

THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

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

April 2017

Partnership

'Partnership' is a catch phrase these days, one of those words whose currency is in danger of being devalued as we try to emphasise its importance. But 'partnerships' are a highly significant part of improving the quality of human life – the idea that together we can achieve more – whether church and community, business and local government, public and private sector, or churches of different denominations working together.



Jesus constantly reminds us of the need to work together. He calls a team of disciples, not one. He sends them out in pairs, not alone. In this great city of London and in the diocese I see constant reminders of important partnerships. Likewise when, as an archdeacon, I used to see the churchwardens and lay officers of our parishes come together each spring for admission to office, I was struck again and again by the huge partnership in ministry that already exists and that ensures a caring, welcoming, hospitable community in our local parish churches. Or when I look at the volunteer hours put in by church members throughout the country, I am struck by what can be achieved in partnership, on the

environment, regeneration, dementia and spirituality, ministry among deaf people, ministry in the workplace and ministry in rural life.

Yet, as churches we can forget to make connections. Sometimes we hide our light under a bushel. I recall one report that told how the Chief Executive of Norwich City Council was 'almost speechless' when she learnt the total hours of free community action provided by the city's Christian volunteers. A research project discovered that 154,444 hours a year, equivalent to 80 full-time posts, was being offered by Christians engaged in such activities as bereavement counselling, drug and alcohol user support and home visiting. The Chief Executive described this as a 'stunning contribution'. Further afield I was humbled by one young person's recent description of charity work in Kenya. He had gone on the spur of the moment to experience the wider world. He found himself spending some weeks building simple structures for houses and then teaching English, living in basic conditions. He said, 'The children had so little but were the happiest kids I have ever met. Their quality of life isn't the best. The water is unsafe to drink. Blackouts are common, but having all this against them, they still consider themselves lucky and look on the bright side'. He is currently saving the airfare to go back again this year.

Sharing good practice is essential to encourage others. Communities and local authorities want us to join in, and not just for practical reasons. Our society badly needs some sense of its spiritual character, as well as its moral and social tone. Partnerships are never just one

way, as my friend who went to Kenya, discovered.

With Jenny's arrival as your new Vicar, a new chapter and a new partnership begins. This will offer many opportunities for spiritual growth and social engagement. With these will come opportunities, like my friend in Kenya, to receive Christ's Easter hope as well as to give it. For Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Sheila Watson



Holy Week and Easter Services 2017

Palm Sunday 9 April

8.00am Said Eucharist

10.30am Sung Parish Eucharist
with Procession of Palms

Monday 10 April

12md Said Eucharist

Tuesday 11 April

12md Said Eucharist

Wednesday 12 April

11am-12md, A Time for Silent Prayer

Maundy Thursday 13 April

7.00pm Sung Eucharist and short Vigil

Good Friday 14 April

12md-12.30pm, A Time for Quiet Reflection
with organ music

12.30pm-1.30pm, Meditations on the Cross,
with hymns and prayers

Easter Eve Saturday 15 April

Church open from 7am - 7pm – no services

Easter Day Sunday 16 April

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Festal Easter Eucharist
with 8-part professional choir and
music by Mozart and Handel

St Mary's Church, The Boltons, SW10 9TB

Tel 020 7835 1440

www.stmarytheboltons.org.uk



Photos in this article by Judy Rydell, of windows in the church.

The Passion of Jesus Easter performances (Free)

In Trafalgar Square, Good Friday 14 April, at 12 noon and 3.15pm

By the Wintershall theatre group.

These performances contain a realistic interpretation of the crucifixion and parental guidance is advised.

www.wintershall-estate.com



How to read the Bible (7)

Albert Schweitzer

In his prime between the wars, Albert Schweitzer was famous throughout Europe as a heroic Christian thinker and famous musician. He was born in 1875, son of a Lutheran pastor in Alsace, so he grew up speaking both French and German and was soon to learn Latin, Greek and Hebrew. He also played the organ in public, beginning at the age of eight. Intellectually he was a prodigy; said to be the only man then living who had doctorates, by examination, in philosophy, theology, music and medicine. During his twenties he was busy as a lecturer, writer and preacher; deeply involved in theological controversy; writing a long book on J. S. Bach followed by a pamphlet on organ building; and pursuing a career as concert organist in Paris. From an early age he had worked out a plan: to devote himself to art and scholarship up to the age of thirty and then commit himself to the service of humanity. In 1905 he enrolled as a medical student in the same university where he was a lecturer and

spent the next eight years qualifying himself clinically and collecting cash. His aim was to found a small mission hospital in Africa and he finally raised the money by concerts and begging off friends. In

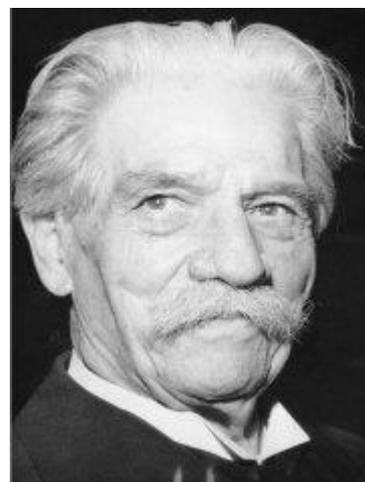


1913, with his young wife who had trained as a nurse, they set off to the mission station that he was to make famous, on the banks of the Ogowe River in Gabon, at a place called Lambaréné. The last forty years of his life were spent constructing and extending the buildings and gardens of the hospital, generally running the place and travelling for extended periods to Europe to raise cash. His organ recitals by then were celebrity events. In later years people who visited him in Lambaréné were shocked to find how authoritarian he had become. They had been led to expect a 'holy soul', when of course he was no such thing. He has best been described as a 'tragic Christian'. He was certainly a man of iron will and determination. A tragic Christian has to be strong.

Throughout the nineteenth century liberal Protestants believed that the Kingdom of God, which Jesus had founded, was an inward and spiritual reality, a seed growing in the hearts of believers. God reigned within the believers' heart and filled them with the spirit of Christ, inspiring them to try to work out the values of Christ in social life. Schweitzer thought that this was completely misguided. His mind had been formed partly by his study of the bible, especially in Luther's translation (he never wavered in loyalty to his Lutheran background) and partly by German philosophers. His doctoral thesis in philosophy had been on the religious philosophy of Kant. Schweitzer argued that the original Jesus had been utterly different from the Jesus of the liberal Protestants. He had been full of the ideas of late

ancient Jewish teaching about the End of the World and all his words and deeds had been governed by one dominant thought: that an entirely supernatural Kingdom of God would arrive soon.

The moment of truth for Schweitzer had come when, as a young man doing military service, he was on exercise in Lower Alsace with a Greek New Testament in his haversack. On a rest day in the village of Guggenheim he was studying the passage in Matthew 10:16-23 where Jesus sends the twelve disciples out on a mission, to be like sheep among wolves. Jesus tells them two things quite clearly. First, they are going to be severely persecuted, driven from village to village. Secondly, before they have finished their mission, the Son of Man will have appeared. Thus he has no expectation of seeing them return. Schweitzer writes, 'The bare text compelled me to assume that Jesus really announced persecutions for his disciples and, as a sequel to them, the immediate appearance of the celestial Son of Man, and that His announcement was shown by subsequent events to be wrong'. So Jesus, on a matter of absolutely central importance, was quite simply wrong. Schweitzer goes on, 'How came He to entertain such an expectation, and what must his feelings have been when events turned out otherwise?' (Albert Schweitzer, *Out of my Life and Thought: an Autobiography*, Johns Hopkins University Press 60th Anniversary Edition, 2009, pp. 7,8).



www.en.wikipedia.org

To cut a long story short, the answer was that Jesus, finding the coming of the Kingdom delayed longer than he had thought, can explain this fact to himself by supposing that there is still some event that must take place first. 'The perception dawns on Him that the Kingdom of God can only come when He, as the Messiah-to-be, has made atonement for those who have been elected to the Kingdom, and thereby saved them from the necessity of going through the pre-Messianic Tribulation' (Schweitzer, *Op. Cit.*, p. 40.). Hence His decision to go up to Jerusalem and put Himself into the hands of His enemies.

From this way of thinking two things follow. The first is that Jesus was not infallible and all-knowing. Indeed He never claimed to be. 'He would have set himself against those who would have liked to attribute to Him a divine infallibility. Knowledge of spiritual truth cannot be proved by displaying further knowledge about the events of world history and matters of everyday life. Its province lies on a different plane and is quite independent of it'. The other consequence is even more far reaching. Schweitzer wrote, 'Jesus does not require of men today that they be able to grasp either in speech or thought who He is'. On the contrary, 'Jesus introduced into late Jewish Messianic expectation the powerful idea, expressed in the Beatitudes, that we may come to know God and belong to him through love' (*Op. cit.* pp 56-58).

Schweitzer's book *The Quest of the Historical Jesus* (1911) is a heroic work of biblical study in which he criticises the work of more than 50 eighteenth- and nineteenth-century scholars. His conclusion is forthright and bleak. 'It is a good thing that the true historical Jesus should overthrow the modern Jesus and send upon earth not peace but a sword. ... As one unknown and nameless He comes to us, just as on the shores of the lake He approached those men who knew not who he was. His words are the same: "Follow thou me!" and he puts us to the tasks which he has to carry out in our age. He commands. And to those who obey, be they wise or simple, He will reveal himself through all that they are privileged to experience in His fellowship of peace and activity, of struggle and suffering, till

they come to know, as an inexpressible secret, Who he is ...' (Trans. W. Montgomery, Dover Publications, New York, 2005, p. 40).

This is right at the cutting edge; in the jargon, totally 'post-modern'. For Schweitzer the question is not so much how we read the bible as how we read Jesus. He tells us that Jesus will not be squashed into humanly-constructed systems and theories; that there was something about Him quite strange to us, coming from His particular world-view, which expected a Kingdom of God to realize itself in supernatural events and at any moment. Schweitzer brings us back to the text: a very post-modern idea. 'Anyone who ventures to look the historical Jesus straight in the face and to listen for what He may have to teach him in His powerful sayings, soon ceases to ask what this strange-seeming Jesus can still be to him. He learns to know Him as One who claims authority over him. The true understanding of Jesus is the understanding of will acting on will'. And finally 'The subject of all his preaching is love' (*Out of my life*, p. 58).

Hugh Beach



Where are they now?

Adrian Martineau

Hearing Adrian speak on Radio 4 recently, we tracked him down and he kindly obliged with the résumé below of what he has achieved since he and his parents Harry and Mary and sister Harriette were parishioners at St Mary's.



After moving from Bolton Gardens to Barnes, I moved north to Newcastle University where I studied medicine. After junior doctor jobs in Northumbria and Glasgow I went to South

Africa, where I worked in trauma surgery at Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto. This rather extreme experience persuaded me that perhaps I was more cut out to be a physician than a surgeon – so I moved to a rural hospital on the South Africa/Swazi border for a year, where I got interested in tuberculosis. I then came back to the UK (Liverpool) to work on an infectious diseases unit. A lecturing job in Newham then came up, so I moved back to London and embarked on a PhD looking at the effects of vitamin D – the ‘sunshine vitamin’ - on immunity to the TB bug. This yielded positive results – and I became interested in broader effects of vitamin D on human health. In particular, vitamin D – in addition to its classical benefits on bone and muscle health - seems to boost immunity to respiratory viruses. This effect may be particularly important for people who have asthma or chronic bronchitis, in whom something as mild as the common cold can trigger full-blown attacks resulting in hospitalisation. I am now running large clinical trials of vitamin D in South Africa and Mongolia, trying to find out whether vitamin D has health benefits for schoolchildren in terms of preventing TB and reducing risk of allergies.

Adrian added: Thanks for making contact – I have such happy memories of St Mary’s, it’s wonderful to know that people there remember me still.



Our 2016 Charitable Pot

The Charity Committee is very pleased to report that contents of the 2016 Charitable Pot totalled £7,914. We thank everybody who helped in whatever way to raise this excellent sum. In accordance with the PCC’s decision on the charities that we were supporting last year, this money is being distributed as follows:

- Arts4Dementia £2,647
- Sound Seekers £2,647
- St Cuthbert’s Day Centre £1,000

- Toilet Twinning £660
- Compassion (UK) £520 (for the Sunday School’s Alex)
- Bishop’s 2016 Lent Appeal £200
- Emergency fund £267

It was subsequently decided that the emergency fund money should be donated to The Richard Chartres Fund for London, a charity established by the now retired Bishop of London.

Anthony Williams



Arts4Dementia Visit

We raised money for this charity during 2015 and 2016 and hosted a very successful workshop programme for them last year. We were therefore delighted when the charity’s Chief Executive, Nigel Franklin, agreed to come and talk to us on Sunday, 5 March. During the 10.30 am service he joined the Sunday School to tell them about dementia and how Arts4Dementia helps people suffering from this condition. His attendance was planned to last around 10 - 15 minutes and I became slightly worried when he did not reappear. It transpired that he and the children got on so well that the session was happily extended.

After the service refreshments were served with a glass of wine before those members of the congregation who were able to stay gathered in the chancel behind the altar. Here, Nigel explained how the charity helps people with early stage dementia by finding a connection through artistic activity such as performing, readings and music. This is done in a series of workshops led by people who are trained and skilled in facilitating such sessions. His talk prompted some very relevant questions, sometimes because of a personal concern.

Nigel thanked St Mary’s for our support and was very pleased that we had agreed to host

another programme of workshops this year in the Spring.

Anthony Williams

Newsflashes

The first charity meal of 2017 has raised the magnificent amount of £400 for The Charitable Pot.

The charity Arts4Dementia, for whom we raised money during 2015 and 2016, will be holding a second series of workshops in the church during May and June.



The 2017 Summer Fair, 17 June 12md-4pm

Planning for this year's Fair is well underway. The wonderful musicians we had last year will play for us again. The children's magician, Richard Pinner is booked. The public address system has been ordered. Stalls are being organised. The BBQ will have a new menu. Orders for the strawberries, cream and scones are being prepared.

We have an enthusiastic planning group but need everybody's help to make the Fair a very happy and successful occasion. The Fair is the major contributor to our Charitable Pot, so we need to raise the maximum amount of money possible.

Please let Joanna Hackett know if you will be able to help on the day by managing a stall or selling raffle tickets. Her e-mail is lhackett@geraldeve.com and her telephone number is 07720 850 482 or you can call the Parish Office.

As always, we need both sponsors and items to sell, so when the time comes, please do think

about being a sponsor, large or small, and donating:

Home-made cakes, bread, jams and marmalade

Bottles for the tombola that will encourage people to put a hand in the drum; drinks of any sort are always good, but you can be as imaginative as possible

Good as new toys and games

Quality and preferably undamaged items for the Bric-à-Brac stall (no clothes or electrical items please)

Prizes for the raffle and the big hamper

Second hand books, but no magazines, periodical or text books please

Hopefully you have been clinging on to bits and pieces that would boost the Bric-à-Brac stall. Perhaps you have some special items that would be perfect for this year's hampers or could be an attractive raffle prize? Maybe you have been sorting through your bookcase and have some things that would boost the book stall?

The Summer Fair is St Mary's biggest opportunity to open our doors to the local community. Please tell your friends and neighbours about the Fair and why not bring along the whole family on the day?

Anthony Williams



A Geriatric Valentine

Though there seem to be several possibilities as to the true history of St Valentine, it is generally accepted that his named day has romantic associations.

I have to confess that Arthur (my husband) and I do not always remember this anniversary. So I was amazed and thrilled, on returning home last

Valentine's day, to find Arthur down on his knees, offering me a beautiful red rose and asking me to be his Valentine.

I was delighted to accept this unexpected offer... the only trouble was that we spent a considerable time struggling to get Arthur back on his feet again! We are now thinking that after 59 years of marriage, perhaps it might be best if neither of us try to repeat the exercise...

Ann Tait



www.history.com



Year's Mind April

Linda Beauchamp
Anne Simmonds
Geoffrey Hopkins
Roy Denman
Vera Sloane
Alan Payne
Geoffrey Payne
Arthur Fell
David Lewis
Elsie Nield
Clas Groth
Edward Mason
William Rogers
John Warwick
Karl-Hans Osbahr
Margaret Stubbs
Molly Kemm
John McLean
Gillian Brown
Jytte Lynner
Diana McLean
Claudine Allport
Constance Tennant
Michael Bryceson
Richard Barton
Jytte Mackenzie-Charrington
James Bolton-Dignum
Yvonne Madley
Sidney Perry

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am Eucharist, 10.30am Sung Eucharist

The meeting room at the back of the church is available for people with pre-school children.

There is a baby changing facility in the wheelchair accessible toilet in the hall.

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Usually Morning Prayer is said daily at 8.30am and Evening Prayer at 5.30pm, except Public Holidays.

Readings for April 2017

Sunday 26 March, Mothering Sunday

10.30am Isaiah 66. 13-14
Colossians 3. 12-15
Luke 2. 41-51

Sunday 2 April, Passion Sunday

10.30am Ezekiel 37. 1-14
Romans 8. 6-11
John 11. 1-45

Sunday 9 April, Palm Sunday

10.30am Isaiah 50. 4-9a
Philippians 2. 5-11
Matthew 26. 14-end

Sunday 16 April, Easter Sunday

10.30am Acts 10. 34-43
Colossians 3. 1-4
John 20. 1-18

Sunday 23 April, Second Sunday of Easter

10.30am Acts 2. 14a, 22-32
1 Peter 1. 3-9
John 20. 19-end

Sunday 30 April, Third Sunday of Easter

10.30am Acts 2. 14a, 36-41
1 Peter 1. 17-23
Lue 24. 13-35

Sunday 7 May, Fourth Sunday of Easter

10.30am Acts 2. 42-end
1 Peter 2. 19-end
John 10. 1-10



Parish Office

St. Mary's Church House, 020 7835 1440

The Boltons, SW10 9TB

www.stmarytheboltons.org.uk

Parish Administrator

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020 7835 1440

Mon to Fri 10am-2.00pm

Director of Music

John Ward 07853 406050

boltonsmusic@gmail.com

Verger/Caretaker

David Ireton 020 7244 8998

(Day Off Tuesday) 07881 865386

Churchwardens and Vice-chairmen of the PCC

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie 020 7384 3246

Ann Mulcare 020 7937 2005

Members of the PCC

Richard Brudenell

Tania Cauberghs

Julie Crutchley

Margarete Geier (*Deanery Synod Representative*)

Sheila Gibbs

Joanna Hackett (*PCC Secretary*)Ann Mulcare (*Deanery Synod Representative*)

Edward Quinton

Judy Rydell

Katrín Roskelly

Camila Ruz

Ann Tait

Kelly Webb

Anthony Williams

Safeguarding Officer

The St Mary The Boltons' Safeguarding Officer is Julie Crutchley. 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 Julie on 07764497413. 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 111

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: katie.fowkes@talktalk.net / 07810 831505

Treasurer

Carolyn Stubbs 020 7835 0074

Assistant Treasurer

Bill Gallagher 020 7384 3246.

Electoral Roll Officer

Fiona Parsons

Gift Aid Secretary

John Barker 020 8571 0737

Wednesday Bible Study Group

Margarete Geier 020 7373 1639

Clarion Editor

Verena Tschudin 020 7351 1263

Readers & Intercessors Rota

Parish Office

Reading at St Cuthbert's and St Matthias' School

Sheila Gibbs 020 8788 9744

Social Secretary

Margarete Geier 020 7373 1639

Sunday School

Parish Office

Contributions for the May Clarion should be sent to the Parish Office by 25 April 2017.

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