

# THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

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

June 2015

## Trinity and Blessings

It has become the practice of the Parochial Church Council to start each meeting with a brief consideration of a passage from the Bible. Generally this has been the Gospel reading for the following Sunday. Last month however, as the meeting of the Council was held on Ascension Day, we looked at the reading for that day and the opening lines from Acts I. This covers both the Ascension, 'as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.' and looks forward to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, 'you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now'. In the short time available two types of response emerged: the head telling us that the Ascension and the cloud was a sign of God's glory that had been foreseen in the Old Testament; the heart allowing us to celebrate these important festivals by allowing familiar words and music to wash over us and carry us through. We can leave these matters in the too difficult box, but if we do not look more deeply at the loving parental relationship between the Father and the Son as expressed at the Ascension, or fail to be open to and excited by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost where does that leave our faith journey? If such challenging matters are left unexamined, and if we only address God as God or the Almighty, we risk treating the Godhead as an abstraction rather than as a person with whom there is the possibility of forming a real relationship.

When it comes to considering the doctrine of the Trinity, the union of three persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) in one Godhead, which we mark on Trinity Sunday early in June, given the complexity of the doctrine, we may indeed feel

that an abstraction is all there is. Archbishop Ramsey is reported to have said 'We all know, don't we, that when one member of the Trinity is over emphasized at the expense of the other two there is always trouble, always trouble'. I would add that the same applies if we engage only with the Godhead and fail to engage meaningfully with the three constituent parts.

If we look beyond the complexities of the Athanasian Creed, in which the doctrine was originally expressed, we discover that one of the two most explicit recognitions of the three persons of the Holy Trinity in the New Testament is in the form of a benediction. It comes at the end of Paul's second Letter to the Corinthians: 'The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you'.

As we approach Trinity Sunday rather than grappling with the tangle of words in the Creed of St Athanasius, just take time to recall the words of the Grace. Remember that Paul's words were a greeting, a holy kiss expressing a loving family relationship. Bear in mind that a meaningful greeting is an exchange, given and received. Benedictions and greetings do not work if offered furtively, head bowed, eyes closed or looking down. They are to be said boldly and clearly, looking your neighbours in the eye. Members of the PCC will recall how effective it was when we reminded ourselves of this before we said the Grace together at the end of the Council meeting in May. Try it for yourself.

Next time you are invited to say the Grace aloud, address each member of the group, look them in the eye and offer them three good things.

*Leo Fraser-Mackenzie*

### **Prayer for the interregnum**

God of love and joy and peace,  
strengthen our rootedness in faith,  
kindle our openness in thought  
and renew our reaching out in service  
as we discern the future leadership of the  
parish, and guide us individually and together  
in the decisions to be made,  
through Jesus Christ. Amen

### **Interregnum Update**

Interviews for the new vicar took place on Friday 29 May. The Panel consisted of The Archdeacon the Stephan Walsh, Laurie Magnus, joint Patron, Leo Fraser-Mackenzie. The name of the successful candidate will be announced shortly.

### **Thursday Lunch 11 June 12.30**

The next Thursday Lunch will be on Thursday 11 June at 12.30pm. This month's speaker is Jessica Wanamaker, Chief Executive Volunteer Centre Kensington & Chelsea (VCKC)  
If you would like to attend please put your name on the list at the back of the church or call the Parish Office.

### **The Summer Fair: an appeal from Katrina Quinton**



Preparations are under way for this year's Fair on 20th June and we urgently need your help if we are to beat the magnificent sum we raised last year and re-fill our Charitable Pot.

Would you - please will you? - commit to helping set up the stalls and tents early in the morning and / or help with dismantling them when the fair closes in the afternoon and the garden has to be cleared ready for services on the Sunday? Are you able to work (not necessarily all of the time!) on one of the stalls?

Could you be one of the sponsors? Without sponsorship we shall never achieve our target. If you can get out your cheque book now to pay for the magician, the musicians, the furniture hire, the sausages and burgers, the Pimms and such like, that would be wonderful.

All the stalls need items to sell. Hopefully you've been clinging on to bits and pieces that would boost the Bric-a-brac stall and those special pieces that can be part of the hampers and the raffle prizes. Or clearing through your bookcase to boost the book stall? Can you supply bottles for the tombola or cakes for the cake stall? It all makes a huge difference to the day. Is there anything else you could contribute or persuade a (local?) business to donate; perhaps a dinner from a favourite restaurant, a case of wine, tickets for an event, a bottle of champagne? All would be wonderful and we will either sneak them into the hampers or list them proudly on the raffle list. We will also be having a silent auction so prizes and events that are worth fighting for would be wonderful too.

I dream that the date has been in your diary since it first entered the parish diary and that you are already planning to help us send the largest possible donations to the four charities we are supporting this year - Medic Malawi, Arts \$ Dementia, Iraqi Christians in need and Fulham Good Neighbours as well as the Sunday School's Alex.

This year I have had to limit my role to co-ordinator so please get in touch and tell me what you would like to do to help. Talk to me in Church, call me on 020 7373 6093

or 0775 398 6523 or send me an e-mail to [katrinaquinton@gmail.com](mailto:katrinaquinton@gmail.com). I shall be very pleased to hear from you and everlastingly grateful for all that you volunteer to do.

## **Report from the PCC Meeting on 14 May**

Following the opening prayer we reflected on a reading for Ascension Day, Acts 1:1-11, the Promise of the Holy Spirit and the Ascension. Apologies were received from Richard Brudenell and Julie Crutchley.

The minutes of previous meetings held in 29 January 2015 and 8 March 2015 were accepted.

### **Matters Arising**

Foremost of the 'Matters Arising' was the Wardens update on the appointment process. Ann and Leo have been greatly heartened by the quality of response to our most recent advertisement for a new vicar. From 21 applications four candidates will be seen this week and will visit the church and the vicarage, four further candidates have been held in reserve if a candidate should withdraw. Our Wardens are optimistic that an appointment will soon be made. The PCC thanked the Wardens wholeheartedly for their tireless work on our behalf. The appointment of a suitable vicar is of the utmost importance to the life of our church.

The Wardens have been negotiating an increase in the rent and service charge for Paint Pots. The rental increase has been accepted and the service charge, which has not been increased since 2011, should be completed soon.

Prior to the appointment of a new vicar a substantial amount of renovation will need to be done at the Vicarage, the kitchen being the highest priority.

The PCC thanked to Timon Molloy for his time and work in the role of Safeguarding Officer for the church. Timon completed his

responsibilities with a written report and a handover to Julie Crutchley who has kindly taken on the position.

### **Finances**

We reviewed the Treasurers Report for the first quarter of 2015 and with regard to our deficit, the PCC are keen to renew the Planned Giving programme prior to the appointment of a new vicar. We call upon the support of the congregation as we commence this vital fundraising work.

### **Feedback on Lent and Easter**

The PCC reviewed the trialling of the new version (1977!) of the Lord's Prayer through Lent; a thought (and conversation) provoking idea, which certainly challenged us to live up to our commitment to being 'open in thought'. The Lent course *Christ and the Chocolaterie*, launched on Shrove Tuesday with the showing of *Chocolat*, was seen as innovative and appreciated by those who took part. Sadly, attendance was low among parents of small children, due in part to the half-term holiday. The PCC welcome and encourage parents to diarise church events.

Tremendous thanks were given for David Tann's Holy Week services. It was reported that attendance has been higher at some services this year than in 2014, specifically Mothering Sunday and Easter Day. This is a wonderful record of the strength of the congregation, the care of our 'behind-the-scenes' parishioners and our visiting clergy.

### **Housekeeping**

One small but important housekeeping point is the request by the PCC respectfully to ask parishioners not to enter the vestry before and during service times. Most specifically, this is to save general embarrassment prior to the 10.30 service when visiting clergy are preparing and dressing. The congregation is invited to make use of the newly refurbished toilets by the hall. Many thanks. *Judy Rydell*

## What brought me to St Mary's

Jessica Molloy: living in SW10 with my husband, daughter and our pet hamster. I'm working in WCI at the Chartered Institute of Public Relations. Originally from the deepest countryside of Co Down, Northern Ireland, now loving living in London.

I started coming to St Mary's when my daughter was very young. It can be quite stressful bringing a child to church: what if she makes a noise, starts crying, gets restless in the middle of the service? But we felt welcome at St Mary's and it was clear that my daughter was welcome too, noise, crying and restlessness included! We started going to Little Lambs and a few years later my daughter moved up to Sunday School. I began helping out with Sunday School occasionally and am now one of the Sunday School leaders with Katie Fowkes (and we are always looking for more leaders/helpers), and I am a Parent Governor at Park Walk Primary School.

I would definitely encourage other parents to come along to St Mary's. It is a friendly church with a strong sense of family and community, which is important for me and for my daughter too.

*Jessica Molloy*

## Worshiping Away from Home



I recall Ginny Thomas once encouraging parishioners to seek out an Anglican church whenever they are abroad to experience something of our wider church family while away from home.

So it was that my mother and I found ourselves in Vienna in early May, enjoying a lovely sunny city break and getting to know our 16<sup>th</sup> European capital.

Christ Church Vienna is a handsome nineteenth century building located in the Belvedere part of the city, an area of wide boulevards and many embassy buildings, crowned by the Belvedere Palace, home to Austria's celebrated Klimt collection. The Anglican/Episcopal church was consecrated in 1877 and a plaque inside commemorates:

*'In Conformity with an order in Council of His Imperial Majesty Francis Joseph I, permitting the erection of a place of worship in which Divine Service shall be conducted according to The Rites of the Church of England' and stating that 'the site is registered as the property of The Right Honorable and Right Reverend The Lord Bishop of London under the jurisdiction of Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy.'*

On arriving for the 10 o'clock service I received a very warm welcome from an African lady and entered a church nearly two thirds full, with all ages, nationalities and fashion styles represented. Within the next ten minutes many more people arrived until there was hardly a space in any pew left vacant; probably 200 people were there. I had been given a copy of 'the wrap', a pew sheet containing an enormous amount of information on events, societies, offers of help, prayer requests and much other information detailing a thriving community in the city. A quick glance and two appeals for help caught my eye: more coffee servers are needed and also someone to volunteer to coordinate the summer fair. It would appear that the Anglican church has similar issues the world over...

The Venerable Patrick Curran led a lively Sung Eucharist accompanied by two acolytes and an assistant priest. The hymns were all familiar, the anthems well suited and the sermon just the right length. If there could be any complaint at all it would only be that the service was in every respect so familiar and comfortable, like bumping into an old friend on holiday, that it

was really quite difficult to remember one was away from home at all.

Filing out from church everyone was encouraged to move on to the hall not only for coffee, but also a glass of champagne, as the parish was celebrating Revd Curran's 15 years with them. I have a knack for hitting on a party. Dozens of accents babbled away together and I happily chatted to a South African banker who had been in Vienna five years and a Dublin couple on holiday who were self-confessed Mozart fanatics.

All in all, Christ Church set the tone for a wonderful day of sightseeing, swanning about and Sachertorte eating. My thanks to the parishioners for their warm welcome and all that they do in Jesus' name in their little corner of central Europe.

Iona Thomas (Ginny's daughter and a great friend) is currently with the UN in New York, but I know is now on the look-out for her next diplomatic posting. I have insisted to Iona she takes up Vienna, where a fabulous city and a very friendly church await her. And besides, I need somewhere to stay during my many planned return visits.

*Joanna Hackett*

## **Report of Thursday Lunch on 14 May**

At this Thursday lunch, diners heard and saw a fine and amusing exposition of flower arranging by Louise McGregor. Louise has arranged flowers at St Mary's for some years for weddings and funerals, and has been a professional florist for most of her life.

At the lunch she talked with great wit and candour about her experiences as a florist. At the same time she arranged flowers in several styles, starting with a bucket as a liner for a planter suitable for a large hall or fireplace. A combination of sticks and greenery camouflaged

the bucket, allowing a range of flowers then to appear in a solid display round and above the concealed container. Another demonstration used a tall vase, high enough to enable people seated at table to see each other for conversation under the flowers arranged simply in the upper part of the vase. In another she showed a gorgeously simple and effective display with just three large roses and one lily stem. Another striking example was a goldfish bowl with stones at the bottom and flowers above in the water, all lit by candles around the bowl.



Among the flowers and shrubs Louise showed were roses, lilies, choisya, lisianthus, hellebores, Singapore orchids, painted birch twigs and pussy willow. Her remarks entertained the group, who learnt that red is the colour for weddings in Hong Kong. Lilies of the Valleys are difficult to manage and therefore not popular though, if brides are happy to trust their florist, it can provide a truly beautiful bouquet with a scent to die for! Pussy willow is very much on the up possibly because of its country appeal, but it also gives structure to a flower decoration. The time that flowers can keep their freshness is obviously key to determining their usefulness. Good roses may comfortably avoid wilting for two weeks. Some flowers, such as hellebores, can have their life extended by pouring boiling water on their stem bases. Oasis is invaluable and should be kept well watered before use.

Beware florist shops if you want to borrow items such as scissors: they may regard you as a competitor!



Outside the meeting Louise was asked when she had started arranging flowers. She said she thought she had some memories of that from the age of three years but most certainly remembered the lovely bouquet of flowers she arranged at the age of six for her mother. When her father saw what she had done she was dispatched immediately to her room and told to stay there in disgrace until given permission to leave, sadly not having explained to her that if you pick the apple blossom you don't get the apples! She was to be much older before she understood the error of her ways. But, she had arranged a beautiful bouquet of apple blossom! *Arthur Tait*

### **Creator God, Part III, Some Answers**

In the earlier articles I posed two questions. First, given the vast size, age and complexity of the universe as depicted by the 'standard models' of science, is it sensible to hold that a creator (God) made all this simply to provide a home for humankind? Secondly, is it plausible to believe that the human brain, with its immense flexibility, curiosity and inventiveness, has developed from primordial slime solely on the

basis of random chance operating according to a few fixed laws of bio-chemistry? This article suggests some answers.

Pierre-Simon Laplace (1740-1827), astronomer, mathematician and the intellectual giant of his age, was asked by Napoleon why, in his many writings, he made no mention of the Creator. This drew the blunt reply: *Je n'avais pas besoin de cette hypothèse-là.* ('I had no need of that hypothesis'.) Many scientists have always agreed with him, but there have been notable exceptions. Darwin concluded his book *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* (1859) with the words:

'There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers having been originally breathed by the Creator into a few forms or into one, ... from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being evolved'.

Einstein wrote as follows in 1936, in reply to a question from a school-girl: 'Everyone who is seriously involved in the pursuit of science becomes convinced that there is some spirit manifest in the laws of the universe, one that is vastly superior to that of man.' (Alice Calaprice Ed., *Dear Professor Einstein: Albert Einstein's Letters to and from Children*, Prometheus Books, 2002, pp. 127-9.)

Both these scientists were evidently 'deists', crediting the formation of the universe and life to a higher power, but holding that God does not intervene with the functioning of the world, allowing it to run according to the laws of nature. This is a far cry from the full 'theist' position that holds that a conscious being or mind, existing of itself from eternity, is the cause of all other things. Christians, for example, believe that the key to all creation is to be found in Christ. The American Catholic Franciscan Sister Ilia Delio, speaking of Incarnation, says:

'It is first about the Word through whom the whole creation unfolds and in whom all creation finds its ultimate meaning. Everything that exists, all of created reality finds its meaning in relation to the Incarnate Word of God, Jesus Christ.' (Ilia Delio, *The Humility of God*, Franciscan Media Cincinnati, 2005, p. 107.) This is strictly in line with John 1:1-3.

A contemporary attack on the 'God hypothesis' comes from the Oxford chemist Peter Atkins. He sets out a series of postulates as follows: 'There is nothing that cannot be understood'; 'aspects of the universe are summarised by mathematical formulas'; 'everything is extraordinarily simple'; and 'the seemingly something is actually elegantly reorganised nothing... and the net content of the universe is... nothing. (*Creation Revisited*, Penguin 1994, pp. 3, 113, 115). It is clear that these postulates emerge not from physical science but from a metaphysical world-view, which Atkins holds with all the tenacity of dogma. Some of them collapse under their own weight. For example, to explain the existence of our universe, Atkins suggests that fluctuations may arise in nothing and sooner or later produce a physical universe. This is an idea borrowed from quantum mechanics. It presupposes an exactly balanced array of physical forces and a pre-existent space-time in which fluctuations can occur. This is a very complex and finely tuned 'nothing', which seems to bear all the signs of careful planning. A creator God might well choose a partly probabilistic universe by choosing just such an origin for it. This hypothesis gives a more adequate explanation of the elegance and mathematical beauty of the universe as we find it. (Keith Ward, *God, Chance and Necessity*, Oneworld Publications, 1999, pp.33-48).

Where life on earth is concerned, one of the authors who attacks the notion of God most aggressively is the Oxford biologist Richard

Dawkins. His principal assertion is that bodies are machines for the survival of genes. 'We animals are the most complicated and perfectly designed pieces of machinery in the known universe' he writes, but the preservation of bits of DNA 'is the ultimate rationale for our existence'. (*The Selfish Gene*, Grenada, 1978. p. 21)

On the face of it, this is most implausible, and again the arguments do not hold up. Dawkins himself recognises that, so far from being selfish, genes work in vast teams, all working together in a most complicated way to create a living body. To save his theory he asserts that 'the genes that are favoured are those who prosper *in the presence of the other genes* that are simultaneously being favoured in each other's presence. (*River out of Eden*, Weidenfeld and Nicholson, 1995, p. 155, original italics). It is not clear that this sentence has any content. If bodies are the mere by-product of survival struggles among bits of DNA, so are brains, including that of Richard Dawkins. What price then his passionate pursuit of scientific truth as he understands it? No doubt he also values beauty and goodness. No human beings can function on the basis that their mental processes are the predetermined by-products of a purely random system.

Given the enormous improbability of our universe having arisen by chance, it is often suggested that ours must be only one of an infinite number of other universes (the 'multiverse theory') where the key determining numbers are different. Most of them would be stillborn or sterile. We could only have emerged (and therefore find ourselves) in a universe with the 'right' combination. (Martin Rees, *Just Six Numbers*, Weidenfeld and Nicholson, 1999, p.4.) The infinity of universes may be a fact, although by definition we can never know this. While it obviously makes possible a universe like ours, this does not explain it and so fails as a scientific hypothesis. As the American physicist Lee Smolin puts it:

‘And thus with an infinite ensemble of unobserved entities we leave the domain of science behind’. (‘You think there’s a multiverse? Get real’ *New Scientist*, 17 January 2015, pp 24,25)

By contrast a Christian can claim that God is a very elegant, economical and fruitful explanation of the universe. It is economical because it attributes the existence and nature of everything to one ultimate cause. It is elegant because from one key idea – of the most perfect possible being – the whole nature of God and the universe can be explained. It is fruitful because it is the basis of human confidence in the intelligibility of nature (on which science itself depends) and in the objective value and ultimate triumph of truth, beauty and goodness. In this way it gives a meaning to our existence. (Keith Ward, *God, Chance and Necessity*, Oneworld, 1996, pp 20,21)

How does God perform this act of creating and sustaining the universe, without this becoming evident to the scientists who study these things? Apologists have often suggested that room for God’s action exists in the areas of science where the nature of things is unknown, of which there are still many (‘Dark energy’ for example). Yet this approach, known as ‘the God of the Gaps’, is ultimately futile because these gaps are regularly closed by advances in scientific knowledge. It is equally wide of the mark to look for God’s ‘wobble room’ in the ‘uncertainty’ that is a well-established feature of quantum mechanics. The possibility of God’s action requires only that not all physical events are completely determined by the laws of physics, and this is likewise the pre-condition of all moral freedom. For the same reason God provides no ‘proof’ of his existence, because moral freedom requires the possibility of disbelief.

How this transcendent deity relates to the God of our deepest prayers, to the innumerable small mercies of our daily life and to the crucified Christ will be explored in subsequent articles.

*Hugh Beach*

## What’s in a name?

# GLASSDOOR

Homeless support in West London churches

West London Churches Homeless Concern (WLCHC) changed its name to Glass Door Homeless Charity, or just ‘Glass Door’. As they say on their website <http://www.glassdoor.org.uk/> the old name was a tongue twister, and the new one came about after long consultation and was in fact suggested by one of their guests.

The following is taken from their website: Steven Platts, Chief Operating Officer of the charity, says: ‘Over the years, we have provided shelter and support to thousands of people in West London who are in great need. Our name may be changing, but our work, and our commitment to providing shelter and helping people move beyond homelessness, remains the same’.

The trustees have recognised for some time that the name adopted nearly twenty years ago, while serving the Charity well, was a tongue twister for most people, and the acronym ‘WLCHC’ was meaningless on its own and just as hard to remember.

‘It’s the nickname that many of us already use’, explains Tomas, a 28-year old guest of the winter night shelters. The name refers to the glass doors within the arched church entrance that mark the Charity’s headquarters at the Chelsea Methodist Church on the King’s Road.

‘I go through the glass door, and I find good people who try to help me,’ says Tomas. ‘I take a shower and change into clean clothes. I find

lunch, which is very important. But the most important thing is, I know when I come here, I can get help.'

Tomas lost everything because of a heroin addiction. He's now off drugs, and thanks to the stability he was able to find in the night shelters followed by help from caseworkers in the day centre, he's now in a job and saving up for the deposit on a rental flat.

Chair of Trustees Rev Dr Brian Leathard, rector of St Luke's Church, Chelsea, points out that the Charity is the only homeless shelter in London that remains open to all, regardless of nationality or local connection. 'By choosing a name that comes from the guests themselves, we continue to put our guests at the heart of everything we do,' says Brian.



By adding an icon that is a physical reminder of a church door, the charity also sought to emphasise the unique relationship it enjoys with churches of different

denominations in West London. Churches provide the free use of their halls and often organise volunteer teams to help run the night shelters. The icon and strapline ('Homeless support in West London Churches') reflect this much-valued partnership.

'The charity relies on the support of the church community and the hundreds of volunteers who help make our work possible. We greatly value their commitment and dedication,' says Brian.

'The next chapter in the story of the charity's work with homeless people will be about building on our strengths and focusing on our unique position within the homeless charity sector,' Steven says. 'Our goal will be to help more people get off the streets and help them move towards more stable futures.'

Since getting into work is the only long-term way off the streets for many guests, Glass Door is launching training classes to help guests

develop work-appropriate skills. Thanks to a recent grant, the computer room has been equipped, and the first classes will be starting in the coming year.

Marie Green, a trustee involved with the night shelter and volunteer coordination for Glass Door, said: 'It's incredible what we can achieve when we work together. Every night during the winter, teams of volunteers welcome up to a hundred men and women in a church hall where they find a safe warm haven with hot food and a kind word. Working in collaboration allows us to make a real change in our local communities. Together, we are getting people off the streets and building better futures.'

## **Kent land girls fall and Danae Eleni**

The updating of opera to a different time from when the composer set it is nothing new, and indeed can become somewhat of a cliché, but when it works, it helps us see the work afresh and brings additional resonance to the story. This new production of *Così fan tutte* by Mozart is set in a Kent village in 1943, where two British soldiers home on leave fall for two land girls...



The immediate reason for your own music correspondent to be in Oxford on May Day was to hear St Mary's favourite singer

as Despina in this classic opera. We know Danae Eleni as a cantor and soloist in church music, mainly of the classic age of Bach, Handel, or Pergolesi. However, as part of her developing career she has sung a number of operatic roles for small opera companies, including Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, Micaela in *Carmen* and Genovieffa in *Suor Angelica*.

This was a thoroughly absorbing evening, with the acting enhancing the World War II production and the singing of a very high quality. We had Donald Maxwell, late in his career as a very persuasive Don Alfonso, who is the cynical puppet master of the plot, and Julie Kogan and Martha Jones as the two sisters, Fiodiligi and Dorabella. They were well paired with Thomas Hobbs and Benedict Nelson, as the suitors, Ferrando and Guigliemo.

The plot moves along briskly as the soldiers are apparently recalled to duty, departing to the ravishing serenade, 'Soave sia il vento'. Then on comes Despina, in character as a local Kent village girl, pedalling a traditional bike round the stage. She has two arias, one in the first act and one at the beginning of the second. The first is a worldly piece of advice about not trusting men and especially soldiers to be faithful suitors, and the second a sparkling song on how women should behave to get the better of men. 'By the time she's fifteen a girl should be worldly wise!' This was sung in the bedroom, which the girls were sharing, sitting on dormitory style beds, and was a delight of clarity, wit and musicality.

Apart from her two arias, Despina has lots of comic stage business to manage, including arriving in a nurse's uniform to revive the allegedly poisoned GIs with a large magnet, or later to read the marriage contract disguised as a notary/vicar, singing in a dry, nasal tone to satirise the legal profession. Danae is a natural for such roles, entering into the spirit with gusto and causing great amusement in the audience. All in all, it was a great evening with the Oxford Philomusica, conducted by Marios Papadopoulos.

It was good to see Danae in such a sympathetic role, and the overall reception of the production and the singers was very enthusiastic. Alas, there were only two performances of a finely acted and staged production, but hopefully it will be revived in

the future. According the programme, Danae will be singing Musetta, in Opera24's *La Bohème* on tour this summer. You might be able to catch it at the Grimeborn Festival in London in August; it will certainly be worth the effort!  
*Basso rotundo (alias Patrick Thomas)*

## Out in the garden...

At the moment, everything is getting into summer-mode: the bush roses are putting on a wonderful show and the annual plants are growing up and peeping out from among the various shrubs and taller plants. Many of the annuals self-seeded, giving the garden its typical 'mixed' look. The big white poppies have put on an amazing show and the orange poppies are following on. The lawns have recovered well from the winter and are inviting you to spend time in the garden relaxing and enjoying this small bit of space open to everyone. St Mary's is part of the Quiet Gardens scheme, which uses as its message Jesus' saying 'Come with me by yourselves and get some rest' (Mark 6: 31).  
*Verena Tschudin*



## Ann Swift and Portobello Market

"There is no doubt in my mind that you will easily find on Saturday, the 30th of May, the

150th day of the year and the official 150th birthday of the Portobello Market — 150 antiques from the year 1865.

You may think that this is a bold statement but it is based on the fact that the Portobello Road is not only one of the oldest markets in England but every Saturday it can also lay claim to the largest collection of specialist antique dealers in the United Kingdom.

You may discover many antique dealers in the Portobello antiques section who either sell or own pieces from 1865. They will show you items that were designed, invented, printed, handmade or otherwise produced in 1865 or which commemorate an event from that year. Just ask and a whole new world will open up for you.

The second half of the 19th century in England is often referred to as the Victorian age because of the long reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901). There are many beautiful objects from this period.

1865 was the year in which Lewis Carroll's novel *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* was published, the Salvation Army was founded, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson became the first woman doctor in Britain, the lyrics of the hymn *Onward Christian Soldiers* were written, the wallpaper named *fruit or pomegranate* was designed and manufactured by William Morris, the *History of Lace* by Bury Palliser had its first publication and the Honiton lace industry enjoyed huge popularity and was at its most productive.

Come and join our 150 years Portobello Party on Saturday, 30th of May. For further details follow @rbkcmarkets on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter or visit [www.shopportobello.co.uk](http://www.shopportobello.co.uk) “*Reproduced from Kensington and Chelsea News 28 May 2015 page 10.*”

## June Year's Mind

Joan Palin  
Pamela Shaw  
Gary Davies  
Britta Osbahr  
Leonard Berry  
David Dixon  
Evelyn Davson  
Madge Terry  
Hugo Phil  
Marjorie Cooling  
Kenrick Prescott  
Gisela Osbahr  
Doreen Allen



## Pentecost Turn Up And Sing Choir

Thank you to all who joined the choir on Sunday 24 May. Some of the comments given to me were 'it was a great sound, great fun and sense of achievement., never thought we could do it'. We will be having another Turn up and sing choir later this year, watch out for details.



## Passes for St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey

We have four free passes to get FREE entry into St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey.

If you would like to pick up the tickets please call or e-mail John at the parish office.

## 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 June 2015

Wednesday 3 June Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

Readings at 7.00pm *1 Peter 1. 18-end;*  
*Mark 12. 18-27*

### Sunday 7 First Sunday after Trinity

Readings at 10.30am *1 Samuel 8. 4-11, 16-20;*  
*2 Corinthians 4. 13-5.1;*  
*Mark 3. 20-end*

### Sunday 14 Second Sunday after Trinity

Readings at 10.30am *1 Samuel 15 34-16.3;*  
*2 Corinthians 5.6-10, 14-17;*  
*Mark 4. 26-34*

### Sunday 21 Third Sunday after Trinity

Readings at 10.30am *1 Samuel 17. 32-49;*  
*2 Corinthians 6. 1-13;*  
*Mark 4. 35-end*

### **Sunday 28 Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

Readings at 10.30am 1 *Samuel 1. 1, 17-end*;  
2 *Corinthians 8. 7-end*;  
*Mark 5. 21-end*

### **Sunday 5 July Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

Readings at 10.30am 2 *Samuel 50 1-5, 9-10*;  
2 *Corinthians 12. 2-10*;  
*Mark 6. 1-13*

### **Upcoming in June 2015**

Sunday 7 Parish Lunch  
12 noon Baptism of Georgiana Marsh  
Thursday 11 12.30pm Thursday Lunch  
Sunday 14 12 noon Baptism of William Mueller-Helms  
Saturday 20 Summer Fair  
Sunday 21 12 noon Baptism of Kitty Guard  
Sunday 28 12 noon Baptism of William Hambro

### **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)

### **Parish Administrator**

John McVeigh 020 7835 1440 (Parish Office)

Mon to Fri 9.15am-2.15pm

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

### **Director of Music** John Ward

07853 406050

[boltonsmusic@gmail.com](mailto:boltonsmusic@gmail.com)

### **Verger / Caretaker** David Ireton

020 7244 8998 / 07881 865386

Day off: Tuesday

### **Churchwardens and Vice-chairmen of the PCC**

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie 020 7384 3246

Ann Mulcare 020 7937 2005

### **Members of the PCC**

Mr Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

Mr Richard Brudenell

Mrs Tania Cauberghs

Ms Julie Crutchley

Mr Craig Drake

Miss Margarete Geier (Deanery Synod Representative)

Miss Joanna Hackett (PCC Secretary)

Mrs Ann Mulcare (Deanery Synod representative)

Mr Edward Quinton

Mrs Judy Rydell

Mrs Katrin Roskelly

Ms Camila Ruz

Ms Kelly Webb

### **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](tel: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](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

### **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

### **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 July/August Clarion should be sent in to the church office by 26 June 2015**

*The PCC of St. Mary with St Peter & St. Jude, West Brompton is a*

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