

THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

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

October 2014

A Time of Preparation

Autumn is a time of preparation and activity in the church. We look forward to Advent, the beginning of the church's new liturgical year, to the selection of the theme for the Advent programme, and planning the times and places for the Advent Groups. At a more practical level we have our church cleaning day, timed to show St Mary's at its best for the Harvest Festival service and a celebration of food grown on the land.

Traditionally, the Harvest Festival was held near the time of the harvest moon, and was originally a pagan festival, when one gathered in the food in order to survive. As Christians, we give thanks for the plenty of the harvest and bring our offerings of food, fruit and vegetables to the church, not only to give thanks for the benefits of the harvest, but to share the crop. The children of St Mary's play a special part in the Harvest Festival service. They make their own special contribution by bringing our offerings to the altar and thus sharing in the service. This autumn is also an especially meaningful time for St Mary The Boltons as we continue in our interregnum and prepare to select and welcome a new vicar for this parish. It is a meaningful change of season both for the church and the new incumbent, whoever he or she may be.

When entering the interregnum one of the more challenging questions put to the PCC and wardens was 'which is the most appropriate season to describe your church as it is now'? Is it in its spring, summer, autumn or winter? The more I thought about this question, the harder the answer became. For an individual there is the spring of awakening when one first comes to Christ and wants to continue in one's spiritual journey. Then follows the richness and sharing of faith in summer, the mellowing of autumn into the sleep of winter as one awaits the birth of new spring. St Mary's, with its rich culture and warm tradition is for me, and I

suspect for many of us, a church for all seasons. Perhaps, being in an interregnum, with autumn and Advent at hand, we are about to celebrate our own singular harvest.

Part of the process of the interregnum involves advertising and informing the prospective candidates of the culture, geography and tradition of our church. This is done via a Parish Profile, which was drafted by the Parish Representatives and PCC and forwarded to the Diocese. There is much of the harvest in this document. It contains a description of the church, which has been maintained by the careful husbandry of those who held office, both pastoral and secular, before us. However, we are much more than a building. There are the services we hold, the activities, the charities we support, our resources and most of all, our congregation and all the enrichment they bring. Last, but not least, are the prayers we offer. If you have the opportunity to read this document, I encourage you to do so; it will be on the website. This year, for all of us, will be a challenging time. Our former vicar, Ginny Thomas, left us a good harvest. We now need to work and hold together until the new farmer arrives.

Ann Mulcare

Prayer for the interregnum

God of love and joy and peace (*trustfulness*),
strengthen our rootedness in faith,
kindle (*widen*) 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

Thursday Lunch

The next Thursday lunch is on Thursday 9 October. The speaker is Will Rhodes from the Your Credit Union branch in Kensington. Will will be talking about the history and religious roots of the Credit Unions and their current aims to encourage saving, and to give affordable credit when needed as opposed to pawn brokers or others who charge extortionate interest on loans.

If you would like to attend please put your name on the sign up sheet at the back of church, or call the parish office.

Services in the Interregnum

We will maintain the Sunday 8.0am and 10.30am services, and the mid-week Eucharist with prayers for healing on the first Wednesday of the month.

Usually Morning Prayer is said daily at 8.30am except on Public Holidays.

There will be no more Taizé until further notice.

From the PCC meeting

On Monday 8 September a meeting was held to discuss the process for the appointment of the new vicar. It was attended by the Church Representatives, members of the PCC, and Bishop Paul Williams.

Bishop Paul began by explaining his commitment to this church and parish. He believes that the strength of the Diocese is in its diversity, and that the priest appointed should reach out to all people in the parish. While recognising that there is a need for difference and change, Bishop Paul also emphasised that there would be a need to recognise and embrace our tradition. He emphasised that the Diocese has no underlying plan to delay or extend the Interregnum for financial or other reasons.

The Representatives, with the support of the PCC, had prepared a draft Parish Profile, which was passed to Bishop Paul for his comments and recommendations. The Profile, in its final form, will be entered on the church website for your information. The appointment process and possible time table for interview was also

discussed. It is anticipated that the advertisements will be placed in early October, with the possibility of holding the interviews in late November or early December. Copies of the publications containing the advertisements will be available at the back of the church.

The wardens and the PCC thank everyone who has taken the time and trouble to contribute to the Profile. Your thoughts and input have been invaluable.

Ann Mulcare



News of Al Ahli Hospital, Gaza

The McCabe Educational Trust had on its website a report by Canon John Organ, Chaplain to Bishop Suheil, Bishop in Jerusalem. The following is a shortened version of the Bishop's visit to the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza in September. St Mary The Boltons supported the hospital for two years with our charitable giving.

Hospital Director Suhaila Tarazi briefed the Bishop on what had transpired during the war and on the situation now, since the ceasefire.

Working around the clock and confronted with challenges ranging from lack of electricity to flying shrapnel, the hospital provided services when other agencies closed because of the dangers.

Patients expressed tremendous gratitude for the hospital's care and warmth, with many expressing how their religion (almost all patients are Muslim being treated in a Christian hospital) was never an issue but indeed a sign of our shared common humanity, recognising that we are all children of God.

Speaking at a training day in the hospital for professionals providing psychosocial support, Bishop Suheil affirmed their crucial role in helping people impacted by trauma and loss, and the importance of their services in helping these people find meaning again in their lives

following the life-changing experiences that they had witnessed during the war.

The hospital was only lightly damaged during the conflict. No patients were injured and the hospital's work continued despite some setbacks.

The immediate financial support received from donors such as The McCabe Educational Trust, kept fuel, medicines, and essential supplies flowing, enabling the hospital to function efficiently right through the conflict.

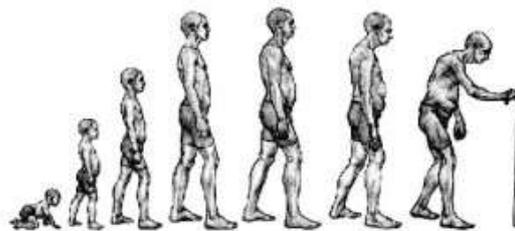
Bishop Suheil also visited those areas of Gaza worst affected by the air strikes and artillery. Large apartment buildings have been reduced to rubble, along with other properties. Standing beside the damaged homes, the sense of loss was palpable. Gazans have known much conflict in recent years, but when discussing their experiences of this latest war, many told Bishop Suheil how this conflict was the worst. They could not believe the relentless, and seemingly indiscriminate bombing, which left them feeling helpless, with no place to find safety.

At the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, in St. Phillip's Church, located on the hospital grounds, Bishop Suheil spoke of the *ervanthood* of Jesus, who came to serve and not to be served. The Bishop said to the hospital staff gathered, that this is exactly what they do, and especially did, during the conflict.

While unsure of the future, there is, however faint, a hope that Israel and Palestine will find a way to live together. Our prayer is for peace, justice, and a meaningful life for both peoples. Signs of hope are everywhere. We watched a family renovating their home and trying to move forward. A local restaurateur was setting up an area of the beach as an outdoor cafe in the hope that Gazans would once again enjoy some sense of normality and recreation. For more information

The McCabe Educational Trust | Hillgate
Place London SW12 9ER
Tel: 020 8675 6828 www.mccabe-travel.co.uk
registered charity number: 1020058

Ageing



The author of Psalm 90 in verse 10 tells us that 'The days of our age are threescore years and ten; and though men be so strong that they come to fourscore years: yet is their strength then but labour and sorrow; so soon it passeth away and we are gone'. It strikes me that this was wildly optimistic when applied to first century Palestine. In the Mediterranean world at that time, of those surviving the first months of infancy, 60 percent would have died by their mid-teens, 75 percent by the mid-twenties and 90 percent by the mid-forties. Few ordinary people lived out their thirties. This throws an interesting light on the remark attributed to Jesus in Matthew 6:27 'Which of you by taking care can add one cubit to his height?' or, because the Greek word for 'stature' is *helikia*, of which the principal meaning is 'age', this is often translated as 'Can any of you by taking care add a single hour to your span of life?' The latter is what the New Revised Standard Version gives us, so let us run with it.

Jesus, it seems, would have been at the upper limit of his expected life-span when he died, and saw no future in trying to extend it by taking care. This is not, of course, true today when by adopting a healthy life style: taking exercise, avoiding the use of drugs, tobacco and alcohol in excess and sticking to a diet low in sugar and processed foods, we can indeed extend our life expectancy, possibly by decades. In Jesus' time a family usually ate only two meals a day: breakfast – light or small amounts of food taken to work; and dinner – a large meal with cheese, wine, vegetables, fruits, and eggs. As for meat, fish was most common, followed by chicken or fowl. Red meat (beef and lamb) was served only on special occasions, and pork and crustaceans were absolutely forbidden. Most foods were boiled or stewed in a big pot and seasoned with salt, onions, garlic, cumin, coriander, mint, dill, and mustard. Food was sweetened with wild honey or syrups from dates or grapes. This sounds

healthy enough. What more could one do then to extend one's life? Probably nothing, and Jesus was quite simply right.

What's more, it seems to me that he saw no merit in a long life. For me it is simply a gift to which our response is gratitude. As it says in the General Thanksgiving 'We thank thee for our creation, preservation and all the blessings of this life'. I try to do this every day and all the time.

What if a long life is actually dangerous? I grew up during World War 2, and took part in its closing stages. Out of school, aged nineteen, the first bit of theology that I came across was a book by an Oxford don called C. S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters* (1942, Collins/Lewis Signature Classic). It is a series of short directives from a senior demon, Under Secretary Screwtape, writing to his nephew Wormwood, a young fiend out on temptation duty, working to destroy the soul of a man whom Screwtape calls 'the patient'. This man is young, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant, a civilian on some kind of war work, in love with a 'very Christian' girl. Screwtape scoffs at the idea that the war is helpful to the Devil's cause in his case. 'Don't you realise', he writes, 'that the patient's death at this moment is precisely what we want to avoid. As the full impact of the war draws nearer and his worldly hopes take a proportionately lower place in his mind; full of his defence work, full of the girl, forced to attend to his neighbours more than he has ever done before and liking it more than he expected; taken "out of himself" as the humans say, and daily increasing in conscious dependence on the Enemy (by which, Screwtape means God) the patient will almost certainly be lost to us if he is killed tonight.' What if he survives? 'If only he can be kept alive' writes Screwtape 'you have time itself for your ally. The long, dull monotonous years of middle-aged prosperity are excellent campaigning weather. Prosperity knits a man to the world. He feels that he is finding his place in it while really it is finding its place in him. His increasing reputation, his widening circle of acquaintances, his sense of importance, the growing pressure of absorbing and agreeable work build up in him a sense of being really at home on earth which is just what we want.

Seventy years is not a day too much for the difficult task of unravelling his soul from Heaven and building up a firm attachment to the earth.'

In *Screwtape* the young man, Wormwood's patient, is killed by an air raid in the final letter. 'He got through so easily! No gradual misgivings, no doctor's sentence, no nursing home, no operating theatre, no false hopes of life; sheer instantaneous liberation. One moment it seemed to be all our world; the scream of bombs, the fall of houses, the stink and taste of high explosive on the lips and in the lungs, the feet burning with weariness, the heart cold with horrors, the brain reeling, the legs aching: next moment it was all gone, gone like a bad dream, never again to be of any account. Did you mark how naturally, as if he had been born for it, the earth-born vermin entered the new life? How all his doubts became, in the twinkling of an eye, ridiculous?'

If I apply this personally, say that the bullet that so lightly grazed my spine had gone in a bit deeper and killed me outright? I should at least have gone as the 'willing captive of a great ideal', though certainly not straight to heaven like C. S. Lewis's hero. Nor should I have fallen, as I have done (now in my 91st year), for every item in Screwtape's hellish list of temptations for the middle aged and prosperous – reputation, acquaintance, importance, work – ending with my invincible sense of 'being really at home in earth which is just what [the Devil] want[s]'. Damn it, how did he know?

I do not want to make too much of this. Like all of my generation I have a great hatred of war, and indeed have devoted the rest of my life to trying to make another war like that as unlikely as possible. But theologically – that is to say in God's eyes, (or in the Devil's) – may there not be something in what C. S. Lewis says? We shall all die one day. The quality of our life is what matters, not its length. What counts is holiness of living, courageous dying. This may be easier to achieve in a short life, spared the corruption of the ensuing years. What matters, on this view, is how well men and women live in it, how well they die.

To end on a rather different note, here is a poem written for Age UK by Roger McGough (Age UK Life, Spring 2014, Issue 8, p. 14) well-known from 'Poetry Please' on BBC Radio 4:

*There is no cure for ageing
Because ageing isn't an illness, but a way of life.
And some are better at it than others.
The secret?
Think yourself younger than you actually are:
On a crowded bus or tube offer your seat to a young man
Design a web site, invent an app
Take up Zumba*, forget to nap.
For no one can predict what's lying in store
With a future more challenging than ever before.
So enjoy the adventure.*

*Time flies, they say, but it's us that fly
Time sits on its hands as we rush by.
And life has a way of gathering speed
So seize the day, we're a special breed
In the blink of an eye
The wave of a hand
The beat of a heart
The brush of a tear
You are old.
But valued still.
Welcome to the fold.*

*Zumba is a dance fitness program created by Colombian dancer and choreographer Alberto 'Beto' Perez during the 1990s, involving dance and aerobic movements accompanied by music.

Hugh Beach



Sleep out so others don't have to!

WLCHC is organising another

sponsored Sleep Out on Friday 10th October to raise £125,000 so they can offer more beds to homeless people in their night shelters throughout the coming winter. Cadogan Estates are once again hosting the event at Duke of York Square, Chelsea, and will provide lavatories and security on the night. Raymond Kyle a member of our congregation is taking part, to sponsor Raymond please go to the Just giving website and put in Raymond Kyle Sleep Out 2014. or use this link

<https://www.justgiving.com/RaymondKyleSleepout/>

Quaint Saints

Ethelred and Ethelbright (Ethelbert) were princes of the royal house of Kent and martyrs. They are not mentioned by Bede, but the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* records their death, but not their names, in 640. Their Legend places this about 30 years later. They were the sons of Ermenred and great-grandsons of Ethelbert of Kent: their uncle Erconbert ruled from 640 and his son Egbert succeeded in 664. Egbert's counsellor Thunor murdered the princes and buried them at Eastry. Egbert was held responsible, and in expiation founded the monastery of Minster, where the princes' sister Ermenburga was first abbess. Their bodies were translated outside Kent for political reasons to Wakering (Essex) and later to Ramsey Abbey by Oswald of Worcester on 17 October, the day when their feast was kept both there and at St Augustine's Canterbury. The Legend was fully developed only in the 11th century. Farmer, DH, *The Oxford Dictionary of Saints*, 3rd edn, 1992, Oxford University Press. Verena Tschudin



Report of Thursday Lunch, 11 September

In his talk to the twenty-four people who gathered for the Thursday lunch, Anthony Williams highlighted a little known but splendid story of Christian dedication. He went as an observer for a day to Windsor Hill Wood, a family home that was created by Tobias Jones for people who were suffering some personal crisis.

Windsor Hill Wood is in a former quarry near Shepton Mallett in Somerset, where Tobias settled after failing to find a place in which to live that satisfied his views about a good life. His 'Utopian Dream' is hidden from the passing world in a ten acre site in which he and his family have their home, extended to provide simple accommodation with close links to nature as a refuge for half a dozen people with emotional problems. They are offered a place for up to six months in an 'extended house party', the purpose being for each person to 'repair' themselves and get healed. For £75 per

week all-in, they help each other in an unstructured set up with simple rules to sustain an orderly life style in a beautiful ambience with a strong Christian ethos. Two caravans and a wooden hut help to offer each person their own space, and use is made of local materials from the quarry and wood, with animals and much home grown produce. Windsor Hill Wood is a working woodland and a self-managing entity.

Anthony found it a very welcoming place, giving him full freedom to explore and discuss with the people living there. He was impressed by this glimpse into a unique venture underpinned by strong Christian values.

Arthur Tait



Taizé Services

Recently I read about the mission statement of a thriving Christian community in Aarau, Switzerland: 'Our church is the

only organisation that works more for its non-members rather than its members'. It took several minutes for me to understand this remark.

I then realised that the Taizé services at St Mary's, which Graham Sharpe started three years ago, often attracted more outsiders than our own church members. Our Taizé services have drawn in Muslims, Buddhists, Christians and people in search of God's existence.

It is in fact this feature that reflects the heart of Taizé itself and which, from its very beginnings nearly 75 years ago, has sought to create a 'parable of community' and something truly ecumenical, reaching out to and embracing everyone. It matches St. Mary's mission statement of 'rooted in faith, open in thought, reaching out in service'.

During the interregnum, the monthly Taizé services have been suspended, but we hope to resume the Taizé Prayer Services at our church in the very near future. In the meantime, Graham Sharpe has compiled a list of alternative places where Taizé Meditations take place in London. I hope to visit most churches within the next six months so that I can learn,

improve and promote the Taizé services when the next vicar starts at St. Mary's. I am grateful to be a member of our beautiful church and pray that we can continue keeping the Taizé torch burning brightly at St. Mary's.

Anne Swift

24-7 Prayer Room, Holy Trinity Brompton, Brompton Square, SW7 1JA
Every 1st & 3rd Mondays 7.30pm (during term times)

St James, 197 Piccadilly, W1J 9LL
Every 3rd Sunday 6pm

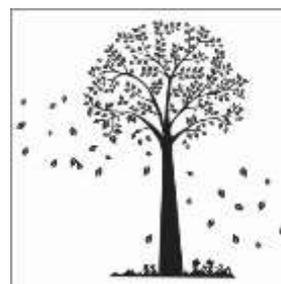
Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, WC2H 7BX
Every Saturday 7.30pm (Note: 1st Saturday of month Mass with Taizé)

St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JJ
Every 1st Sunday 7pm (Note: Service entitled 'Sacred Space' with mix of Taizé and other styles)

St Andrew's Fulham Fields, Greyhound Road, W14 9SA
Every 3rd Sunday 6.30pm

Holy Trinity Clapham, Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0QZ
Every 3rd Monday 7pm

Convent of Immaculate Conception, 15 Southwell Gardens, SW7 4RL
Every Tuesday 8.30pm



Out in the garden

The leaves are beginning to fall now. As the leaves of the plane trees don't decompose and make compost, they

have all to be raked and disposed of by the Council. Jo and John have bravely taken on the task of sweeping around the church every week, and what a help this is.

Just when all the summer flowers turn into seeds, the pink nerines in the rockery suddenly shoot up and shock the eyes with their bright colour and unexpected appearance. It is worth taking a stroll through the garden just to look at them. Still in flower are also the pink phlox,

the small pale blue michaelmas daisies and when the sun shines, the bright yellow or red gazaneas, and the little sunflower-like sanvitalis in the front bed, seemingly flowering for ever. It is quite extraordinary how many people use the gardens, mainly for pleasure, but some also as a short-cut. Lots of interesting conversations happen that way, and also with the children using the fenced-off gardens, curious what is happening on the other side.
Verena Tschudin



Lifeboats

Please support our 4th Annual Concert at St Mary's

In aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution

(organised by the RNLI Kensington Branch)

Thursday 9th October 2014 at 7.15 pm

♪♪ *The Kensington Brass Quintet* ♪♪

Young professionals from The Royal College of Music
(Trumpets, French Horn,
Trombone & Tuba)

followed by

Reception in the Church Hall
£25 per ticket (Students £10)
Including wine and canapés

Further information and tickets
contact Catriona Essenhigh
catriona@hhs.co.uk
020 7751 0833



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.

Clocks go back



The clocks go back on **25 October**.

Octobers Year's mind

Peter Jovet
Mary Challen
Charles Lawther
Margaret Singer
James McNair
John Marryat
Mary Proctor
John Williams
Anne Williams
Gavin Hodge
John Symons
Sandra Ockwell
Florence Payne
Mary Pretyma

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 except Public Holidays.

Readings in October 2014

Sunday 5 October Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Readings at 10.30am *Isaiah 5. 1-7; Philippians 3. 4b-14; Matthew 21. 33-end*

Sunday 12 October Harvest Festival All Age Worship

Readings at 10.30 *2 Corinthians 9. 6-end; Luke 12. 16-30*

Sunday 19 October Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Readings at 10.30am *Isaiah 45. 1-7; 1 Thessalonians 1. 1-10; Matthew 22. 15-22*

**Sunday 26 October Last Sunday after
Trinity**

Readings at 10.30am *Leviticus 19. 1-2, 15-18;
1 Thessalonians 2. 1-8;
Matthew 22. 34-end*

Sunday 2 November All Saints Day

Readings at 10.30am *Isaiah 56. 3-8;
Hebrews 12. 18-24;
Matthew 5. 1-12*

Upcoming Parish Office

St Mary's Church House, The Boltons, London
SW10 9TB Tel 020 7835 1440

www.stmarytheboltons.org.uk

Parish Administrator

John McVeigh 020 7835 1440 (church office)
Mon to Fri 9.15am-2.15pm

john@stmarytheboltons.org.uk

Director of Music John Ward

07853 406050 (mobile)

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 Parochial

Church Council

Mr Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

Mr Richard Brudenell

Mrs Tania Caubergs

Mr Craig Drake

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 Edward Quinton

Mrs Judy Rydell

Mrs Katrin Roskelly

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

suspicious of abuse and other safeguarding concerns.

If you have any concerns, please contact Timon on: [07816 184207](tel:07816184207). Alternatively, you can 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](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

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 November Clarion
should be sent in to the church office by
24 October 2014**