

# THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

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

February 2014

## February and the Presentation of Christ in the Temple: the work of Christmas begins

In all areas of life there is an interplay between change and permanence; each season in nature, in our lives and in the Church's year is new and old, different and the same.

The beginning of February marks a change both in nature and the Church's calendar. After the darkness of January – particularly this year with so much rain and wind – the days once more begin noticeably to lengthen. The light begins to stretch out the days and signs of spring and new growth become more and more visible.

In the Church's calendar 2 February marks the end of the season of Epiphany and with it the close of the cycle of feasts and holy days centred round Christmas. It is on that day, or the Sunday nearest to it, that the Church celebrates The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, also known as Candlemas. From that date the Church's year changes direction; instead of looking back to Christmas it begins to look forward to Lent, Good Friday and Easter.

Yet, as the poem below by Howard Thurman (1899-1981) reminds us, while Christmas is over for another year, it is now that the work of Christmas begins once more.

When the song of the Angel is stilled  
When the star in the sky is gone  
When the kings and princes are home  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks  
The work of Christmas begins.  
To find the lost  
To heal the broken  
To feed the hungry  
To release the prisoner  
To rebuild the nations  
To bring peace among people  
To make music in the heart.

The month between Candlemas on 2 February and Ash Wednesday on 5 March, when Lent begins, is a good time to begin once more the work of Christmas. The work may be something new, or continuing to do something 'old' in a new way. It may be something we do on our own or with others, but whatever it is that we do, it is to make tangible the light of God's love for the world. In the same way that the days in February are stretched out by the increasing amounts of daylight, so the love of God is stretched out as we engage in the work of Christmas.

Here at St Mary's we make God's love tangible by being an active community that is rooted in faith, open in thought and reaches out in service. Our life, nurtured and centred on our worship, depends on everyone offering their gifts and talents. In the coming weeks we will be asking you if there are ways you can contribute to our life at St Mary's. There will be various possibilities and I hope you will consider them carefully and prayerfully before responding positively.

As the year continues with its interplay of new and old, may all that we do at St Mary's, and in our lives, be done with 'music in the heart': the music of joy and delight in God's love for the world, the music of praise and thanksgiving.  
*Ginny Thomas*

## Planned Giving Programme Autumn 2013

Many thanks to everyone who responded to our Planned Giving Programme last autumn. We received an excellent response to the letters and information sent out and the Wardens, members of the PCC and I are very grateful to everyone who replied.

We sent out 220 letters and received 60 replies. Of these replies, we received donations

amounting to £8,740.00 and new annual pledges amounting to £7,740.00. There was also an increase in existing pledges of £3,012.00.

Thanks to your generosity we were able to finish 2013 in a healthy financial position (details will be available in the annual report) and start 2014 on a sound financial footing; thank you for making this possible.

*Ginny Thomas*

### **Lent Discussion Groups**

Lent this year begins on 5 March, Ash Wednesday, and our Lent discussion groups will start on Sunday 9 March at 12noon following the service, and Wednesday 12 March at 10.30am.

We will be discussing the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2013 Lent book *Looking through the Cross*, which has been written by Graham Tomlin, Dean of St Mellitus College. Graham Tomlin will also be preaching at St Mary's on Sunday 23 March. More details will be available in the pew sheets in February.

*Ginny Thomas*

### **Parish Lunch**

The next parish lunch takes place on Sunday 2 February. If you would like to join us, please put your name on the sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

**Thursday 6 February  
Taizé Service  
at 7.30pm**



Come, be still, find peace.  
A time of quiet contemplation with readings,  
prayer and the beautiful  
songs of Taizé.

### **Thursday 13 February: Thursday Lunch at 12.30**

The next Thursday Lunch will be on Thursday 13 at 12.30pm. This month's speaker is Helen Ball, who is a Prison Fellowship Prayer Group Leader. There will be a Eucharist at 11.45am preceding the lunch. If you would like to attend please put your name on the list at the back of the church.

### **Earl's Court Community Project**

The Christmas Day sponsored lunch for the ECCP was a great success. We collected £350, that purchased several turkeys and the remaining money covered all the other costs for the day. They fed 75 guests plus helpers. The lunch menu was a traditional Christmas Lunch Turkey, stuffing Roast potatoes, mash carrots, peas and Yorkshire pudding. After entertainment, chocolate log and Christmas cake followed.

A very big thank you to everyone who contributed.

*Margarete Geier*

### **Feast of the Dedication of Westminster Abbey**

You may remember that it was announced in May that Ginny would be appointed Chaplain to Councillor Charles Williams, who is this year's Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Apart from attending certain Council meetings to say prayers, and be present at a number of events, she has the privilege of accompanying the Mayor on some high profile occasions. One of these was on 20 October, when most of the Mayors of the London Boroughs and The Lord Mayor of Westminster assembled at Westminster Abbey to celebrate the Feast of the Dedication of Westminster Abbey.

It was a great British occasion, bringing together a diverse group from all over London and some other neighbouring boroughs, resplendent in their scarlet robes and lace jabots, wearing chains of office that would make The Lord Chancellor envious with their richness and variety, and in many cases wearing hats, which were last fashionable in the time of

Lord Nelson – tricorn, cocked, with plumes, in felt or fur – an endless procession! Perhaps the most impressive were the mace-bearers, over 30 of them, carrying the ceremonial maces, three to four feet long, often adorned with crowns on top, some old and some new... The procession of Mayors and mace bearers wound its way into the choir of Westminster Abbey, where they were all seated in a splash of stunning colour in the stalls.

Why were they all assembled in their finery on a damp Sunday afternoon? Well, for that we were given a brief history lesson by the Dean, and it is worth recording as it encapsulates so well the great traditions of the church and its close links with the state, stretching back over many hundreds of years. You are probably aware that Edward the Confessor built a large church at Westminster for the monastic community, dedicated in 1065, just before his



death. Edward himself was canonised in 1161 and his body moved to a new tomb in the church he had built. St. Edward's Romanesque church was largely replaced in the 13th Century by a Gothic building in the time of Henry III, being the core of the Abbey that we know today. A new shrine was constructed for the body of the now Saint Edward, and the translation of his body formed an integral part of the dedication of the new church, in October 1269. Since then they have kept the Feast of the Translation of St. Edward at the Abbey on 13 October and the Feast of the Dedication of the Abbey, which focuses on the building as a sacred space, on the following Sunday. This year that was 20 October.

The a small group of Mayor's Chaplains, led by Ginny, entered the sanctuary along with the Dean and clergy in shimmering golden copes

and vestments, to share in the service, based around Evensong. The choir sang *Locus Iste*, by Bruckner, as well as Canticles by Walton, who has had such a close connection with music for two Coronations, and an anthem by Elgar, who also wrote for two Coronations, somewhat earlier. During the Magnificat the High Altar was censed with clouds of incense, and the Dean preached a sermon on the spiritual diversity of London, and the partnership of local government and the church. Indeed Councillor Sarah Richardson, in glorious blue and gold robes, in her capacity as Lord Mayor of Westminster, is the Deputy High Steward of Westminster Abbey!

In the presence of a dozen Lord Lieutenants, first citizens of all 31 London Boroughs, and a cross section of civic dignitaries, including The Lord Mayor Elect of London, Alderman Fiona Woolf, the Feast of the Dedication was well celebrated. It is a wonderful treat to be able to witness this great event for the 743rd time since the original dedication. The Church of England and our local democracy is a treasure, and next year consider attending to see for yourselves the pageantry and ceremony that underpins so much of our British way of life. That's what the Mayor's Chaplain gets up to...  
*Ceremonarius*

The Mayors' Chaplains in the Jericho Chapel at Westminster Abbey

## **An Alternative Christmas**

For many years now a leaflet has come through my door in December advertising a Christmas Appeal by the Battersea Rotary Club to sponsor an elderly persons' Christmas lunch in Battersea Park. I always thought it was a wonderful idea and this Christmas I decided to volunteer for this occasion; it seemed such a worthwhile cause, giving lunch to elderly people who otherwise would face Christmas Day alone, who may lead quite isolated lives, and some who just literally do not get out.

This is quite some undertaking by the Organisers and involves months of preparation in order to serve Christmas lunch in a permanent marquee in Battersea Park to

roughly 400 pensioners, with probably around 200 volunteers. This has been a regular event for the past 50 years, and was started because it was felt that no-one should be alone at Christmas unless they wanted to be. This event is also free, but costs about £15,000, collected from donations. A catering company donated the food and the marquee.

The day goes something like this: 55 mini bus drivers are sent out from 8.30am to pick up those attending and volunteer escorts helping the more infirm people. There were a number of people in wheelchairs. The volunteers doing general duties, of which I was one, were asked to arrive at 9.30am to be briefed about our duties for the day. We were given yellow T-shirts so we would stand out and be clearly visible, and were very much there to welcome everyone. The volunteers came from all walks of life and were from very different age groups: a really interesting mix of people. To start with, I and another volunteer were given a table where we offered tea and coffee to the people who arrived. We were to see them happy and settled, and throughout the day we were given different jobs to do, and of course to be with anyone who was particularly on their own.

The marquee looked very festive with subdued lighting, balloons and many little lights in the ceiling giving an overall Christmas feel; in fact it could almost have been a central London hotel it looked so good!

A traditional turkey Christmas lunch was served and crackers were on the tables. During the day there was a compère and after lunch there was carol singing, tea dancing and even bingo. The overall event was attended by various dignitaries, including Jane Ellison, MP for Wandsworth, the Mayor of Wandsworth, and Canon Simon Butler, a local Vicar.

At around 4.30pm and after tea, the elderly people were taken home, clutching a goodie bag. I am sure they appreciated and enjoyed the day, as I did. It was a very uplifting experience and I would certainly do it again.

*Elizabeth Lake*

## Thomas Traherne

Several clergymen who were also poets have chosen not to publish their poems while still alive. Probably the best known is George Herbert (1593-1633), parish priest of the little village of Bemerton near Salisbury. As he was dying, aged only 39, he sent all his poems to his friend Nicholas Ferrar with a note asking him to publish them if he thought they were any good. Ferrar did so and the poems became immediate best-sellers, running through eight editions in the next half century. Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-89) was a Jesuit priest and highly innovative poet who, in deference to the wishes of his order, decided never to publish his poems. His last posting was as Professor of Greek and Latin at University College Dublin, where he died of typhoid aged 44. It was nearly thirty years later that his friend Robert Bridges (1844-1930), then poet laureate, published Hopkins's poems in a collected edition (1918), after which he gradually became recognised as one of the greatest of Victorian poets.



The story of Thomas Traherne is even more far-fetched. He was born in 1636 or 1637, but neither his birth nor his baptism is recorded in parish registers. He was educated at Hereford Cathedral

School and at Brasenose College Oxford where he graduated in 1656. Next year he was ordained deacon and installed as the rector of St. Mary's Credenhill, near Hereford. He was ordained priest in 1660, after the restoration of the monarchy. In 1667 he became private chaplain to Sir Orlando Bridgeman (Lord Keeper of the Great Seal to King Charles II), who lived at Teddington near Hampton Court. Traherne died there of smallpox in 1674, aged only 38. According to an early biographer Traherne 'always led a simple and devout life; his will showed that he possessed little beyond his books, and thought it worthwhile to bequeath his old hat.' He had, however, kept up his academic studies at Oxford, getting his MA in 1661 and Bachelor of Divinity in 1669. The year before he died, Traherne published *Roman Forgeries* (1673), a trenchant criticism of the Roman Catholic Church for corruptly misusing

its control of manuscripts to support its claim to authority. *Christian Ethicks* (1675) followed soon after his death, in which Traherne explored the theological implications of Calvinist thought on freedom and necessity. *A Serious and Patheticall Contemplation of the Mercies of God* was published in 1699 as the work of an anonymous author. By then Traherne's work had fallen into obscurity and remained so for 200 years.

At Traherne's death in 1674 most of his manuscripts were bequeathed to his brother Philipp. After Philipp's death they passed into the possession of the Skipps family of Ledbury in Herefordshire, but in 1888 this family's possessions were dispersed. In the winter of 1896–97, William T. Brooke of London discovered some anonymous manuscripts in a 'barrow of books about to be trashed.' Brooke thought that they might be lost works by Henry Vaughan (1621–95), a Welsh author with a high reputation as one of the 'metaphysical poets'. He showed them to Alexander Grosart (1827–1899), a Scottish clergyman and expert on Jacobean literature who reprinted rare works. Grosart agreed that the manuscripts were by Vaughan and planned to include them in an edition of Vaughan's works that he was preparing for publication, but Grosart died in 1899 and the proposed edition was never completed. Grosart's collection, including the manuscripts, was bought by Charles Higham, a London bookseller, who asked his friend Bertram Dobell (1842–1914) to examine them. Dobell disagreed with the attribution to Vaughan and concluded that the works were by Traherne. The manuscripts were published by Dobell in two volumes: *The Poetical Works of Thomas Traherne* (1903) and *Centuries of Meditations* (1908). More manuscripts have since been discovered in Lambeth Palace, in the Folger Library in Washington DC and 'burning on a rubbish heap in Lancashire.' Many have yet to be catalogued and a scholarly edition of Traherne's works, edited by Jan Ross, is being published by Camden House in nine volumes over the period 2005–17.

Traherne is now accepted, alongside George Herbert and Henry Vaughan, as one of the great 'metaphysical poets'. 'Their poetry

combines passionate feeling with intellectual rigor, and seeks to express deeply felt religious and secular experiences in the form of highly intellectual poems. They show a great interest in science, drawing upon imagery from all the new and exciting areas of scientific learning: astronomy, mathematics, geography and medicine.' (Balakier, II. Thomas Traherne's Concept of Felicity, *Modern Science and Vedic Science*. 1991, 4.2. 136-175).

Traherne delves into issues such as the origins of faith and the nature of divinity. At the core of his work is the concept of felicity, which he describes as that highest state of bliss in the essence of God where 'Delights of inestimable value are there preparing' (Century V Meditation 10.) In his poem entitled 'A Serious and Patheticall Contemplation of the Mercies of God' he writes:

O miracle  
Of divine goodness!  
O fire! O flame of zeal, and love, and joy!  
Ev'n for our earthly bodies, hast thou created  
all things.  
The four elements,  
Volatile spirits,  
Trees, herbs, and flowers,  
The influences of heaven,  
Clouds, vapours, wind,  
Dew, rain, hail and snow,  
Light and darkness, night and day,  
The seasons of the year.  
Springs, rivers, fountains, oceans,  
Gold, silver, and precious stones.  
Corn, wine, and oil,  
The sun, moon, and stars,  
Cities, nations, kingdoms.  
And the bodies of men, the greatest treasures  
of all,  
For each other.  
What then, O Lord, hast thou intended for our  
Souls, who givest to our bodies such glorious  
things!

The other work for which Traherne is famous is *Centuries of Meditations* probably written when he was at Credenhill. The meditations, seldom more than one page long and mostly in prose, are set out in groups of one hundred as the name implies. There are four such groups, with ten left over for the fifth 'century'. They show Traherne as a mystical writer of the front

rank. In the spirit of the gospels, his great theme is the visionary innocence of childhood, and with it an understanding of the divine nature of creation. Traherne's work is often compared to the abounding joy and mysticism found in William Blake (1757- 1827), Walt Whitman (1819-92), and Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-89). In Meditation 17 of the First Century Traherne writes 'God is not an object of Terror, but of delight. To know Him therefore as he is, is to frame the most beautiful idea in all Worlds. He delighteth in our happiness more than we: and is of all other the most Lovely Object. An infinite Lord, who having all Riches, Honours and Pleasures in His own hand, is infinitely willing to give them unto me. Which is the fairest idea that can be devised'.

Traherne is commemorated in the Church of England on 10 October, the date of his burial under the reading desk in St Mary's Teddington. His work has influenced the thought and writings of Dorothy L. Sayers (1893-1957), C. S. Lewis (1898-1963) and Thomas Merton (1915-68).

Lewis called *Centuries of Meditations* 'almost the most beautiful book in English'. For my part, I can say that it provides excellent material for daily devotional reading. Copies of both the Poems and the Meditations are available in facsimiles of the original Dobell editions. Quotations not otherwise identified are from Wikipedia.

*Hugh Beach*



### Visiting Assisi

My first visit to Assisi was with my husband Neale. Some years ago we were staying by Lake Trasimeno in

Umbria with friends; Neale asked me if I would like to go to Assisi for the day. This pleased me because I knew of the romantic memories connected with Assisi for Neale.

The location of Assisi is dramatic, with the upper and lower parts of the city, the *majores* having lived 'above' and the *minores* below. St

Francis chose the *minores* to be his companions, hence the 'Friars Minor'. The views from either part of the town over the plain below is excellent.

My memory of that visit encouraged me to go back to Assisi on my own in 2009. I was told about a hotel next door to the Basilica of St Francis and the four-night stay there was so impressive that I decided I would return. In October 2013 I went with a friend, but that hotel was now closed and we chose another one, but there was a slope down to the Basilica. The '2009 hotel' is likely to open again in the near future.

We flew from Stanstead (not my favourite airport) to Perugia and took a taxi to the upper Assisi and the hotel. The cost of flights and hotel came to just under £450.

I was already familiar with St Francis' Basilica: so many beautiful glass windows, the Giotto paintings on the walls, and of the course the crypt, so different in layout from the upper church. The serenity of the crypt is moving. The remains of St Francis are in the centre, together with four of his companions around the tomb. There is space around, which includes an area to sit and find peace, meditate and be quiet. I found it to be special.

There are a number of other churches to visit in Assisi, including the Basilica of Santa Chiara where the body of St Clare rests.

My friend had been told of a basement museum, the Roman Temple of Minerva, which crosses underneath the main street. This was a 'must' and very quiet. We were the only visitors on that day to see the sculptures etc. of ancient Rome.

A visit to the town in the plain below, especially to visit the Basilica di Santa Maria Degli Angeli is also a must, and I recommend it.

One place I had not been before was the Hermitage of the *Carceri* in the woods of Monte Subasio, where Francis often spent long hours and days in prayer alone and with his companions, and also where he preached to the birds. We took a taxi to this simple building, hanging above the mountain cliffs.

I thoroughly recommend a visit to Assisi: a hotel on a level is a good idea if you are not so young any more.

Maureen Stainton



### **Juliet Barker, Violin Maker**

As music is an important part of worship at St Mary's, Pat Schleger thought the story of a violin maker might interest readers. It was printed on a leaflet to

advertise paper qualities. No date given.

Juliet Barker makes exquisite stringed instruments. She is a craftswoman. But her craft is so much more than design, construction or assembly. She is a wood carver, producing work that is delicate and traditional in style. She is an architect, using her experience and instinct to choose materials that will realise the potential of the finished piece. She is an acoustician, relying on memory and instinct to hone the sound. This last aspect of her work is something, she says, that cannot be explained; it is not a science.

Juliet has been designing and hand-making violins, violas, cellos and the occasional double bass since 1954 when she graduated from a course in violin making from the Bavaria State School in southeast Germany. Post war, this was the only European school offering this course. The others were in the Russian zone and, as a British woman, she could not travel there.

So it was against this unstable backdrop that she realised her ambition to become a violin maker. It was an idea that she formed at the age of 15 while reading 'Violins and Violinists', a book not only about players, of which she was one, but also about makers. She was struck by the distinct lack of English makers featured in the book. She saw this as an opportunity, and from that moment knew that she must practice her craft in Cambridge, her beloved home town.

Despite her talent and expertise, she has never been driven to change the traditional principles of the profession. She believes that violin makers do not have to be innovators. To her, the original design that has been faithfully reproduced for centuries is so beautiful and effective that it cannot be improved. She makes her mark through subtle changes to the classical style: the particular f-shape she carves for sound-holes, the way that she flattens corners, and tightness of the curled scroll at the head of the instrument. The impact of these creative decisions would be imperceptible to most players, but to other makers they are her signature.

Matchmaking between raw material and musical tone is an enduring challenge. Her craft calls for a deep instinctive understanding of wood. Spruce is used for the face; its qualities make it an essential choice. It is elastic, lightweight but strong, and perfectly formed to vibrate, yielding the violin's unmistakable resonating tone. She only uses mature spruce from the sustainable Alpine forests of Switzerland, Austria and Germany because, for her purpose, spruce is best if it has been grown above 800 meters. In high altitudes, the air is thin and the temperature cold. These conditions cause a slower growth rate in the trees, which results in a fineness of grain that is easier to carve and, ultimately, gives the instrument a purer tone. The back of her instruments are carved from a more solid wood. For violins, figured maple and sycamore, with their strength and strange beauty, are Juliet's preferences. For violas, the middle voice on the violin family, alder and poplar make ideal substrates, as they hold slightly more elasticity, which enriches and deepens the tone. For the fingerboards, ebony is the answer. Dense, fine and perfectly smooth when polished, it holds its form when the strings are drummed down on to the boards by the players. For the ease with which they turn and lubricate, rosewood or old English boxwood are her choice for pegs. Juliet had developed these preferences as her career has progressed. Hers is a profession that is very much about instinct and an acquired understanding of how natural materials move and react.

Juliet's materials come from reliable sources. Each autumn a French firm arrives at her workshop with a selection of native woods, both seasoned and unseasoned, which she pores over to find pieces that have exactly the right look and feel. And from her time studying in Bavaria, she has contacts with a specialist German timber firm that ships specific material for her, including the essential Alpine spruce. Seasoning wood is another of the passions. Her workshop holds pieces of various stages of the process; hardwoods take four to five years to reach optimum quality. The ability to exercise such patience is testament to Juliet's undying love for her work.

The single piece of advice she offers to those who want to learn her craft is they should never rush. Unlike the factories of the mass producers, Juliet's workshop houses few machines. Other than a modern band saw and planning machine to hew the first rough pieces of wood, Juliet only uses traditional hand tools. This means that she works more slowly, but the results are unique. Violin making is an art that matures with the craftsman and asks for a lifetime. Juliet has devoted hers to it and has no plans to stop. In her own words, 'violin makers do not retire, they fall off their stool'. *Juliet Barker was awarded the MBE in 2006 for services to music and violin making.*

## Upcoming Dates for your Diary



### February

Sunday 2, 12.30pm, Parish Lunch,  
Thursday 6, 7.30pm, Taizé Service,  
Thursday 13, 12.30pm, Thursday Lunch,

### March

Sunday 2, 12.30, Parish Lunch  
Tuesday 4, 6.30-8.0pm, Pancake Party,  
Wednesday 5, 7.00pm Ash Wednesday service,  
Thursday 6, 7.30pm, Taizé Service  
Thursday 13 12.30pm, Thursday Lunch  
Sunday 30, Mothering Sunday, All Age Worship

### April

Thursday 3, 7.30pm, Taizé Service,  
Sunday 6, 12 noon **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

12.30pm, Parish Lunch,

Thursday 10, 12.30pm, Thursday Lunch,  
Sunday 13, Palm Sunday

### Holy Week

Monday 14, Eucharist 7.30pm,  
Tuesday 15, Eucharist, 12 noon  
Wednesday 16, Eucharist, 7.00pm

### Thursday 17, Maundy Thursday

10.30am, Blessing of oils at St Paul's Cathedral  
7.30pm, Sung Eucharist followed by Vigil

### Friday 18, Good Friday

10.30am, Children's Service  
12 noon - 3.00pm Watch by the Cross

### Saturday 19, Easter Eve

8.00pm, Vigil Service, 8.00pm

### Sunday 20, Easter Day

8.00am, Said Eucharist  
10.30am, Sung Parish Eucharist

### Saturday 21 June, Summer Fair



Guarantees  
a better deal  
for Third World  
Producers

## Fairtrade Fortnight 24 February to 9 March

This year, the Fairtrade Foundation is concentrating its efforts on transforming the banana industry. In the UK bananas are our favourite fruit; we eat over five billion a year.

In the last ten years, the UK supermarket sector has almost halved the shelf price of loose bananas while the cost of producing them has doubled, trapping many of the farmers and workers who grow them in a cycle of poverty. The Fairtrade Foundation wants every banana farmer and worker to earn enough to have a decent standard of living, work in conditions that are safe and have rights and benefits. It also means bananas are produced in a way that is environmentally sustainable.

The Fairtrade Campaign this year has given some basic facts: we now pay on average 11p for a loose banana compared to 20p for a loose UK grown apple; while Fairtrade provides a vital safety net for some banana farmers and workers, too many still suffer. This cannot

continue. If supermarkets are unable to make pricing work for both consumers and farmers, the Campaign is for the government to step in to end unfair practices. During Fairtrade Fortnight we are asked to sign a petition calling on Vince Cable to investigate unfair supermarket pricing practices. The slogan is *Together we can make bananas fair.*

St Mary's is a Fairtrade church, where all coffee, tea, sugar etc. is bought from Fairtrade.

On 2 March there will be a cake sale in Church after the service, with the proceeds going to the Fairtrade Campaign. Why not bake a banana cake for the stall (with Fairtrade bananas of course), and definitely buy one on the day.



## **Pancake Party, Shrove Tuesday 4 March at The Vicarage**

Each year Ginny hosts a pancake party for all parishioners at 24 Fawcett Street, to give everyone strength to adjust to the time of Lenten preparation for Easter. This will be at on Tuesday 4 March, 6.30pm – 8.0pm. Those who have been before will know that a constant stream of fresh pancakes will be served from the kitchen and that (pancake) tosser-in-chief is Patrick! The Vicarage recipe is based on a tried and true Delia Smith formula and consists of:

110g plain flour

2 large eggs

200ml milk and 75ml water mixed

A drop of vegetable oil and a pinch of salt.

Method: sift the flour and salt, add and whisk in the eggs, add the milk and water a bit at a time, add the drop of vegetable oil. Ideally, let the mixture stand for 30 minutes before a final whisk and then cook a ladleful at a time in a hot pan, tossing at least once.

Perhaps the best thing about the finished pancakes is that they are a neutral but tasty base to add to. Most traditionalists are happy with a sprinkle of caster sugar and a squeeze of fresh orange or lemon juice, but they can be

served with a spoonful of jam (greengage, damson or apricot are especially good), or spread with Nutella. For a more 'adult' twist try a modest tot of Grand Marnier or even Baileys. Perhaps my all time favourite is a variation on the famous Austrian dessert *Kaiserschmarrn*, which would ideally be made with extra beaten egg whites, raisins and a plum compote, but in this simple version is just as delicious: take the unrolled cooked pancake and spread it with either damson or apricot jam, roll it up and sprinkle with icing sugar: fit for an Emperor...

Come and join us for pancakes and a glass of something to help them down and share your own ideas about what your perfect pancake might include!

*Patrick Thomas*

## **Ash Wednesday 5 March**

Our Ash Wednesday service is at 7.00pm on Wednesday.

## **PCC Meeting Report**

The Parochial Church Council met on 21 January; here are a few of the matters we discussed.

We started by considering the Gospel reading of the following Sunday, the Third Sunday of Epiphany, which is about the calling of the first disciples. We asked ourselves whether we would ever be prepared to leave home if God called us to do this.

We then heard the final result of the Planned Giving Programme. We had 60 responses in all. We received one-off donations totalling £8,740, and as regards regular giving we will be getting a total of £10,752 per annum in either new or increased pledges. The Council felt this was a good outcome. As a result of this, together with another generous donation, we now expect to have a small surplus for the year 2013, which is great news.

I can tell you about some major refurbishments that will soon take place in the area of the Church Hall. As many of you know, the Hall is let out during term time to a nursery called Paint Pots. Paint Pots have asked for our help in

expanding their operation to enable more children to attend, and as a result various changes will need to be made, the first and most important being a modernisation of the lavatories at the back of the building. This work will take place over the Easter holidays in mid-April, and a contractor has been appointed at the recommendation of the Fabric Committee.

We are having a PCC Away-Day on 1 February, and one of the things we will be doing is to set out what the various groups do, such as the Sustainability Group and the Communications Committee. This leads me on to something that I would like to mention to you all: we need more volunteers! We are not very good at St Mary's at advertising our needs, but at the Sunday services we need (a) more servers or acolytes; (b) more sidespeople to welcome you all when you come into church and to give out hymn books. We also need more people to help prepare the lunches, both the Sunday Parish Lunches and the more simple Thursday Lunches. If you feel that you would like to have a go at any of these, or anything else, then please let us know. Don't wait to be asked.

And finally... A man came to St Mary's recently to explore the possibility of putting a telecoms mast in the church tower. Now, apparently there is a small space up there, which might be suitable for a mast, but the man was dismayed to learn that he would need to scale the outside of the building to reach it, rather than go up some nice spiral staircase. He went off to make a report, and we'll see whether he comes back!

*Philip Bedford-Smith*



## **Women's World Day of Prayer**

Every year Christian women from a different country prepare a service for the international

Women's World Day of Prayer (WWDP). The country chosen for this year is Egypt, in 2013 it was France and in 2015 it will be The Bahamas.

The service always takes place on the first Friday in March; this year on 7 March at 11 a.m. at St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1.

The Egyptian women have chosen the theme 'Streams of the Desert'. The service lasts for one hour and will be followed by refreshments.

You may ask, why should you go to the WWDP service? Like me, you may never have visited Egypt. Here are some facts: Egypt is one of the oldest civilisations in the world and twice the size of Spain. Cairo, the country's capital, with a population of over 16 million is also the largest city in Africa; 95% of the population live in the Nile Valley and Nile Delta. The Nile is the second largest river in the world and is known to Egyptians as 'the river of life. Apart from the fertile Nile valley, the rest of Egypt is part of the Sahara desert in the west, the largest desert in the world, and the Sinai desert in the east.

You may still ask, why should you go to the WWDP service and support the Christian women of Egypt? Christianity became the official religion in Egypt in 312 CE under the rule of Constantine. Since 1980, Islam has been defined as the state religion and now only 10% of the population are Christians. According to *The Times* (24 October 2013) Egyptian Christians are living in fear of kidnap and torture. More than 100 people, mostly Christians, have been kidnapped for ransom since the 2011 revolution. In August 2011 during the Arab Spring uprising, security forces killed hundreds of supporters of Mohamed Morsi, the ousted Islamist President. His followers took revenge on Christians, destroying 45 churches across Egypt and attacking more than 200 Christian properties. As a vulnerable minority, Christians do not have the backing of the authorities and in spite of threats, abductions and ransom demands, they tend not to retaliate.

The Beatitudes (Matt 5: 10) has: 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.' People are still dying for the faith they profess. Every year the Open Door World Watch List ranks countries by the intensity of persecution that Christians face for actively pursuing their faith. North Korea, Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia are on the top of this list, and Egypt is Nr 15. Did you know that in the last one hundred years more people have died for their

faith around the world than in the rest of Christian history put together?

In conflicts it is not the extremists on either side who bring unity and peace, but those in the middle who are the bridge builders. We are called to be intercessors, bridge builders, supporters of Christians who are facing rejection, violence and even death for the faith they stand for.

The speaker at this year's WWDP service at St. Columba's will be Huda Nassar, a member of the Awareness Foundation, which was launched by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 2003 at Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square. Founder members are Revd Michael Marshall and Revd Nadim Nassar. The patron is Charles Cadogan, 8th Earl of Cadogan. The mission statement for the Awareness Foundation is: 'To be a counter force of love and peace to the intolerance and aggression that now prevail in so many countries.'

My family and I have never felt more motivated, in fact compelled, to attend the WWDP service on 7 March, as this year. Together we will thank God (which we do not do often enough) for the fact that we, in the UK, live in a country that is politically and economically stable and where we enjoy freedom of religion. We will also pray for strength for Christians in Egypt and peace and harmony for all its citizens. We hope you will join us.  
*Anne Swift*

## February Year's Mind

Edward Lidderdale  
Mary Pilkington  
Peter Hamilton-Davies  
Robert Priest  
Thomas Spicer  
Anthony Clives  
Storm Larkins  
Thomas Barclay  
Anjoli Fernado-Kleinsorge  
David Hancock  
Simon Perkins  
Lily Dwight  
Lynette Hopper  
Gary Marshfield  
Derek Pilkington

Iris Warwick  
Madeline Habgood  
Kinbarra Morse

## 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 (Eucharist on Feastdays); except Public Holidays.  
Wednesday 7.00pm Eucharist

## Readings in February 2014

<b>Sunday 2</b>	<b>Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)</b>
Readings at 10.30am	<i>Malachi 3. 1-5; Hebrews 2. 14-end; Luke 2. 22-40</i>
Wednesday 5	No Eucharist
<b>Sunday 9</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday before Lent</b>
Readings at 10.30am	<i>Isaiah 58. 1-9a; 1 Corinthians 2. 1-12; Matthew 5. 13-20</i>
Wednesday 12	Eucharist
Readings at 7.00pm	<i>1 Kings 10. 1-10; Mark 7. 14-23</i>
Thursday 13	Eucharist
Readings at 11.45am	<i>1 Kings 11. 4-13; Mark 7. 24-30</i>
<b>Sunday 16</b>	<b>Third Sunday before Lent</b>
Readings at 10.30am	<i>1 Corinthians 3. 1-9; Matthew 5. 21-37</i>
Wednesday 19	Eucharist
Readings at 7.00pm	<i>James 1. 19-end; Mark 8. 22-26</i>
<b>Sunday 23</b>	<b>Second Sunday before Lent</b>
Readings at 10.30am	<i>Genesis 1. 1-2.3; Romans 8. 18-25; Matthew 6. 25-end</i>
Wednesday 26	Eucharist
Readings at 7.00pm	<i>James 4. 13-end; Mark 9. 38-40</i>
<b>Sunday 2 March</b>	<b>Sunday next before Lent</b>

Readings at 10.30am *Exodus 24. 12-end;*  
*2 Peter 1. 16-end;*  
*Matthew 17. 1-9*

## Upcoming in February 2014

Sunday 2 Parish Lunch  
Thursday 6 7.30pm Taizé Service  
Thursday 13 12.30pm Thursday Lunch  
Friday 14 11.00am Funeral of  
Gerda Turner  
Saturday 15 4.00pm Wedding of Peter Mann  
and Elizabeth Deegan  
Sunday 16 10.30am Baptism of Eddie Stuart  
Wednesday 19 11.00am Home communion  
St Teresa's

## Parish Office

St Mary's Church House, The Boltons, London  
SW10 9TB Tel 020 7835 1440  
[www.stmarytheboltons.org.uk](http://www.stmarytheboltons.org.uk)

**Vicar** The Revd Ginny Thomas  
020 7835 1440, mobile 07590074951.

Day off: Tuesday

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

**Director of Music** John Ward  
07853 406050 (mobile)  
[boltonsmusic@gmail.com](mailto:boltonsmusic@gmail.com)

### Parish Administrator

John McVeigh 020 7835 1440 (church office)

Mon to Fri 9.15am-2.15pm

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

**Verger / Caretaker** David Ireton  
020 7244 8998 / 07881 865386

Day off: Tuesday

### Churchwardens

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie 020 7384 3246

Ann Mulcare 020 7937 2005

### Members of the Parochial

#### Church Council

Revd Ginny Thomas (Chair)

Mr Philip Bedford-Smith

Mr Craig Drake

Mr Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

Miss Margarete Geier

(Deanery Synod Representative),

Mrs Mary Godwin

Miss Joanna Hackett (PCC Secretary)

Mr Timon Molloy

Mrs Ann Mulcare (Deanery Synod  
representative)

Mr David Parsons

Mrs Katrina Quinton

Mrs Judy Rydell

Mrs Ann Tait

## Safeguarding Officer

The St Mary The Boltons' Safeguarding Officer is Timon Molloy. His role is to help us to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk. He 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 Timon on: [07816 184207](tel:07816184207)

## 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](mailto:Katie.Fowkes@talktalk.net) / [07810 831505](tel:07810831505)

**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

### Co-ordinators:

#### Monday Bible Study Group

Pat Schleger 020 7589 2359

#### Wednesday Bible Study Group

Margarete Geier 020 7373 1639

### Clarion Editor

Verena Tschudin 020 7351 1263

**Flowers** Margarete Geier & Katrina Quinton

### Prayer Network

Verena Tschudin 020 7351 1263

### Readers & Intercessors Rota

Mary Meeson (call Parish Office)

### Reading at St Cuthbert's

### and St Matthias School

Sheila Gibbs 020 8788 9744

### Thursday monthly lunch

Ann Tait 020 7352 5127

### Social Secretary

Margarete Geier 020 7373 1639

### Sunday School Parish Office

**Contributions for the February Clarion  
should be sent in to the church office by  
21 February 2014**

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