

THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

rooted in faith

open in thought

reaching out in service

JULY & AUGUST 2013

Capital Vision 2020

At a service at St Paul's Cathedral on 6 June, which included the Admission of Churchwardens, the Bishop of London launched Capital Vision 2020, a vision that is to guide the diocese for the next seven years.

The three words that inform the vision – confident, compassionate and creative – emerged from nearly 2000 conversations held in the diocese in the past 18 months to reflect on the times in which we live, to listen and respond by identifying areas where the church in London must be more purposeful and more imaginative.

To enable the church to be more confident in speaking and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the London diocese has made a commitment to communicating the Gospel more effectively, using the opportunities offered by new media. In addition the diocese is committed to equipping and commissioning 100,000 ambassadors representing Jesus Christ in daily life, investing in leadership and increasing the number of ordinands (those training for ordained ministry) by 50%.

To be more compassionate in serving communities with the love of God, the church is committed to enabling new initiatives to fight poverty, inequality and injustice in London and worldwide; this includes the diocesan joint venture with the Church Urban Fund. The diocese is also committed to opening up church buildings to the wider community and to strengthen links between schools and their local Christian community.

Finally the Church in London has pledged to be more creative in reaching new people and places with the Good News of the power of

the Spirit by doubling the number of young people involved in local Christian communities, creating or renewing 100 worshipping communities, and engaging more closely with sport and the creative arts, and praying for at least seven people that we may share with them the story of our faith.

More details can be found on the diocesan website www.london.anglican.org. Users of Twitter can follow the diocese on Twitter @dioceseoflondon or tweet using #cv2020 or Facebook at /DioceseofLondon. The diocese has also produced a card asking 'How will you be part of the story?' and if you would like to respond, the cards are available from the parish office.

In his letter to the diocesan clergy the Bishop of London emphasised that we must of course maintain our day to day mission and ministry across London by remaining committed to serving communities where we are already, through prayer, worship and practical service.

We already do these things at St Mary's and we also do some of the things outlined in Capital Vision. While we should never be complacent about what we are doing, and while there is always room for improvement and new initiatives, it is important to be realistic about what we can and are capable of doing.

The clergy, wardens and PCC continue to keep our daily life under review and if you have any suggestions to offer, please speak to one of us. Members of the PCC are listed on the back of *The Clarion* and their photographs appear in the narthex. If you wish to contact any of them by phone or email, please contact the parish office for their details.

As announced last month, Ruth Lampard will be leaving us in the middle of July, having been appointed chaplain to Chapter I, an organisation dedicated to providing accommodation and support to vulnerable young people. We wish her well in her new appointment and are very grateful for her ministry at St Mary's and the many ways she has contributed to our life of worship and service. She leaves with all our good wishes for her new role, which we hope she will find fulfilling and fruitful. The Bishop of Kensington has given us permission to appoint a new associate vicar (whom we will continue to fund from our own resources) and over the summer the wardens and I will be actively seeking someone to take Ruth's place.

Meanwhile I hope you will all have an enjoyable summer with time to make the most of the sun when it shines.

Ginny Thomas



Four years and nine months at St Mary's

As I write this I am busy clearing the decks, that necessary part of leaving, that is a bit like moving house: lots of nitty gritty work, finding homes for things that are hard to place, binning a lot, and finding many memories triggered by the simple act of sorting through stuff.

It's incredibly how quickly the last (very nearly) five years have passed, and there is so much to be thankful for: to Ginny, for the opportunity of joining her in ministry here at St Mary's, to the Churchwardens (past and present) and PCC for taking the decision to go-ahead and seeking funding for the role of Associate Vicar, to all for the privilege of sharing part of the journey of faith of the body of Christ here at St Mary's. My first and last thoughts are a profound thank you. Nothing that takes place in Church is done by an individual in isolation, and many people have shared the work and the joy in the midst of busy lives and responsibilities: for your generosity, commitment and willingness to respond, thank you!

Some memories that have come to mind, highlighting key areas of my responsibility are:

Children and young people

The Nativity Play is the highlight of the Sunday School and Little Lambs year and always a bit of a white-knuckle ride for the leaders and parents! There is so much work involved behind the scenes, but each year we have seen the children grow in confidence as they tell the story of the birth of Jesus, and as they grow up and take on more important roles. So many children have taken part, and many have moved on, but for all who have taken part in, led and supported Sunday School and Little Lambs, thank you.

I think that by now I do not have to confess places of order purely in the interests of balance, but one of my fondest memories is of the Harvest Lunch, making scarecrows with the children out of old clothes and shredded paper, turning the normally serene and tranquil Chancel into a glorious mess. The mess was not the point, but the great time the children had, feeling at home in church, having lunch as part of the wider church family and then having fun making their scarecrows, much beloved.

Community and mission

A lot of the day to day work is unseen, but the Great Garden Adventures in Bramham Gardens in 2010, 2011, and 2012 were the fruition of work and growing relationships with the Earl's Court Community Trust, Bramham Gardens, and St Mary's. For me, a key goal was enabling children and families from the very diverse communities of the parish to come together and spend a morning being enchanted by the hidden life of the garden through story, bug-hunting and art. For St Mary's, I think it really helped to gain recognition and reach within the wider parish.

Time for Tea with Age UK and a small team from St Mary's has been quietly making a difference. It is a simple thing – a cup of tea, some cake and conversation – but has a huge impact for people who spend a lot of time on their own. Memories of happy faces, cake and song!

Sustainability

If anyone had said to me, 13 years ago when I was ordained Deacon, that I would find digging around in dusty cupboards and stairwells for energy meters, and in files of energy bills, a fruitful area for ministry, I said they would be mad. We have six electricity meters, and two gas meters, and when I arrived, we simply did not know what they all supplied. Now we know, and in August our energy supplier is coming to take out five electricity meters, so we have one electricity meter and one account, which will make a huge difference to us, both in terms of administration and cost. We will be able to continue to monitor the cost of our floodlighting, Hall and Flat. With the Sustainability Group, this hard, detective work has led to huge savings of energy, CO₂ and money for St Mary The Boltons, and the savings continue year on year as we continue to keep a close watch on our energy consumption and bills. The challenge of living sustainably, as a church and for each of us, will continue to grow as we learn about the impact of our lifestyles on the environment. It has been a privilege to know that here at St Mary's we are in the forefront of making a difference, and we rightly celebrate our progress with our Eco-congregation Award in 2010-3, and St Mary's will be reapplying once our meter rationalisation is complete.

Parish Ministry

Some of the life of a priest is very visible: presiding and preaching on Sundays, taking baptisms, weddings and funerals; much of the life of a priest is invisible: in quiet conversations, home visits, small groups, behind the scenes planning and organisation. I would simply like to say thank you for the journey of faith we have shared together, conversations we have had and the privilege of leading worship at St Mary's. I am conscious that I have been a companion along the way for a short time, sharing a small part of the 163 year story (and counting) of St Mary The Boltons.

My thanks also to John, Dave and Trent, for their hard work in front of and behind the scenes.

Please pray for me as I move on to my ministry at Chapter 1, and for Ginny as she continues to lead St Mary's, bearing in mind that one person cannot possibly sustain the work formerly done by two. I know that she hopes to have another clergy colleague in due course, who will bring his or her own insights and gifts.

In all of these memories, underlying all the activity, is not our life, but God's life in us, stirring us up, challenging us to face the demands of our day with hope, leading us on in times of joy and in times of sorrow. May St Mary's flourish and grow: rooted in faith, open in thought and reaching out in service.

Ruth Lampard

Upcoming dates for your Dairy

There will be **NO** Evening prayer on Sundays in August and on the 1 September.

September 8 Patronal Festival –

Guest Preacher The Revd Preb Brian Leathard,
St Luke and Christ Church
Sunday School and Little Lambs begin new term

September 28: all hands on board for window and church cleaning

Sunday 6 October

Harvest Festival – All Age Worship

Saturday 12 October

Kensington Area Study Morning:
Children's Ministry

Saturday 2 November

10am-3pm *Exploring the End of Life –*
(more details in *September's Clarion*)

Sunday 3 November

5.00pm A Service for All Soul's Day

Saturday 16 November

Confirmation at St Paul's Cathedral

Sunday 17 November

12noon The Big Leaf Rake

Sunday 8 December

10.30am All Age Worship with Nativity Play
7pm Carol Service

Tuesday 24 December

Christmas Eve:
Crib Service 4pm
Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Wednesday 25 December

Christmas Day
10.30am Sung Eucharist



Introducing a broader choice of hymns at St Mary's

The world's most famous hymn book has undergone a

complete revision. It now offers a broader than ever range of traditional hymns, combined with the best from today's composers and hymn writers. This is the new Ancient & Modern hymnal, which the PCC has agreed to introduce at St Mary's at our patronal festival on Sunday 8 September. As Director of Music, I am enthusiastic about this expanded repertoire, which brings us more options for both new and well known tunes and inclusive words.

We are offering members of the congregation, present and past, the opportunity to donate one or more hymn books either on their own behalf or in memory of family or friends. We will offer book plates for the dedication if requested, which will include the donor's name and/or the person being remembered.

The cost per hymn book will be £15 and the books will be ordered centrally from the parish office. I hope that many of you will take this opportunity to contribute to the musical life of St Mary's.

Please contact the parish office to let us know if you would like to take part in this exciting new venture.

John Ward

'How to be a better believer'; some thoughts in response to Hugh Beach's articles in *The Clarion*

One of the pleasures of reading *The Clarion* is to read Hugh Beach's articles in which he explores, with a great honesty, his struggles with the Christian faith, with belief and unbelief. In the last three editions of *The Clarion* (April, May and June) he has been asking whether he ought to be making more effort to improve his performance as a believer, in thought, word or deed, so that he can make progress in faith and become a better believer.

Is our belief something that we perform? Is it appropriate to think in terms of making progress and of being a 'better believer' and what might that mean?

Our Christian belief (or the belief of any religion) is something that shapes us, our understanding of the world, its meaning and purpose and our place and behaviour within it. We might like to think that this shaping comes through our own performance and our own efforts, but that would be to deny the role and power of the Holy Spirit that animates, shapes and works within and through us. Our faith is not a performance; it is a response and we are called to respond in whatever way(s) we can.

In the first of his three articles, Hugh openly admits that he has 'doubts about many clauses in the creeds'. While the present Archbishop of Canterbury has said that he can honestly say the creed and truly believe it all, many people probably share Hugh's doubts.

As Rowan Williams has written in his book *Tokens of Trust* (Canterbury Press, 2007), the verb 'believe' as used in the creeds does not mean to accept something as fact; it means 'to have confidence in'. To believe in this sense is similar to having faith. In the New Testament the Greek word for faith is 'pistis' which means trust. To believe is to have confidence in, and to trust. Why do we trust God? To find out, you might like to read Rowan Williams' book as part of your summer reading.

In the same article, Hugh also writes that he has 'never been able to muster any sense of personal love or even affection towards the person of Jesus'. In a Bible study group some years ago I remember an elderly member of the group saying that when she was growing up there was never any suggestion that part of one's faith was to have a relationship with God or Jesus, let alone a relationship of personal love and affection.

It may well therefore depend on how you have been taught and brought up in the Christian faith as to whether or not you have this relationship. It may also depend on whether you *want* to have such a relationship or even *want to want* it. If we believe, as Christians do, that God has shown His love for us (both personally and to all creation) through the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of His Son Jesus Christ, do we want to reciprocate that love and so enter into a relationship with him? Or are we fearful of doing so, not knowing where it might lead, thinking that it will lead us to places we do not want to go?

A further difficulty for Hugh is belief in the resurrection. He writes that 'the way that the New Testament hammers away at the need to *believe* (original italics) the reality of the resurrection shows that this was hard to swallow even in the first century'. Yes, it was hard for the first disciples to swallow the reality of Jesus' resurrection – see the Gospel accounts – but it was their experience of meeting the risen Jesus that changed their lives, and the history of the world. Was that experience fabricated, not real? Again, we are called to trust the witnesses and to trust that God was at work through those witnesses.

That we cannot imagine what the resurrected life will be like does not mean that it cannot be true; after all, we are limited human beings, limited in our thinking and imaginations and limited in our knowledge and understanding, so brilliantly expressed in the Book of Job chapter 38. Would it help to know what the resurrected life is like? I very much doubt it; it would only lead, I fear, to yet more infighting between Christians and people of other faiths and none.

In his article in May's *Clarion* Hugh writes that Jesus 'became the founder of a great world religion'. He did not; He came to proclaim the 'Kingdom of God'. It has been argued that Christianity started off as a sect within Judaism; it was only after many years of debate and discussion that struggled with the nature of Christ and the concept of the Trinity that Christianity became an established religion with its own church, doctrines, rites and rituals. As Jesus proclaimed the kingdom in His teaching and actions so He inaugurated the kingdom, which can *already* be experienced and is a reality here on earth, but has *not yet* come in its fullness; that is why we continue to sin, that wars and genocide continue (May's *Clarion*).

There are many other points in Hugh's articles that raise interesting questions and it is impossible to do justice to them in these pages, but I would like to finish by addressing two of his concerns: prayer and reading/studying the Bible.

'Pray as you can and not as you can't' are words attributed to Teresa of Avila (and others) and this is sound advice. (And don't worry too much about falling asleep; perhaps you need the sleep more than prayer). Much has been written about prayer and temperament; not all ways of praying suit all people. By all means try different ways of praying; *lectio divina*, Ignatian, contemplative (or centring) prayer, remembering that intercessory prayer rises out of that phrase in the Lord's Prayer, 'thy will be done'. As your experience of prayer develops, you may well find yourself drawn to different methods of praying at different times.

Finally, read the Bible intelligently, not literally, using commentaries where appropriate and keeping up to date if possible with the latest biblical scholarship. The best way to read and study the Bible is not in isolation; read and study it with others, as Hugh rightly does. The best theologians, be they academic or non-academic, hold together prayer and study; the one informs and supports the other.

It is in reading and studying the Bible (and other books), in personal prayer and worship that we begin to have a relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ. This may not feel, to Hugh, like a relationship of personal love and affection, but he can be assured that he is held in personal love and affection by God through His Son Jesus Christ.

Ginny Thomas

After the Summer Fair 2013



Organising the Summer Fair has taught me two things: firstly, never doubt that God exists; and secondly, once you have done it you know

how to give a speech at the Oscars. It can all be summed up in two little words THANK YOU but, like the Oscars, they need to be said to so many people. Thank you to Ginny for asking me to do it – she might think it is a poisoned chalice (and at times I do too) but it is fun, I do enjoy it and it is a lovely way of getting to know people, and it does remind you that God works in a mysterious way but he does perform wonders!

I'm sure others have much more spiritual analogies as a definition of faith but the summer fair works for me, there is hope, despair, anger, self-pity, disappointment, joy, laughter, gratitude, relief, comfort, companionship, friendship, generosity, and sense of grace, all in various proportions and sometimes all in the space of ten minutes but laughter, gratitude and awareness of the Almighty's awe-inspiring sense of timing and humour are the strongest for me. He never fails and something always turns up!

All I can say is thank you to all the people who helped, who volunteered, who came despite the weather, who rallied when asked, who found contributions for the hampers, the tombola, the bric-à-brac, the cake stall, the book stall, those who wrote cheques because they couldn't come on the day, those who wrote cheques AND came on the day; those friends and neighbours of the church who gave glamorous raffle prizes and generous donations;

to those who laughed when the rain started, then roared with laughter when it rained so hard that all the gazeboes leaked!

Thanks to John, the star from the Parish Office. Thanks to the lovely Louisa and George who is the best Goalie and who kept the date in his diary for more than six months (and who now has a strong fan club formed by the younger members of the congregation with Rupert as Chairman); to Chris and Miriam who got the concept of the Glider Challenge and flew with it; to Jessica and the Sunday School crew, to the Fowkes family for the fantastic balloons; to Nicki the best and kindest face painter in the business; to Val and Lottie for keeping track of the multitudes of books; Anthony Bryceson for the best barbecued sausages and hot dogs and his beautiful family for being without him for so much of the day; to Deborah and Phillip Challoner for the fantastically festive coconut shy; to the wonderful Hanan-Paul family for coming back yet again to man the cake stall; to Patricia for the tombola stall; to Margarete, Jo and Nick who managed with gracious warmth and generous hospitality The Boltons Tea Gardens (and recreating it in the hall when it got washed out); to Craig and Martha for inspirational Pimms; to Mark and Susan Nichols for the Holland Park Opera tickets; Micki Rogers to the Yoga prize; to Patrick and Leo for explaining the Tokens System over and over and over again; to Sheila, Mary and Pat for raffle and hamper ticket sales; to the Hunt family for the beautiful treasure map and Pin the Tail on the donkey; to Jo and John and Mary for helping the mighty Dallas with the bric-à-brac; to Anthony Williams for organising the sound system and being the compere for the afternoon. Thanks to all those who put marquees up in the morning, then peeled off tablecloths and moved wet and soggy everything from the garden to the church at the end of the day, once we had drunk up the Pimms while the rain kept coming down.

Thank you to those who came back to pack up the tents after church on Sunday Morning; who lugged boxes of books and crates of stuff; for those who organised, fetched and carried; to Ginny for not minding that the church looked

like a Scottish Mill with acres of tartan rugs drying over the pews on Sunday afternoon. Thanks also have to go to Dave for doing so much donkey work getting stuff down from the loft and then back up again in time for Sunday morning coffee and for getting it into the gardens and remembering which bit went with what and where it came from. It never ceases to amaze me what can be created and cleared up in the space of a day.

It was a very good feeling walking away from church on Monday afternoon, knowing that all was calm and serene again.

If I try to list everyone from the congregation who helped I know I will forget someone and then might offend, which is the last thing I would want to do, so to everyone, thank you. I will, though, list those commercial organisations that helped us: Gemma and everyone at Knight Frank who printed the posters and flyers; Toby Brown of tlc REAL Estate Agents who gave us the two tickets for Chelsea and lent us their tents and blankets; Richard Pinner who really is the BEST magician and is completely wonderful and did not mind the weather at all: brilliant, adaptable, undemanding and completely professional; to the brilliant band who kept our spirits up as the rain came down and did not give up on us; Russell, the florist outside Oddbins on the Earl's Court Road who gave us the flowers for the tea tables; Only Roses who gave us the stunningly beautiful bouquet of roses as a raffle prize; The Troubadour, Wyndham House, Gail's Bakery and Pure Baby who gave us very generous vouchers as prizes; Lea and Sandemann who gave us wine for the raffle; Daunt Books who gave us some of their own books without a second thought; Farmers Ironmongers and The Boltons Residents' Association too.

It is like the speeches at the Oscars, and I will just add that famous last line: thank you to my family, I learned most things from my brilliant mother and I am supported in everything by my wonderful husband Edward.

Here's to next year We're already looking for banana boxes and old bread trays for the books!

Katrina Quinton



Flower Farewell

I am very sad to be putting away my secateurs and scissors after over thirty years of helping Boo Simpson with her great talent as a flower arranger, but now in my early nineties it is beyond me.

We did the flowers for many weddings over the years. To begin with there were as many as twelve or fifteen a year, and funerals and occasional christenings and, of course, the festivals of Christmas, Easter and Harvest. I can never decide which is the loveliest.

There is, of course, much behind the scenes work, ringing around for helpers, sorting out the flowers that we used to collect early in the morning from Nine Elms, Boo having decided with the bride, which colour scheme they wanted. Filling the vases and pew posies with previously soaked oasis and wire the day before, and going in on the day of the wedding to see all was well watered. The big arrangements absorb the water overnight. Then, almost daily visits to keep them watered and re-arranged for the following Sunday, and even another Sunday if we were lucky! Then there was the final clearing away. Anne Swift used kindly to take bunches of good flowers to elderly local parishioners and care homes.

We have had many helpers during those years. It was Boo's idea to help more impecunious brides and make money for the church, which must be more than a few thousand pounds by now. Her early helpers were Ann Leyborne Popham, who was very talented, and also sculpted the beautiful Madonna and Child in the North Window in the sixties; Marion Coate who did much work for St Mary's in the sixties and seventies, the lovely white lilac in the border on the South side of the garden is in her memory. The Eagle lectern was given by the family of Pam Bryceson in memory of her husband. The two pedestals that the larger vases are placed on were given in memory of Margaret Rose, who helped for many years.

It has been wonderful to be able to help arrange the beautiful flowers we have used through the years and all the different colour schemes Boo devised.

Of recent years I would like to thank Doreen Santana for her reliable help for over twenty years, Josephine Crickmay and my daughter Mandy Renton, who has stood in for Boo sometimes, and not to forget the invaluable help from Dave with heavy work, and John in the office.

All my best wishes to the new group of helpers, and to St Mary'. There could not be a lovelier setting for a wedding.

Anita Dowbiggin

RIDE+STRIDE

Ride+Stride , Saturday 14 September, 10.0am to 5.0pm

Ride+Stride is a national event, where people are sponsored to walk or bike between places of worship all over the country. Many places of worship not normally open all day will be welcoming participants on the day. The money raised will help to preserve some of Britain's 47,000 churches, chapels and meeting houses which are at risk of falling into serious disrepair.

Supported by The National Churches Trust, in partnership with County Churches Trusts nationwide, Ride+Stride crosses 34 counties and opens the doors to some of the most rare and unusual churches. To help raise money, you will need to be sponsored by your friends or family. Here at St Mary's sponsorship details are available from John McVeigh in the Parish Office. In 2013, Ride+Stride is aiming to raise over £1.5 million for the restoration and preservation of historic churches and chapels.

A list of Participating Churches and Suggested Routes are available from John. Raise as much sponsorship money as you can, and encourage all your tax-paying sponsors to Gift Aid their sponsorship. On the day, follow your route and visit as many Churches and Chapels as you can. Enjoy looking around some of Britain's most

beautiful buildings; many Churches (including St Mary's) will offer delicious refreshments.

London Ride+Stride is organised by the Heritage of London Trust, the leading grant giver in the capital. The money raised is split and half goes to a place of worship of your choice, and the other half to the heritage of London Trust for future repairs to religious buildings in London.

Participating Churches in Kensington and Pimlico are: St John the Baptist, Holland Road, W14 8AH; St George Campden Hill, W8 7JG; St Matthew Bayswater, 29 St Petersburg Place, W2 4LA; Holy Trinity, Prince Consort Road, SW7 2BA; ST MARY THE BOLTONS; St Luke's Sydney Street, SW3 6NH; St Simon Zelotes, Milner Street, SW3 6NH; Holy Trinity, Sloane Street, SW1X 9BZ; St Gabriel, Warwick Square, SW1V 4Ps; St Barnabas, Pimlico, St Barnabas Street, SW1W 8PF; St James the Less, Pimlico, Thorndike Street, SW1V 2PS.

Several websites give much information:

<http://www.rideandstrideuk.org/>

<http://nationalchurchestrust.org/home.php>

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?uniqueVmgCharityUrl=heritageoflondon>

For any questions, get in touch with John in the Parish Office: 020 7835 1440



Biblical salad

The Good Book Cookbook by Naomi Goodman, Robert Marcus and Susan Woolhandler (1990, Fleming H. Revell Co, Old Tappan NJ) is

made of recipes of dishes or ingredients mentioned in the Bible. The recipe below is 'Tabbouleh Salad' (p. 65).

'So the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. And they ate of the

produce of the land on the day of the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain on the very same day. Joshua 5, 10,11.

1 cup fine-grained bulgur wheat
3 cups boiling water
1 bunch [spring onions], finely chopped
2 cups parsley, chopped
4 tablespoons vinegar (lemon juice can be substituted)
½ cup chopped radishes
Salt to taste
3 tablespoons olive oil
1 teaspoon sharp mustard
Romaine lettuce leaves
¼ cup fresh mint leaves, finely chopped (optional)

In a large bowl, cover the bulgur wheat with boiling water. Let soak for 30 minutes or until tender. Drain the wheat and combine with all other ingredients except lettuce leaves. Marinate and chill for several hours, or overnight, in refrigerator. Heap salad on a platter and arrange lettuce leaves around it so that they may be used as scoops. This is an excellent luncheon dish.'

Verena Tschudin

Thursday Lunch Meeting Report of 13 June: Living on the Edge; aspects of life in the Outer Hebrides

At the last Thursday lunch before the summer the Vicar had no trouble in introducing the speaker who was her husband, Patrick!



He gave a talk on his experiences in having a cottage on the Island of Barra in the Outer Hebrides or Western Isles, which is further from London than

Rome is! He described the simple challenges of getting to the island by sea on Caledonian MacBrayne with a five and a half hour crossing through the Minches, some of the roughest waters in Britain. The other way is to fly in a very small islander plane from Glasgow and to land on the Traigh Mhor, the great cockle

strand beach at low tide. It is said to be the only scheduled airline flight that has to adjust its time to the tide table...

It is one of the most delightful experiences to fly low over the Firth of Clyde, up over the Inner Hebrides, with views of Mull, Iona and Staffa, and to land on the beach and get out onto the sand to walk the ten yards to the 'terminal'.

The island has about 1800 permanent residents, but many of the working age population leave the island for work on the mainland.

Historically, Barra has had a tradition of seamen, whether in the fishing industry or the Merchant Navy, but today there are more people in administrative and teaching roles. On the island there is fishing, especially wonderful shellfish, langoustines and scallops, which are processed quickly and flown out to discerning restaurants in Madrid, Paris and London. Students study at colleges in Oban during the week and have to leave to go to university. The island has a wealth of tales, none more famous than 'Whisky Galore', the book by Compton MacKenzie, which was made into an atmospheric film in the 1950s, shot mainly on Barra. It was based on the true events of the stranding of the 'Politician' in 1941 with a cargo of whisky bound for the USA. The boat was wrecked just off Eriskay, the neighbouring island to Barra, also famous as the landing place of Bonnie Prince Charlie on his return to Scotland from France, and the sturdy ponies that are said to be the purest bloodline going back to Viking times.

One of the glories of the island is the natural world, both in bird and sealife, as well as wild flowers, all set in what is a stunning frame of rock, silver sand and turquoise, luminous green, sapphire blue and ultramarine colours - at least when the sun shines! There are colonies of puffins and little auks on Mingulay, fulmars, cormorants and gannets to the north, oystercatchers, little and common terns, dunlin, lapwing and curlews to be spotted all along the coast. Just north of the cottage there are harbour and grey seals, which are curious animals, although their song in the evening sounds distinctly eerie... but perhaps the rarest bird is the corncrake, of which there are only a

few hundred left in Britain. Several nest around the cottage and Patrick and Ginny are some of the few people actually to have seen them as they are notoriously shy, scampering about in the long grass. One can always hear their grating call – crex, crex – and if awake, as dawn comes at around 3.0am and they start up, no matter how rare, one would be happy to wring their necks!

The wild flowers are also a delight. In spring the island is carpeted with yellow primroses, and as the summer wears on the machair blooms. Growing on sandy soil, which has been grazed by cattle or sheep, the short grass is covered with thousands of small wild flowers, including sea pinks, ladies bedstraw, asphodel, celandines, yarrow and even purple orchids. Round the cottage there is a thicket of wild dog roses and together with the wild flowers, the air is sweet with the perfume of so many blooms.

The climate is less harsh from the temperature than might be expect as the Gulf Stream washes the shores and preserves the island from serious frost or snow. However the winters are long and dark, the rain can be heavy and prolonged and the wind blows most of the time, usually fresh but often gale force. Ginny and Patrick have spent many summers there but not yet a winter. The islands are a very different place from November to March! But, when the sun shines and the air is soft, the sky larks are singing and the seas are calm, there can be no more lovely place in the British Isles
Patrick Thomas

Out in the garden...

In July the garden is at its most opulent. The roses are giving a spectacular display of flowers at the moment, and some of the big shrubs are also making a good show of their finery. This is the time to enjoy the garden.

Walk round it and take in what a wonderful space it is for the neighbourhood. Lie down in the grass and feel the earth and gaze into the sky and watch the clouds passing. If you sit down, there is bound to be a robin coming to say hello within moments. There is a wren family about, as well as the usual pigeons, magpies and the occasional parakeet.

The garden is also a Quiet Garden: even more reason to enjoy being out in it and taking in the glory, diversity and wonder of God's creation.
Verena Tschudin



Enough Food IF Campaign, Saturday 8 June

When I read about this in the June *Clarion* I decided to go, but did not make contact with Ruth as I only intended to go to the Service in Central Hall, Westminster. My days of marches and protest rallies are sadly over. I have attended many rallies for causes close to my heart since I came to live in London since 1976.

I arrived at the venue in good time, but was amazed to find the main hall and balcony full and people being ushered into various overflow areas. I was in the large lecture hall. We were told that St. Margaret's Church was also full and that people were holding prayer meetings outside in the street; it was so encouraging.

The atmosphere was one of prayer and praise to our almighty God, creator of the universe. People had come together in the cause of eliminating world poverty from all parts of the UK and from many countries overseas.

The main speaker was Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster. I do wish I had a transcript of his address; it completely overturned most people's ideas of the affluent world's reaction to Third World poverty. He explained to us that we too are in a state of poverty owing to our lack of understanding and commitment, the wasteful way we squander God's gifts and our attitude of condescension towards people who lack resources to feed and care for themselves and their families. Our lust for what we know as 'the good things of life' is summed up in the latest advertisement I have seen for easy money: 'want it – get it'. We throw away so much that could be re-used and the waste of mountains of edible food is a terrible sin.

The Archbishop concluded by asking each of us to discuss with our neighbour: 1) what we have done and 2) what we intend to do to address this urgent situation of world poverty.

As I could not go to the Hyde Park Rally I looked through all the Sunday papers to read about it. Not one had an article on the IF Campaign. This is so sad; the media editors obviously did not think it would be of interest to their readers.

Greta Travers



Something to Celebrate

Indeed I celebrated! I produced lots of champagne at the end of a 10.30 am service one Sunday in the middle of June. Hope you were there to enjoy a glass or two. The reason for celebrating is that I have been coming to St Mary's for 50 years. I felt at home and welcomed in 1963 and have continued to do so. St Mary's is a good place to worship.

So many memories I could fill a *Clarion* with them... I will share a few. When I first came, there was no hall attached to the church. Coffee was served at the Vicarage in Gilston Road, after the 9.00 am Parish Communion and before Mattins at 11.00 am. Coffee after Evensong at 6.30 p.m. was served in one of the rooms at our original Church House in Redcliffe Gardens. I well remember scampering off after Evensong to put the kettle on and get the cups out. A surprising number of parishioners would walk along to chat over coffee, even on dark winter evenings.

The curate in those days lived in a tiny flat in the Church House. He had a small living room, small bedroom, a minute kitchen, which housed the bath under a cover that also acted as his only kitchen equipment storage and preparation area. No bathroom as such. The loo was outside the door of the flat. I don't think many priests would relish that kind of accommodation today.

Our priests were the Chaplains to the Royal Marsden Hospital before the National Health Service provided a full time chaplain.

There was a Mother's Union, a Young Wives' Group, the Parish Players, and a Whist Drive among the activities at St Mary's. Jumble sales took place quite frequently and were lively affairs. The annual summer garden party took place in the lovely garden of Mr and Mrs Douglas Fairbanks (of film fame) in the Boltons.

I joined the Under 30's Group, going to my first meeting in September 1963. This was a very active group. We held parish dances in Fulham Town Hall. Does anyone else remember the lively music of the group Robb Storme and the Whispers? We had many speakers visit the group, including some very well known people. Theatre visits and parties were enjoyed. Quite a lot of meetings were open to all parishioners, especially when we had speakers.

I remember a splendid production of *Everyman* by St Mary's Parish Players. Also memorable was a production of Noye's Fludde together with St Luke's, Redcliffe Gardens; 150 children took part.

1966 was particularly memorable with the opening of the new Church House, attached to the church, complete with loo and a kitchen! It is difficult to imagine now how we managed without it. It also included a flat for the verger so he or she could live on the premises. In 1968 I married one of the churchwardens, with the other warden being best man. Where was the wedding? St Mary's of course. The reception was held in the newly built church hall: very easy for the guests, no need for cars! My son, Simon, was born in 1972 with the baptism taking place during the Parish Communion... at St Mary's.

Over the years I have been involved in many aspects of the life of the parish, including a period as churchwarden. I have served on many committees; I won't list them or you may think I am a committee addict, but far from it. It does seem true that the more you are willing to be involved, the more enrichment you gain. St Mary's has had a number of pilgrimages over recent years and I have been able to participate

in all of them. Iona, Provence, Russia, Durham, Spain, and most recently Waldsassen in Germany. They were all different and wonderful learning opportunities with time for reflection, fellowship and fun.

The church hall (and enlarged kitchen) attached to the church make social occasions such as parish lunches much easier. Scottish dancing, an auction, harvest festival meals, Stewardship suppers and quizzes have featured over the years. We celebrated Dorothy Patrick's 100th birthday in the hall last year; she was at St Mary's before me.

Thinking about the various events and activities in my 50 years at St Mary's, I realise that although there has always been an emphasis on worship, reflection and continuing learning, there have been lots of times of enjoyment and celebration and I seem to have raised my glass many times during the years!

Thank you, St Mary's, to all the clergy over the years who have sustained the life of the parish, to all the parishioners, living and dead, who have given me so much friendship and support, I raise my glass.

Sheila Gibbs



Henry Cole, Victorian visionary and pragmatist

As St Mary's is fortunate enough to be situated near the Royal Albert Hall and the world-famous South Kensington

Museums, below is a shortened version of an article that appeared in the *RSA Journal* in October 2002, written by Michael Leapman.

'Henry Cole was one the great Victorian pragmatists, and innovator who recognised quicker than most the opportunities thrown up by the expanding horizons of the age, as well as their attendant challenges. A gift for lateral thinking enabled him to address problems in widely varying fields and to come up with

inspired, practical solutions. Crucially, he was also equipped with the energy, drive and persuasive skills to see his ideas through to completion.

'He is remembered chiefly as one of the progenitors of the Great Exhibition of 1851, and afterwards of the South Kensington museum of design and manufactures that would develop into the Victoria and Albert. Yet he boasted numerous other attainments.

'He played a key role in establishing three landmarks of his era: the Public Record Office, the penny post and later the Royal Albert Hall. He was a children's author, painter, journalist, entrepreneur, talented designer of ceramics, father of eight and guiding spirit of the Society of Arts in the years before the word Royal was added to its name...

'Born in Bath in 1808, the son of a captain in the dragoons, he was educated at Christ's Hospital but left at 15 to work as a clerk at the Records Commission, charged with transcribing and classifying the nation's public archive. To many this would seem painfully tedious work, but Cole became absorbed in the subject and his application to its minutiae earned him promotion to assistant keeper of the records in 1838, when he was still only 30...

'As editor of the *Railway Chronicle* in the early years of rail, he campaigned for a single national gauge, to allow trains to run freely right across the country. At the same time he became involved in the drive to establish a cheap, prepaid postal system to replace the expensive, unreliable, cash-on-delivery service then available. In 1837 Rowland Hill published his ideas for the penny post and the following year Cole launched a journal called *Post Circular*, in support of Hill's plan...

'His interest in art, literature and design had been aroused when he was living with his father in the same house as Thomas Love Peacock, the novelist and poet. He helped Peacock write reviews of concerts and through him came into contact with a circle of artists and intellectuals, including the philosopher John Stuart Mill. He took lessons in painting in watercolours and some of his works were exhibited at the Royal

Academy's summer exhibitions. In 1838 he married Marian Fairman, and soon after the birth of their first child he began writing a series of story books called Felix Summerly's Home Treasury, followed by guide books to the National Gallery, Westminster Abbey and Hampton Court, all written under the same pseudonym.

'His so-called Summerly tea service was plain by Victorian standards, its only decorative flourishes being animals' heads on the teapot's spout, lid and handle. In Cole's own words it possessed 'enough beauty and ornament as is consistent with cheapness'. It won first prize and remained in production by Minton for much of the 19th century...

'The competition represented his first contact with the Society of Arts. As a direct result he became a member in 1846, and his enthusiastic participation at its meeting ensured his election to its governing Council within months. Through serving on the Council he became acquainted with Prince Albert, Victoria's consort, who had taken over as President of the Society in 1844...

'Cole, the most active member of the executive committee, was influential in gaining acceptance for Joseph Paxton's revolutionary design in glass and iron, soon dubbed the Crystal Palace...

'The Great Exhibition proved a huge financial and popular success, with some six million people passing through the doors of the Crystal Palace during its six-month season. The £186,000 profit it generated was spent on buying a large estate just south of its Hyde Park site, to accommodate museums and schools that would carry forward the exhibition's aims and achievements. Prince Albert, writing to Cole after the doors had closed for the last time, paid him his justified compliments: "You have been one of the few who originated the design, became its exponent to the public and fought its battles in adversity, and belong now to those who share in its triumphs."

'As a reward, he was made secretary of the National Design School and then of the new Department of Practical Art (later of Science and Art) established by the Board of Trade. He

was also put in charge of setting up a Museum of Ornamental Art, initially sited at Marlborough House in St James's. He was allotted £5,000 for the purchase of items from the exhibition to form the nucleus of the collection, later transferred to the new South Kensington Museum... that was officially named after Victoria and Albert in 1899... Cole persuaded the trustees of the Manchester Fine Arts Exhibition to buy [a significant collection of applied arts] and to lease it to South Kensington, which, as money became available, eventually bought the whole collection, piece by piece...

'Developing the Kensington museum remained his main priority at the Department of Science and Art until he retired from his official position in 1873, at 65... He became the driving force behind the construction of the Royal Albert Hall as a memorial to the Prince [Albert], and when public subscriptions proved inadequate to fund the building he had the idea of raising the money by selling debenture boxes in the hall, giving holders a permanent right of admission...

'The Victorian era of industrial and imperial expansion and diminishing social barriers provided boundless opportunities for men of vision and determination like Cole... when he came to write *Fifty Years of Public Work*, Cole chose as its motto a quotation from Ecclesiastes: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with might." Nobody could say that he did not live up to it.'

Pat Schleger



When prayer is not needed

During my recent stay in a French hospital while my broken elbow was repaired, I did not pray once. I only momentarily became aware of this and only briefly wondered why; my life being dominated by the after effects of an operation and the anaesthetic. I was, though, quite calm and not at all worried. I subsequently realised that from the time I had my accident no 'sky telegrams' had been needed. The taxi driver who took me to the

hospital was a former ambulance driver and so my emergency registration was immediate. I was examined straight away and when it was discovered that an operation was necessary, a bed was found for me. Twelve hours after arriving in the ward in the early hours of the morning I was in the operating theatre. After coming round I could not fault the efficiency of the hospital, nor the care I received.

As soon as I left hospital I offered prayers of thanks. I was puzzled, though, why I had remained silent during my stay. Had I turned my back on God? Ginny has reassured me that the answer to my question was 'no'. God is always there to provide it when you need his help even if you do not, or I suppose, are not in a position to ask for it.

I then saw this advice illustrated in a way that only Hollywood can do it, in a scene in the film *Behind the Candelabra*. Liberace, who was a Catholic, is seriously ill in hospital and close to death. He is praying not to die when he is visited by a nun dressed all in white who tells him 'Don't waste your strength.' The nun is, of course, a vision, but after my own experience her words of comfort and reassurance that prayer is not always needed, certainly seemed very real and meaningful to me. And Liberace did recover.

Anthony Williams



Sustainability Group

Top Tip

As the school year comes to an end, why not find out if your school organises second-hand uniform sales and get in there before the end of term.

If you no longer need your uniform, pack it up and take it to school so that other children can benefit from clothes that often have life left in them but are now grown out of or no longer needed. Make sure it is whole and clean and ironed. You can help your bank balance, other people's bank balance and your school can benefit too.

Katrina Quinton

Confirmation Classes

It is the practice at St Mary's to prepare candidates for confirmation in the autumn, with confirmation taking place at St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday 16 November in the afternoon. If you are considering confirmation for yourself or your child, or want to know more about confirmation in general, please speak to Ginny or Ruth, who will be happy to answer any questions. We consider 11 to be the minimum age for children to be confirmed. Over the past few years we have held separate classes for children and adults; there are about eight sessions in all, beginning in early September.

July & August Year's mind

Mary Harrington

Lorraine Seely

Robert Hawker

Derek Wood

Jean-Paul Mahieu

Julian Ridsdale

Rosemary Everett

John Harris

Hazel Bosworth

Enid Ingle

Poppy Readman

David Messerlian

Keith Doran

Thomas Harrington

Richard Bond

Harry Parkinson

Olga O'Grady

Joanna Simon

Caroline Redgrave

Geoffrey Bellman

Roland Sutcliffe

Margaret Lake

Alec Skempton

Christa Soell

Nancy Smith

Milosh Gregovich

Zia Ahmad

Joachim von Bethmann-Hollweg

Clarissa Lada-Grodzicki

Adele King

Minnie Warwick

Robert Jackson

Geneviève Maw

Murat Akiner

Peter Canadine

Norah Bowen

Betty Greenland

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am Eucharist, 10.30am Sung Eucharist
4.30pm Evening Prayer.

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); Evening Prayer is usually said at 5.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday except Public Holidays.
Wednesday 7.00pm Eucharist

Readings in July 2013

Sunday 7 July	Sixth Sunday after Trinity
Readings at 10.30	<i>Galatians 6. 7-16;</i> <i>Luke 10. 1-11, 16-20</i>
Wednesday 10	Eucharist
Readings at 7.00pm	<i>Genesis 41. 55-end;</i> <i>42. 2-7, 19-end;</i> <i>Matthew 10. 1-7</i>
Sunday 14 July	Seventh Sunday after Trinity
Readings at 10.30am	<i>Amos 7. 7-end;</i> <i>Colossians 1. 1-14;</i> <i>Luke 10. 25-37</i>
Wednesday 19	Eucharist
Readings at 7.00pm	<i>Exodus 3. 1-6, 9-12;</i> <i>Matthew 11. 25-27</i>
Sunday 21 July	Eighth Sunday after Trinity
Readings at 10.30am	<i>Amos 8. 1-12;</i> <i>Colossians 1. 15-28;</i> <i>Luke 10. 38-end</i>
Wednesday 24 July	Eucharist
Readings at 7.00pm	<i>Exodus 16. 1-5, 9-15;</i> <i>Matthew 13. 1-9</i>
Sunday 28 July	Fifth Sunday after Trinity
Readings at 10.30am	<i>Hosea 1. 2-10 ;</i> <i>Collations 2. 6-15 ;</i> <i>Luke 11. 1-13</i>
Wednesday 31 July	Ignatius of Loyola
Readings at 7.00pm	<i>Exodus 34. 29-end;</i> <i>Matthew 13. 44-46</i>

There will be **NO Evening prayer on Sundays in August and the 1 September.**

Readings in August 2013

Sunday 5 August	Tenth Sunday after Trinity
Readings at 10.30am	<i>Hosea 11. 1-11;</i> <i>Colossians 3. 1-11;</i> <i>Luke 12. 13-21</i>
Wednesday 7	John Mason Neale
Readings at 7.00pm	<i>Numbers 13. 1-2,</i> <i>25-14. 1, 26-35;</i> <i>Matthew 15. 21-28</i>
Sunday 11 August	Eleventh Sunday after Trinity
Readings at 10.30	<i>Isaiah 1. 1, 10-20;</i> <i>Hebrews 11. 1-3, 8-16;</i> <i>Luke 12. 32-40</i>
Wednesday 14	Maxamillian Kolbe
Readings at 7.00pm	<i>Deuteronomy Ch 34;</i> <i>Matthew 18. 15-20</i>
Sunday 18 August	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
Readings at 10.30am	<i>Isaiah 5. 1-7;</i> <i>Hebrews 11. 29-12.2;</i> <i>Luke 12. 49-56</i>
Wednesday 21	Eucharist
Readings at 7.00pm	<i>Judges 9. 6-15;</i> <i>Matthew 20. 1-16</i>
Sunday 25 August	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
There will be no 8am service today	
Readings at 10.30am	<i>Jeremiah 1. 4-10;</i> <i>Hebrews 12. 18-end;</i> <i>Luke 13. 10-17</i>
Wednesday 28	No Midweek Eucharist
Sunday 1 September	Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
Readings at 10.30am	<i>Jeremiah 2. 4-13;</i> <i>Hebrews 13. 1-8, 15-16;</i> <i>Luke 14. 1, 7-14</i>
Wednesday 4 September	Birinus Bishop
Readings at 7.00pm	<i>Colossians 1. 1-8 ;</i> <i>Luke 4. 38-end</i>
Upcoming in July 2013	
Sunday	14 3.00pm Baptism of Wilbur Baillie
Thursday	25 2.30-4.00pm Time for Tea
Sunday	28 2.30pm Baptism of Charles Moore

Upcoming in August 2013

Wednesday 14 | 1.00am Home Communion
St Teresa's
Sunday 18 2.00pm Baptism of
Freya Nicholson
Saturday 24 10.30am Wedding of
Laila Nazarali & Cedric Fedida

Parish Office

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Day off: Tuesday

ginny@stmarytheboltons.org.uk

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mobile 07870 651240

Days off Friday & Saturday

ruth@stmarytheboltons.org.uk

Director of Music John Ward
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boltonsmusic@gmail.com

Parish Administrator

John McVeigh 020 7835 1440 (church office)

Mon to Fri 9.15am-2.15pm

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 Raymond Kyle

Revd Ruth Lampard

Mr Timon Molloy

Mrs Ann Mulcare

(Deanery Synod Representative),

Mr David Parsons

Mrs Katrina Quinton

Mrs Judy Rydell

Mrs Ann Tait

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

Children's Advocate

Parish Office 0207 835 1440

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 Boo Simpson 020 8878 9898

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 Jane Dass 020 7370 5309

**Contributions for the September Clarion
should be sent in to the church office by
16 August 2013**

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