caused problems for the speaker from Lyra In Africa and she had to withdraw from her September visit. Maria Spink will now be joining us next year on Sunday 22nd January. Before then we are looking forward to welcoming Teresa and Nigel Harris from Learn to Love to Read on Sunday 6 November. This is one of our two Principal charities, which we shall now be supporting in 2023 and 2024 as well as this year. Even though we are now not looking for new charities for 2023, please continue to send us any suggestion for a potential charity that we can consider in the future.

Anthony Williams, on behalf of the Charity Committee



Glass Door Sleep Out Update

Last month we mentioned that the Annual Sleep Out for Glass Door is coming up on Friday 7 October. Dave Ireton and the Vicar have supported it for some years, with your sponsorship help. The baton has now been successfully passed on to an intrepid group of youngsters and their parents, under the supervision of Clair Gordon. St Mary's Team will be sleeping out on the night in South Park in Fulham, joined by another team from St Matthew's Wandsworth Bridge Road.

Clair has amazingly not only sought permission from Hammersmith and Fulham Council for this to take place, but has also done all the risk assessments, safeguarding and other administrative business to make sure everyone will be safe on the night.



All that is left is for you all to sponsor the St Mary's Team and help these youngsters and their supporters to raise even more money this year for Glass Door's winter night shelters. We hope they will also find their own sponsors among their circle of friends and relations.

Please use the Giving link, <https://tinyurl.com/SMTBSleepOut2022> to sponsor them and leave a cheery note of encouragement. If you are not tech-savvy, you can always give the Vicar or Clair your sponsorship in cash. It will be kept safe and handed in after the Sleep Out is over.

Finally, if you want to join the St Mary's Team, remember you do not have to sleep in the park. You can sleep anywhere that is not your own bed: your sofa, garden, garage, car, and even the church porch will do. Let Clair know you want to join in: Clairgordon@aol.com and she will explain how the team works.

Jenny Welsh

Harvest Thanksgiving and Climate Sunday

Grateful thanks to everyone who donated and supported our Harvest Festival and Climate Care service at the end of September.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to supply a good donation to Dads' House, Glass Door Homeless Charity, and St Cuthbert's Centre.



Photos: D. Ireton

Sunday School on Wednesday

We have recently started a new group of 'Sunday School' for children in years 3 - 7, meeting on a Wednesday afternoon after school.

We read familiar bible stories and think about what those stories mean. The sessions also include some prayers and refreshments.

The Vicar is always glad to hear from children who would like to join, and indeed from any adults who would be able to help.



Photo: Sunday School on Wednesday, J. Ellard

Testing-time for the New Church Boilers

Very soon the heating season will be upon us and it will be time to test the new church boilers for real.

Replacing them has been a long journey. The people with long memories may recall that some ten years



ago we were first forced to use only one of the two boilers at any time because the gas supply from the mains in the street was inadequate

to run them together. We limped on with either one or the other working for five years until they both began to fail regularly. The task of replacement was made considerably easier when our architect introduced us to a specialist church heating engineer, and he in turn introduced us to a commercial boiler expert with technical skill of looking after older boilers. Together they had a wealth of experience in guiding institutional clients in replacing out of date boilers with new ones and helped us to formulate a proposal that was readily approved by the Archdeacon without need for submission to the Diocesan Advisory Committee or Faculty.

We are immensely grateful to Ed Stancliffe at the building services consultants EngDesign and Robin Bunton of Bunton M&E Services for getting the project completed. Not



only were the boilers replaced this summer, but at the same time the boiler room was brought out of the dark ages and is now a safe place to visit. It has a proper light and ventilation, a new pump and was power washed clean, removing decades of black dirt. We have new, up-to-date boiler controls in in the loft stair-well, and probably the most visible signs of all are the new valves on all the radiators in church.



The cost of the boilers (excluding advisory fees) was £57,000 and we anticipate recovering the VAT element through the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme. It has largely been funded by funds held in the Fabric reserve that we have been building up over recent years in anticipation of this project and we are grateful to the donor who has helped to make that reserve possible.



The only fly in the ointment is that the new boilers run on gas. As we progress our plans to be a Net Zero Carbon church, we will have to be careful how they are used. Please dress warmly for church as the autumn draws in.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie
(Photos also L Fraser-Mackenzie)

The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

As has become our tradition, this year we will again keep the Feast of All Souls with a service of Choral Evensong with the Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed. This is the service when we remember the people who have died, those we have known and loved and who have been examples of faith and grace for us. Their names will be spoken aloud, and there will be an opportunity to light candles in their memory.

We will remember also all those whose funerals or memorials have taken place in the past year and families will be invited to come along for that occasion. It is one of the most moving services of the year.



We hope that many people from the congregation will join us on **Sunday 30 October at 4pm**, and help us to remember all those who have died, and commend them into God's loving care, assured of the hope of the Resurrection life.

Please let the office know of any names you would like us to mention, or write the name in the list that will be in church during October.

Jenny Welsh

Image: <https://www.ourladyandstanne.org.uk/all-souls-image/>

In Search of a Picture

Looking online at images of St Mary The Boltons, I happened across this rather nice watercolour. The artist is a young lady called Claudia Tong. I managed to get in touch with Claudia via her Instagram account. She said that she does not normally sell her work, but given my connection to St Mary's, she would be willing to make an exception.

Claudia works in finance and during the Covid lockdown worked from home. She took her pad and paints out 'to get some fresh air'. Claudia is entirely self-taught.

As a result, I now have a unique watercolour of St Mary The Boltons.

Dave Ireton, Verger



Report of the September 2022 PCC Meeting

St Mary's Church Council met on 21 September and it was a joy to have all 13 members in attendance at the church hall, with no one sending apologies.

Clair Gordon, our Safeguarding Officer, was also in attendance at the meeting to give her bi-annual report, confirming that our Safeguarding Audit is complete and has been submitted to the Diocese and that no safeguarding incidents had been reported during the period.

The PCC was delighted to hear Rosie Meckiff and Candice Lee describe the format of the newly launched Sunday School. This is starting in a small way, once a month for pre-schoolers, but when more volunteers have been found it is hoped that our offering to children will expand. Further information about Sunday School can be found elsewhere in this *Clarion*.

Clair Gordon, representing the Autumn Fair Committee, confirmed that following the postponement of the Autumn Fair due to the time of National Mourning, a new date of 19 November has been proposed for a Winter Fair. This idea was warmly received by the PCC and it was agreed that the charities supported during 2022 would continue as our chosen charities into 2023 in order not to lose out on fundraising from postponed events. For further information about the exciting Winter Fair please see elsewhere in this *Clarion*.

Our Vicar Jenny confirmed the details of the forthcoming Stewardship Campaign and its emphasis on how we can all best give of our Time, Talents and Treasure to aid the mission of St Mary's. Please see elsewhere these pages for articles on how and where our funds are spent, and the many ways in which you can make a planned or one-off donation towards the life of the church. At the meeting, the PCC also agreed to reintroduce the circulation of the collection plate in the coming weeks, as Covid numbers continue to fall.

It was a very good PCC meeting and the committee is full of hope for the coming year at St Mary The

Boltons. We are especially excited about our programme of forthcoming services and events now that our boilers have been replaced. If you would like to know more about the workings of St Mary's or would consider sitting on the PCC, please do not hesitate to speak to a committee member.

Joanna Hackett, PCC Secretary



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:

12 October

9 November

14 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.

From the Archives

Whilst sorting through the loft above the church hall, in preparation for insulation installation later in the year, we found a number of records relating to past events here at St Mary's.

As we look forward to our newly launched Stewardship campaign, Here is an image from a programme for a concert in aid of Restoration in 1951.

Services and Events at St Mary's

Sunday 2 October – Stewardship Sunday

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am Holy Eucharist
with pre-school Sunday School
in the Hall
Readings Colossians 2.12 – 17
Matthew 6.19 – 33

Monday 3 October

10.00am Funeral of Ken Howard RA OBE

Wednesday 5 October

9.30am Morning Prayer
for people affected by cancer
10.00am Macmillan Coffee Morning
3.45pm Sunday School on Wednesday

Friday 7 October

10am – 1pm Second Half Club

Saturday 8 October

2.30pm Wedding of Suzanna Gwyn-Thomas
and David Rowlands

Sunday 9 October Trinity 17

8.00am Holy Eucharist
10.30am Holy Eucharist
Readings I Corinthians 12
John 13.1-15
12.30pm Holy Baptism of Isabelle
Speakman–Vo

Tuesday 11 October

11am Wedding of Julie Harwood
and John Fenwick

Wednesday 12 October

11am Silent Prayer
3.45pm Sunday School on Wednesday (NB
last before half term break. Resumes
on 2 November)

Friday 14 October

10am – 2pm Second Half Club
(including simple hot lunch)

Saturday 15 October

2.30pm Wedding of Sapphie Chichester
and Max Tulley

Sunday 16 October Dedication Sunday and End of Stewardship Campaign

8am Holy Eucharist
10.30am Holy Eucharist
Readings I Chronicles 29.6-19
Luke 19.1-10

Wednesday 19 October

11am Holy Communion at St Theresa's
Nursing Home, Roland Gardens

Friday 21 October

10am – 2pm Second Half Club (including simple
hot lunch) (NB last before half term
break. Resumes on 4 November)

Sunday 23 October

8am Holy Eucharist
10.30am Holy Eucharist
Readings Romans 15. 1 - 6
Luke 4. 16 - 24

President and Preacher: The Reverend Jonathan
MacNeaney

Sunday 30 October All Saints Sunday

8am Holy Eucharist
10.30am Holy Eucharist
Readings Ephesians 1. 11 - end
Luke 6. 20 - 31
4pm Evensong and Commemoration
of the Faithful Departed

Year's Mind October

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



Cyclamem,
St Mary's Garden
Photo: Edwina Sassoon



Winter flowering cherry tree, *prunus serruleta*
St Mary's Garden
(Photo: 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

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

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

Gift Aid Secretary

Philip Bedford Smith
 GiftAid1@stmarytheboltons.org.uk

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Sheila Gibbs 020 8788 9744

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 24 October, please.

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