

THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

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

May 2015

Pentecost

Many of you will know the song from that lovely musical *South Pacific* 'Some enchanted evening you will see a stranger across a crowded room; and somehow you know; you know even then, you will see her again and again. Who can explain it, who can tell you why: fools give you reasons, wise men never try'.

Yes, indeed, 'Who can explain' the deepest experiences of life, whether it's a matter of 'falling in love', or of that even more profound experience of being drawn into the mystery of God's great love for us. Both alike can occur like a Damascus Road experience, like a flash of lightning, as at that first Pentecost, an 'enchanted' morning, afternoon, or evening, a one-off occasion; or slowly and almost imperceptibly over the course of time: 'again and again', as the song says. Whatever and whenever, love is the name of the game, the love of God – named or unnamed – whether 'across a crowded room', alone on a mountain, in Church, on a hot afternoon in a garden, like St. Augustine; or like C. S. Lewis on a bus on the way to the zoo, or wherever.

Again, whether it's falling in love or the realization of God's great and overwhelming love for us, it is not an idea or something rational one can put into words or can get out of a book: no, it's not that kind of knowledge at all. It is essentially an *experience* of self-transcendence, driving us into the arms of the Other: the most significant Other we could ever encounter. All of it is the work of what Bishop John Taylor calls *The Go-Between God* – love in action – the work of the Divine

Matchmaker who works the room, or, to use Church language, it is the Holy Spirit up to his tricks again. It is a pouring out blessings, frequently in disguise – loving Providence under the counterfeit of being mere Co-incidence – or that other name: the Comforter or the Strengthener; or the one who is always on our side and goes to bat for us, as our Advocate, as Jesus calls the Holy Spirit in John's Gospel. And always to one end: to drive us out and empty us out of ourselves, filling us with the Spirit of truth and love, in lives lived for others as Jesus Christ lived and died for all.

However and in whatever way we choose to name this experience of self-transcendence – this going out of oneself in generosity of spirit for others, freely giving, as we have freely been given – like all those present at that first Pentecost, we *also* are 'perplexed and amazed', repeatedly asking ourselves, – 'What does this mean?' 'Who can explain it, who can tell you why?'

What *did it* mean then and what does it mean now to the church at large, to this church in particular and to each and every one of us, now, if we are genuinely seeking to know and to follow Jesus Christ as the Saviour and Lord of our lives?

First and foremost, the gift of the Holy Spirit of love is an inner experience that cannot be put into words. Rather, that inner experience is better expressed in outward and visible actions that 'speak louder than words'. We experience, the Holy Spirit as love in action, whether expressed by helping a blind person across the road, or a miraculous healing through the laying on of hands with prayer.

First, that *experience*, which comes and overtakes us in many differing ways, is in some ways more dramatic than others. It is anything from uncontrollable laughter, like old Sarah when faced with unexpected pregnancy, to an outpouring of tears; to talking the gobbledygook of love language, speaking in tongues like Hannah the mother of Samuel, frequently mistaken (as at Pentecost) for drunkenness; or just that strange warming of the heart, as experienced by those two disciples on the road to Emmaus; or John Wesley at that prayer meeting in Aldersgate; or even just a great inner ‘peace beyond all understanding’: a joyful inner spirit even in adversity, as the Confirmation Prayer says, we ‘daily increase in God’s Holy Spirit more and more’.

Suppose it is just hysteria? Admittedly it has very similar symptoms. How do we know the difference? ‘By their fruits you shall know’ was the litmus test set by Jesus.

For the test of the validity and authenticity of such experiences – however dramatic – is in the transformation of lives and the firing of wills in an *expression* of the Spirit of love in action, a giving out of what we have received within; an expression of what we have experienced. For all God’s gifts, including the gift of himself and his love, is given to be shared and given away, as St. Paul says, ‘for the common good’. We are healed in order to go out and heal others. We are forgiven, in order to set us free to go out and forgive others. We are loved in order to go out and love the unloved and indeed the unlovable. We receive in order to give; we receive the kiss of life with the outpouring of the breath of the Spirit of love, in order to go out and give the kiss of life to others who are only half alive.

Mission is the outcome of both a church and individuals given new life by the outpouring of the Spirit, a faith issuing in works; experience expressed in action. In this way the institutional Church is transformed into the Spirit-filled

Body of Christ. An organization becomes a living organism with a membership transformed into an empowered discipleship, as living faith issues in lively works, doing ‘even greater works’ than those of Jesus, precisely because the Holy Spirit has been given as Jesus ascended to His Father and ours.

That experience of the breath of the spirit and the tongues of fire was explosive and expelled those disciples, transforming a closed up clique into a worldwide fellowship of the Spirit, namely, the holy, catholic, apostolic and worldwide Church, expelled all the way from that Upper Room in Jerusalem to St Mary’s in The Boltons, two thousand years later, right here and right now! In that way the Jesus of history is experienced personally and made present as the Christ of faith – ‘Christ in you, the hope of a glory to be revealed’ as St Paul says.

It is to clergy and laity alike that the Holy Spirit is given, and always for the same purpose: to kick start a life expressed in and empowered for ministry and mission, in a variety of forms. For all who have been baptised are baptised for ministry, that is to say, for a life laid down in service for others, as Christ was anointed in *his* baptism to lay down his life for all.

It is most unfortunate that the word ‘laity’ as used in today’s world, always implies a measure of inferiority, second best and amateur. St Paul maintains that there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit and varieties of ministries but the same Lord, without that kind of differentiation. As Jesus actually promised that our Father in heaven will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask, let us seek a further anointing with that same fire of Love and that same breath of the Spirit, sending *us* out, as at the first Pentecost, as partners, laity and clergy alike, to love and serve the Lord, in loving actions and works, speaking louder than words, and all this, as the Spirit of God continues His work in us and through us, in differing expressions of the one Holy Spirit of love.

Come Holy Spirit of the living God, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in us the fire of your love, stirring up your gifts in us to empower the ministry and mission of your church in our day.

Michael Marshall

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

Friday 17th April marked the closing date for application for the vacancy of vicar at St Mary The Boltons. The applications were sent direct to the office of Archdeacon Stephan Walsh and we have been told that there was a very favourable response.

The next stage in the procedure will be the selection of suitable candidates of interview, and Stephan has invited the representatives, Leo and Ann, to assist in that process. The final list of candidates will then be sent to our Patron Sir Laurie Magnus, for his approval. The interviews will take place in the vestry of St Mary The Boltons and the panel will consist of The Archdeacon and the representatives. We pray for God's guidance and wisdom in making this selection.

Thursday 14 May: Thursday Lunch at 12.30

The next Thursday Lunch will be on Thursday 14 May at 12.30pm. This month's speaker is Louise McGregor, who is one of the florist's that we use for wedding at St Mary's. Louise will be demonstrating simple flower arrangements. 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. I shall be very pleased to hear from you and everlastingly grateful for all that you volunteer to do.



VE Day 2015

VE (Victory in Europe) Day is on 8 May, this year is the 70th anniversary. A few parishioners wrote what they were doing on the day.

Hugh Beach:

My exceedingly modest part in the invasion of Normandy (June 1944) ended ignominiously in early September when I came off worst in a fire-fight with a German demolition party across the La Bassée Canal in Northern France. This left me with a bullet wound across the small of my back (luckily sparing my spine) and resulted in six months convalescence at home. The spring of 1945 found me joining the 1st British Airborne Corps, posted first to India and then to the Land Forces Headquarters near Kandy, in Ceylon. The surgeons who had sewn me up had such confidence in the newly invented antibiotic penicillin that instead of using catgut thread (which dissolves) they used nylon (which does not). This was a mistake and over the ensuing months individual stitches would emerge, causing little abscesses that the army doctors, fearing a breakdown of the wound, insisted on investigating surgically. One such episode took place in Kandy just before

VE day, which I spent being wheeled off, anaesthetised, probed, cleaned up and allowed to come round in my own time. Thus I spent VE day totally unaware. For us, VJ (Victory Over Japan) day, which came a couple of months later, was the life changing experience, because instead of invading Malaya across the beaches, once the Japanese had surrendered, we travelled to Singapore by troopship. What followed is another story!

Ann Tait:

During the VE celebrations, aged nine, I lived with my mother and sister in Scotland, on the peninsula where the Clyde river joined the Gareloch. My father had been the officer commanding the Gareloch shipping base, but had been away for most of the war on active service as a 'sapper' (Royal Engineer). He was involved in nearly all the allied advance landings, but had decided it was best for his family to stay in Scotland to avoid the worst bombing further South.

I had believed much of the prevailing propaganda about the war, both at my day school and in the surrounding community, as well as on the radio. This meant that the Germans were our wicked enemies and that I should never, ever, speak to anyone who might be a German, as they could be a spy. Additionally I should look out each day for escaped prisoners of war and make sure I reported my findings! This emphasis on suspicion, observance and surveillance seemed part of life to me during my childhood years. Despite this, my parents at times mentioned that this atmosphere was peculiar to wartime, and told me they personally admired much German music and literature.

Nevertheless, it was a truly memorable and wonderful surprise and liberation to learn that because we had 'won' the war, the Germans were now 'people like us and needing help'. We no longer needed to worry about or fear the enemy within. Even the signposts would have

their notice of local destinations restored and we would be allowed maps once more and not wonder how to get from A to B without wasting my mother's meagre petrol allowance.

It was also hugely reassuring that my father might come home quite soon. I well remember his arrival later on, in a walrus seaplane that taxied down onto the water opposite our home and from where we went out in a dinghy to meet him.

My mother decided that we should celebrate VE day with our friends and as we had a school holiday, we prepared a bonfire for lighting that evening... feeling quite strange and carefree without our previous blackout restrictions. Someone had even managed to find some fireworks as well as a locally caught salmon!

I was told that as part of the celebrations, I could now inherit a second hand bicycle that my favourite aunt had discarded, and which I had set my heart on. I think I spent the rest of the day free to ride it and realising, as I freewheeled down the hills, 'We have won the war. No more enemies. No more fighting... Hoorah!'

Margarete Geier:

I remember VE day very clearly. It began as a beautiful sunny day, and I was in my family home, a large farm house in Silesia, now part of Poland. Then the Russian soldiers came. They were looting in the area and, as we had a big house, they thought there was treasure to be taken. They grabbed hold of my grandmother and brother and shouted that unless they told where the treasure was they were going to shoot them. They also took hold of me, it was very frightening for a young child and my uncle came forward to try and protect me. The soldiers took him and punched him several times, which enabled me to escape. I ran outside and hid in a drain. I remember no more of what happened that day.

God was always with me and protected me.
Gods hand is on me.

At the end of the war the farm house was taken from us, we had no homeland and fled to the UK.



Arthur Tait:

My memories of VE day are not strong about that day as I was away, aged 10, at boarding school, and we had fairly modest celebrations.

However, from the family point of view

it was great as no longer would we have bombs passing overhead, (once when I was playing cricket and we had to lie down on the pitch), and there was the possibility that my Dad might be able soon to get his car off its bricks without tyres and start driving again. Also blacking out the windows in the dark was no longer a worry. I had watched in the newspaper the allied battle lines each day moving further across France and into Germany, and now that was over.

I also remember at about that time eating my first ever banana as food restrictions began to ease a bit. No longer would I lie in bed in our bungalow on the north Cornwall coast and hear Big Ben on the radio go on striking long after nine (for the news) and being told later it was bombs landing on a convoy out at sea.

Anita Dowbiggin:

I was in London, and in the middle of the day crowds were gathering and the sun was shining to help their celebrations. It seemed unbelievable after nearly six years of war, but one's feelings were very mixed, as one remembered the many young men who had so cheerfully and uncomplainingly gone to war and would not be returning. I was eighteen when

war began and I experienced all the stages of the war.

My own husband, who had volunteered for the submarines in 1941, after training, set out for the Mediterranean, and immediately hit a mine between Gibraltar and Malta in September 1942. All were killed. He was only 21. There were also the few fighter pilots and bomber pilots who were killed in the fighting in Italy, North Africa, Burma and those in the navy, who we would not see again. Not to mention the Japanese prisoners, still suffering unbelievably.



I had joined the WAAF in January 1942, and after a year's training learning morse and morse slip

reading, was sent to work at Leighton Buzzard in Bedfordshire receiving RAF communications. I then went on to spend over two years in what has now become the famous Bletchley Park. There were about 10,000 of us, all services and civilians, so one stayed very much with one's own little group and sworn to secrecy, not that one knew anything as messages were all in morse code.

Conditions were good, we had our own camp where we lived in huts, 30 girls in each, worked in watches and made life-long friends. That led up to my D Day.

I also remember the shock of Churchill not being re-elected, and our hope of the NHS when all our ailments would be cured, and now 70 years later being top of the agenda for voters!

Pat Schleger:

My family home was within a thousand yards of the RAF aerodrome in Kenley, Surrey.

On a lovely summer Sunday we were having lunch on the veranda. We heard a plane and my young brother jumped up and ran onto the lawn, looked up and said 'Oh they've made a lovely big smoke circle in the sky'. The next minute the bombs started rattling down, trying to hit the aerodrome, so we rushed into the cellar. When we came back to finish the apple pie it was full of soot from the roof.

On VE night my father drove us up to London to see the celebrations. I don't think he realised how crowded it would be. He headed for Leicester Square and got to the edge of the Square. It was packed with people who were all very drunk and there was a car upside down, burning on a bonfire in the middle of the square. Then several people surrounded our car and thank goodness when they noticed that there were people in it they went away.

We made it to the Mall and got quite close to Buckingham Palace. When the Royal Family appeared on the balcony everyone surged forward and I was swept off my feet: it was quite frightening.

Report of the APCM on 19 April 2015

One of the major trials faced by a church without an incumbent is maintaining the official meetings (many of which are a legal requirement) which in the past have appeared to be organised so seamlessly and effectively by the clergy. So it was that this year's APCM (the annual parochial church meeting) fell to our wardens, Ann and Leo, to prepare, organise and lead.

The APCM is the opportunity for all members of the church family to hear about the life of the parish, the successes of the previous year and the plans for the year ahead. Electoral Roll members are able to vote on such important matters as electing church wardens and other

representatives and accepting the financial accounts.

The 2015 APCM began with Ann Mulcare explaining that special dispensation has had to be sought to enable Leo Fraser-Mackenzie to continue as warden for a further, seventh, year – six years is usually the standard limit. Ann and Leo were both happy to continue as wardens for another year and the congregation wholeheartedly supported this as their efforts during the interregnum have been invaluable and a change during the recruitment process would cause untold problems. Leo's extended tenure being agreed, our wardens were elected for another year.

During the APCM other issues that arose included:

- The church's electoral roll stands at 202, an almost identical figure to the previous year
- The PCC accounts are roughly breaking even
- The Redcliffe Gardens Trust accounts are in a very healthy position, with funds expected to be spent this year on a residential property for an associate vicar
- A thorough inventory with photographs has been produced of our plate and treasury items
- The PCC members, Deanery Synod Members and Sidespeople were elected for the forthcoming year

The business of the APCM was concluded in 50 minutes, thereby giving only a brief indication of all that has happened at St Marys since the last meeting. Further information including the reports of St Marys many groups, can be found in the Annual Report document which accompanied the meeting.

Huge thanks must be conveyed to Leo and Ann for planning and leading the APCM so

effectively. The meeting is a significant milestone in the church's year and the Annual Report will prove an important source of information in the coming year and for our new vicar when installed. With thanks to Margarete for providing the APCM refreshments and for John for his tireless work on the Annual Report paperwork.

Joanna Hackett PCC Secretary

New PCC members

The following were elected at the APCM on Sunday 19 April 2015

Camila Ruz

Julie Crutchley

Kelly Webb

Personal Statements of new PCC members:

I am a journalist with the BBC. My work on the world team means I usually just cover international news but last year I was sent to Glasgow to spend a year reporting on the Scottish referendum. Before that I was a zoologist and worked for several years as a science journalist. I moved back to London in October and have been coming to St Mary's since I was 10 years old. *Camila Ruz*

I moved to London in 2013 and joined St Mary's straight away due to its welcoming environment. My daughter was baptized in 2014 and this experience enhanced our feeling of acceptance into the church family. We have always cherished the care and support we have received from the members of St Mary the Boltons, it is a very special church. As a member of the charity committee I have witnessed the efforts made to provide support to a wide variety of groups and peoples both within London and abroad.

I am currently a full time PhD researcher in International Criminal Law; my thesis examines the developing role of victim participation and reparations in international criminal law and if this can facilitate the outcomes of both peace and justice. Following my return to the UK I

achieved an LLM in Public International Law at City University London in 2014.

From 2003 -2013, I worked in various post-conflict societies in the Americas and Northern Ireland. This work has focused on the wide ranging challenges facing communities moving beyond periods of conflict, covering areas such as social development, community relations, peace and reconciliation movements, human rights and rehabilitation programs.

Julie Crutchley

I am a barrister in chambers in Bedford Row London. I was called to the Bar in October 1993 and initially practiced in criminal law where I dealt with Youth Crime. I also worked for the Crown Prosecution Service for a period. For the last 12 years I have specialised in children cases – private and public law. My particular area of expertise are cases involving complex medical issues and cases where jurisdiction is an issue – people seeking to move abroad /return home with their children. It is a very demanding area of law as children must be the paramount consideration in each case. It is also a privilege to know you may make a difference to a family's life Adam and I started attending St Mary's about 8 years ago. We felt extremely welcomed by all at St Mary's. Findlay was born a year later and was very poorly after his birth. All at St Mary's were very supportive and I felt very much a part of a special and wonderful community. We now attend with both Findlay and Rafferty both of whom were baptized at St Mary's. The boys both attend Little Lambs and Sunday School and have learn a great deal about faith, the bible teachings and community. St Mary's is a wonderful example of a church which welcomes all ages and ensures that children become part of the congregation from a young age.

I look forward to doing my best for St Mary's as a member of the PCC.

Kelly Webb



Pentecost “Turn Up And Sing” Choir

After the success of the one-off “turn up and sing” choir for Mothering Sunday, we will be doing this again. There will be a 9.45 rehearsal before the service on Sunday 26 May and all are welcome - young and old - and there's no longer-term commitment expected. Details of the planned musical programme will be published in the pew-sheet shortly but please do make a date in your diary now.

John Ward



What brought me to St Mary's

In 1969 I was working for the Aluminium Wire & Cable Company (a subsidiary of British Aluminium) in Swansea when I saw a small ad inviting applications for a position in the Organisation & Methods section of BEA (British European Airways), which I subsequently joined at the end of August. After a few weeks in digs in South Ruislip I answered another small ad and became the fourth man in a first-floor flat in Kenway Road. What a time to come to central London; I just managed to catch the ‘Swinging Sixties’!

After settling in, I looked around for a suitable church to attend. There was certainly plenty of choice, but after a bit of research I found myself homing in on St Mary's.

Was it its location, the fact that it was a ‘middle-of-the road’ sort of place, the people I met there, or the existence of a ‘Young People's Group’ (‘The Seekers’)? All of these things, I'm sure, but maybe just that I felt I had found a place similar to, and a worthy replacement for, St. Paul's, Sketty, where I had been a choir boy since the age of eight and then a member of the adult choir.

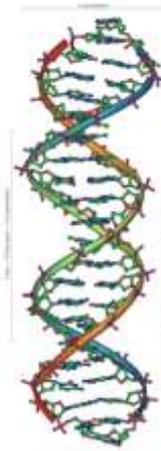
Despite subsequently sharing flats in a number of other locations (Melton Court, Drayton Gardens, Queen's Gate Terrace, Redcliffe Square (right next to the church there)) and in 1980 getting a flat of my own in Osterley (in Church Road!), I never felt tempted to change my allegiance, and here I still am. And what an amazing assortment of Vicars, Vergers, Administrators, Church Wardens, Choir masters and fellow choir members and other good friends I have been privileged to meet over the years.

John Barker

Creator God, Part II: Earth

In the previous article I discussed creation at the cosmic level. We now come down to earth. The earliest evidences of life exist as graphite of organic origin in 3.7 billion year-old rocks in Western Greenland. About two billion years ago bacteria developed able to perform photosynthesis; a process whereby the green pigment chlorophyll converts light energy from the sun into chemical energy, which can then be used to fuel the organism's activities. In this way sugars are synthesised from carbon dioxide and water, releasing oxygen as a by-product. This process has created the oxygen in the atmosphere and maintains it, supplying all the organic compounds and most of the energy necessary for life on earth. Life remained mostly small and microscopic until about 580 million years ago when complex multi-cellular life arose. The Cambrian period, from 540 to 485 million years ago, produced an 'explosion' of different life forms. The first vertebrate animals appeared on land about 380 million years ago, mammals about 260 million years ago and the first hominids two million years ago. Although more than 99 percent of all species that ever lived on earth are believed to be extinct, there are currently 10-14 million species alive today. (Wikipedia entries for 'History of the earth' and 'Photosynthesis')

There are many theories, but little consensus, on how life emerged from non-living chemicals. Chemical systems that have been created in the laboratory fall well short of the minimum complexity for a living organism. The first steps in the emergence of life must have been chemical reactions producing many of the simpler organic compounds that are the building blocks of life. Recent computer simulations have shown that organic molecules could even have developed in the planetary disk before the formation of the Earth. These molecules have in due course become very complicated. The haemoglobin that transports oxygen in blood is an enormous molecule consisting of four chains of atoms, linked in 574 units in a totally precise and unique way. Without such linkages the development of organic life would have been impossible.



The next stage of complexity involved self-replication, an organism's ability to produce offspring similar to itself. Even the simplest forms of life use de-oxyribonucleic acid (DNA), in the form of a double helix, to record their 'recipes', and a complex array of protein molecules to read these instructions. DNA molecules not only replicate themselves but contain sequences of material (genes) that code for the construction of proteins and lead in turn to the development of large, stable molecular complexes. These combine to form cells with the capacity for metabolism, (the ability to feed and repair themselves); and external cell membranes, which allow food to enter and waste products to leave, but exclude unwanted substances.

In the nucleus of each cell lies the DNA that contains all the information needed to build a complete body. As bodies grow from embryos, each cell develops in a way that is dependent on its place in the organism as a whole, which

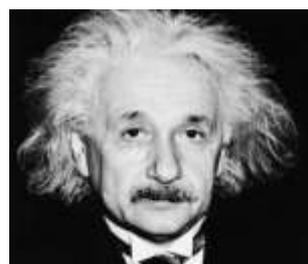
means that whole batteries of genes are switched on or off at just the right place and just the right moment at each stage of development. How this whole process is orchestrated remains almost completely unknown.

For more complex life-forms to develop there must be changes in the DNA. These are known as mutations. They can occur naturally as a result of occasional errors in DNA replication. They can also be caused by exposure to radiation, alcohol, lead, lithium, organic mercury, and some other chemicals, viruses and other micro-organisms. To be effective, mutations must be small enough to preserve the general structure of the organism, but large enough to give rise to significant changes in form or function. Most mutations are neutral or harmful but some produce organisms that replicate more efficiently. The latter, by the process first fully explained by Darwin, which he called 'natural selection', become more numerous and survive. In the course of this process organisms become more complex in structure and organisation. At the summit of this complexity stand humans. It appears that there are 100 trillion cells in the human body, organised into more than 200 different types. In each of these cells there is a nucleus containing 46 chromosomes, some 20,000 genes and three trillion of the 'base pairs' that together determine the activity of each gene.

The crowning achievement is to develop brains: powerful processing devices that can receive information from the environment and respond to achieve desired results. The human brain embodies an almost inconceivably complex network, having some 100 trillion connections between its neurons. It is linked, on the one hand to a cluster of sensors (such as eyes, ears, nose, tongue and semi-circular canals), and on the other to motor systems activating muscles and limbs. A cricketer, tennis player or baseball hitter can confront a ball moving towards him

at 100 miles an hour, deduce its trajectory in a split-second, and strike it with precision. Humans can perform feats of balance such as walking a tightrope or scaling vertical walls of granite. A pianist can play from memory all of Beethoven's sonatas.

At the conceptual level, human brains have devised elaborate mathematical models to describe the universe at the largest and smallest scales, and built instruments of huge sophistication and expense to check the predictions of these models. The correspondence between the models and observed values is uncanny. As an example, the branch of physics known as Quantum Electrodynamics predicts the value of a factor related to the 'spin' of an electron to within three parts per ten million. Predictions at the cosmic scale arising from Einstein's theories of relativity have been confirmed by experiment to within one part in a thousand. These theories have correctly predicted the slowing of clocks and the bending of light in high gravitational fields, and the existence of Black Holes. A final prediction of the existence of gravity waves has yet to be confirmed. (Tony Hey and Patrick Walters, *Einstein's Mirror*, Cambridge University Press, 1997).



Einstein himself paid an indirect compliment to the capability of the human brain by saying 'The most incomprehensible thing about the world is that it is at all comprehensible.' The human brain is capable of far more than establishing precise identities between measurable features of the universe and mathematical modelling. It gives rise to things that are evidently non-physical: thoughts, feelings, dreams, images and intentions; and with them, the apprehension of intrinsic values, beauty, truth and goodness.

So we finish with another troubling question, this time to scientists. Is it possible to believe that this whole process of evolution has taken place according to natural laws and the operation of blind chance? Could this be the process that has caused the clumping together of discarded stellar material to produce the habitable earth; the random collision of atoms to produce DNA; copying errors in the transcription of the genetic code together with 'natural selection' to produce species of ever increasing complexity; the development of brains to enable purposive action; the ability of the human brain to correlate its purely intellectual constructs with objective nature to a degree of precision almost unfathomable, and finally its ability to come up with transcendent notions of intrinsic value? This question is discussed in the final article in this series.

Hugh Beach



Out in the Garden...

April was an amazing month of everything suddenly bursting into life and colours were everywhere and in full profusion, especially the

forget-me-nots and the bluebells. Then the regular twice yearly visit from Ian, the 'real' gardener, helped to give shape to the hedges and shrubs, and the necessary treatment of the lawn. Have you seen the early rose buds, and the lilies of the valley? Even better, have you seen the hollyhock that flowered right through the winter and is now making even better flowers? The lilac tree was replaced – it was not doing well – with a mature olive tree. There is a story to both trees, but too long to tell here, ask me for details. The Paint Pot children learned all about olive trees from the pruning cuttings.

Verena Tschudin

May Year's Mind

George Godbolt
 Frances Vernon
 Clas Groth
 Anne Simmonds
 Grenville Lake
 Ronald Palin
 Charles Tait
 Joan Garraway
 Richard Dowbiggin
 Rosemary Hulse
 Martin Hulse
 Edward Hamilton
 Richard Hopkins

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 May 2015

Sunday 3

Readings at 10.30am

Wednesday 6 May
 Readings at 7.00pm

Sunday 10

Readings at 10.30am

Sunday 17

Readings at 10.30am

Sunday 24

Readings at 10.30am

Sunday 31 May

Readings at 10.30am

Fifth Sunday of Easter

*Acts 8. 26-end;
 1 John 4. 7-end;
 John 15. 1-8*

Eucharist
*Acts 15. 1-6;
 John 15. 1-8*

Sixth Sunday of Easter

*Acts 10. 44-end;
 1 John 5. 1-6;
 John 15. 9-17*

Third Sunday of Easter

*Acts 1. 15-17, 21-end;
 1 John 5. 9-13;
 John 17. 6-19*

Day of Pentecost

*Acts 2. 1-21;
 Romans 8. 22-27;
 John 15. 26-27*

Trinity Sunday

*Isaiah 6. 1-8;
 Romans 8. 12-17;
 John 3. 1-17*

Wednesday 3 June Eucharist with Prayers for Healing
Readings at 7.00pm 1 Peter 1. 18-end;
Mark 12. 18-27

Upcoming in May 2015

Monday 4 Church Closed Bank Holiday
Thursday 14 12 noon Parish Lunch
Saturday 16 12 noon Wedding Sophie Blythe & David Arnold
Sunday 17 10.30am Baptism of Elodie Raincock
Saturday 23 11.00am Baptism of Wylder Winberg

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 (Parish Office)
Mon to Fri 9.15am-2.15pm
john@stmarytheboltons.org.uk

Director of Music John Ward
07853 406050

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 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
Mr Edward Quinton
Mrs Judy Rydell
Mrs Katrin Roskelly

Safeguarding Officer

The St Mary The Boltons' Safeguarding Officer is Timon Molloy. His role is to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at

risk. He is the first point of contact for children, adults at risk and other members of the congregation regarding suspicions of abuse and other safeguarding concerns.

If you have any concerns, please contact Timon on: 07816 184207. Alternatively, speak to: Sheryl Kent, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser: 020 7932 1224
Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) helpline: 0845 120 4550
Family Lives: 0808 800 222 (Previously Parentline) Childline: 0800 111

Children's Champion

The St Mary The Boltons' Children's Champions are Chris and Katie Fowkes. Their role is to ensure that the voices and needs of the children and young people are heard and reflected in parish life. They can be contacted via: Katie.Fowkes@talktalk.net / [07810 831505](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 May Clarion should be sent in to the church office by 19 June 2015

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