

THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

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

May 2016



In a recent speech made at Lambeth Palace, Archbishop Justin said this:

“I want to start by saying just two simple sentences about the church. First, the church exists to worship God in Jesus Christ. Second, the Church exists to make new disciples of Jesus Christ. Everything else is decoration. Some of it may be very necessary, useful, or wonderful decoration – but it’s decoration ... When I started this role a couple of years ago, after some prayer and thought and reflection, three priorities...lodged themselves in my mind. These were the three. First of all, prayer and the renewal of the Religious life. And my guess is that there were nods of assent and interest but hardly surprise. At the news that reconciliation was my second priority there was probably mild interest and murmurs of approval that this was a Good Thing, but that someone was going to have their work cut out. When I introduced my third priority as evangelism and witness I imagine some, maybe a minority, were high-fiving, while others stopped and stared into space with a look of horror, thinking, ‘Oh golly, here we go again’. I won’t ask you which group you fall into. “

At the start of Lent both Archbishop Justin and Archbishop Sentamu made a call on churches across the land to join in a special week of prayer in the run up to Pentecost to pray for the evangelisation of this land. In the website, thykingdom.co.uk, created to resource this

week of prayer, there is a video where a parish priest describes the positive impact of 24/7 prayer on the quality of life of his church community. And so this week of prayer may well encompass all of Archbishop Justin’s priorities for his ministry but in addition have many benefits for us at St Mary’s.

Early in April I met together with the Christian Formation group to discuss how we at St Mary’s would approach this week of prayer (8-15 May). In my opening remarks I suggested that it would be best to base whatever we did for the week around what was already happening at St Mary’s. The aim would therefore be to encourage people to dip a toe in existing, if new to them, waters of prayer and discipleship outside of the main Sunday service. So during the week I’m hoping that, following some simple guidance, a number of people will each lead one of the offices or Morning or Evening Prayer. Within each service, and also within the usual Wednesday midday Eucharist, there will be some specific teaching about different ways to pray as part of a ‘School of Prayer’.

There will also be, as there was in Holy Week, another Eucharist with Taize Prayer at 7pm on the night of Monday 9th May. On the Wednesday night (11th May) all are welcome to join the usual Wednesday evening group at the Vicarage to explore different ways of praying. Please contact me for more details. Towards the end of week we hope there will be an unbroken 24hours of prayer at St Mary’s. This could have a real impact on our lives together and our witness to others, and so please do sign up to pray for one of the hour-long slots beginning at 5pm on Friday 13th May; there will be a list at the back of church. Finally there will

be a service of celebration at St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday 14th May at 7.30pm, and if you'd like tickets for this event please get in touch as I have already had 5 tickets taken and only have five left!

Of course for many of you it's difficult or impossible to get into St Mary's during the week, and so depending on the Administrative help that can be made available since John McVeigh's departure, we hope to provide some prayer resources to take away and use at home. If you'd like to access any of these online, please go to thykingdom.co.uk, where you'll find a rich seam of resources to mine.

In their letter the Archbishops said:
"At the heart of our prayers will be words that Jesus himself taught us – 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.' It is impossible to overstate the life-transforming power of the Lord's Prayer. It is a prayer that is reassuring enough to be on the lips of the dying and yet dangerous enough to be banned in cinemas. It is famous enough to be spoken each day by billions in hundreds of languages and yet intimate enough to draw us ever closer into friendship with Jesus Christ. It is simple enough to be memorised by small children and yet profound enough to sustain a whole lifetime of prayer. When we pray it with sincerity and with joy, there is no imagining the new ways in which God can use us to his glory."

And so may *Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done* be our prayer, both for this special week of prayer, and as we continue forward in God's mission to our community and to this nation.
Sarah Archer

Next month Sarah will be addressing the history and theology of the Offertory Procession with special reference to an article from a 1954 Clarion.

Lent Offerings: a thank you

The Charity Committee would like to thank everyone who made an Offering during this year's Lent Appeal. We raised the excellent sum of £762.80; £124 more than last year. Sunday School and Little Lambs contributed 30% of this total, which is an impressive

achievement. All the money goes into the Charitable Pot for the eventual benefit of our 2016 charities, of which the main ones are Medic Malawi and Sound Seekers. Smaller donations will go the St. Cuthbert's Day Centre, Toilet Twinning and the Sunday School's Alex.

This year we extended the jam jar appeal so that the adult congregation could take part, as well as Sunday School and Little Lambs. We also had a collection plate at the back of the church for people who were not using a jam jar. Last year we only had the children's jam jars plus retiring collections throughout Lent and we raised £638. In 2014 we just had the retiring collections and the 2014 total was around £500. Our charities will greatly appreciate your increased generosity this year.
Anthony Williams, on behalf of the Charity Committee

St Mary The Boltons supports



Think of the word 'dementia' and most of us feel uncomfortable. It is regular people like any of us who get it, in some cases at the early age of 40, though more usually from 65-plus onwards.

Memory clinics can offer drugs, but there is a better way to keep the brain exercised and keep the spirits up at the same time. The creative part of the brain can be functioning almost as normal, even years after the memory goes. Music in particular can have an extraordinary effect in reawakening the mind.

There are arts opportunities for people in care homes, but few for people in the early stages

and living at home, which is where Arts 4 Dementia comes in.

We are a small charity founded in 2011. We focus on what people *can* do. We organise challenging, stretching arts workshops for people with early stage dementia across all art forms, from music and dance to drama and scriptwriting, and train others to deliver them. Participants love the workshops, astonished by what they can achieve and the sense of worth and purpose they instil. Their partners or carers come too, and it is a joyous shared experience. There is some evidence that engaging in arts can slow cognitive decline.

At A4D we are thrilled that St Mary The Boltons is hosting and supporting our current Tuesday morning Music Workshop programme. We are fortunate to have the programme led by talented musician/facilitators, Jessie Grimes (clarinet) and Charis Hanning (piano) of the Jacquin Trio. When we were last there the morning was gloriously sunny and the atmosphere in the church matched the day, especially as we were bathed in the warm red light from the Craigie Aitchison window.

Participants listened, sang, danced, conducted, each one even playing different instruments thanks to the wonders of an iPad app, accompanied by Jessie impromptu on her clarinet.

The feedback afterwards was universally of feeling uplifted, even exhilarated, even more so thanks to the beautiful surroundings.

This was our second venture with St Mary The Boltons. A4D also offers a One-Day Early Stage Dementia Awareness Training for Arts Facilitators. Participants, either independent workshop leaders or facilitators from arts organisations, come from all over the country to learn to deliver great workshops themselves.

St Mary's kindly hosted our most recent training day in March: another great success. As

a result of it, fifteen workshop leaders will be delivering dance, music, art and multimedia literary workshops to many hundreds more participants. All this, thanks to the support of St Mary The Boltons.

A4D's other work includes having on its website the only national listing of arts opportunities for people living with dementia and we campaign to have clinicians encourage patients to arts opportunities on diagnosis. A4D works to transform the lives of people receiving the shock of a diagnosis so that while some may have dementia, they do not need to suffer with it, and we are so grateful for the support of your wonderful community.

Christina Lyons

The Summer Fair, Saturday, 18 June 12.30pm- 4.30pm



Spring has sprung and before you know it, the Summer Fair will be here. The Fair is a hugely important event for the church, not only in raising money for this year's charities, which are Arts4Dementia, St Cuthbert's Day Centre, Toilet Twinning and Sound Seekers, but as an opportunity to come together and celebrate our church and community. We very much hope you will be able to attend.

Among the attractions will be stalls selling bric-à-brac, books, toys and home-made produce. We will be hosting children's activities including magic shows, face painting and a variety of games and races. There will be live musical

performances throughout the day, a delicious BBQ, Strawberry Tea, a Pimms stall, as well as a Wine tent offering a variety of carefully chosen wines by Lea & Sandeman. The Summer Fair would not be complete without the chance to win some lovely prizes from the Silent Auction, Raffle and Bottle Tombola.

We are very grateful for any help you can provide, whether by making a donation or by volunteering your time and skills. Everyone's efforts will contribute to another fantastic family day out.

We need volunteers to:

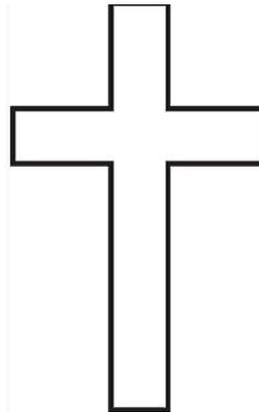
- assist with advertising and planning leading up to the Fair
- help to set up before the Fair by moving tables, laying out the stalls etc.
- help on stalls during the Fair with serving food, drink and cakes, with stalls and activities, and selling raffle tickets
- help to tidy up at the end of the event

We need donations of:

- homemade cakes, biscuits, jams, chutneys, bread etc.
- bottles of any description: wine, spirits, bubble bath, hand cream etc.
- good as new toys or games
- good quality items for the bric-à-brac (no clothes or electrical items)
- second-hand books (no magazines, periodicals or text books)
- fabulous Silent Auction and Raffle prizes. In the past these have included: Chelsea VIP tickets, a magnum of champagne, etc.

If you would like to help, please get in touch either through the Parish Office or with me directly on christina.d.lyons@gmail.com
Christina Nelson

The Meaning of the Cross for Today, Part 2



In the previous article I explained the belief that Christ was crucified for the forgiveness of sins, and mentioned certain theories as to how this operates. None of these have been officially endorsed by the church, which is just as well

because there is another point of view that is critical of all these theories. John Duns Scotus (1226-1308) was born in Scotland, educated at Oxford and worked for the rest of his short life in Paris and Cologne. He was one of the most important philosopher-theologians of the High Middle Ages, given the title of *Subtle Doctor*. No heretic, he was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1993. A Franciscan friar, his theology differed at many points from that of his Dominican predecessor, Thomas Aquinas.

Scotus insisted on the absolute and perfect freedom of God to love and forgive as he chooses. In Scotus' theology, the incarnation is the whole purpose of creation. God would have become man even if Adam had not sinned, since He willed that in Christ humanity and the world should be united with Himself by the closest possible bond. Christ is the masterpiece of love in the midst of a creation designed for love, not a divine plumber come to fix the mess of original sin. (Bl. John Duns Scotus in *Catholic Encyclopedia*, www.newadvent.org/cathen). Richard Rohr, an American Roman Catholic priest and Franciscan friar, is a modern interpreter of Scotus. As he explains, 'Scotus was not guided by the Temple language of debt, atonement, blood sacrifice or necessary satisfaction. Christian people have paid a huge price for what theologians after Anselm have called 'substitutionary atonement theory': the idea that before God could love his creation, God needed and demanded Jesus to be a blood

sacrifice to atone for a sin-drenched humanity. Please think about the impossible, shackled and even petty God that such a theory implies and presents: namely, that Christ is not the first idea in the mind of God as Scotus taught, but a mere problem solver after the sad fact of our radical unworthiness. Substitutionary atonement theories made Christianity seem mercantile and mythological to many sincere people. The Eternal God was presented as driving a very hard bargain, as though he were just like many people we don't like. As if God could need payment, and even a very violent transaction, to be able to love and forgive his own children is a message that people with an angry, distant, absent or abusive father were already far too programmed to believe. Basically, when you lose the understanding of God's perfect and absolute freedom and eagerness to love, which Scotus insisted on, humanity is relegated to the world of counting! Everything has to be measured, accounted for, doled out, earned and paid back. That is the effect on the psyche of any notion of substitutionary atonement.' (Richard Rohr, *Eager to Love*, Hodder and Stoughton, London, 2014, pp. 184-6).

Clearly Scotus is not denying that Jesus gave his life for our sins, but that this was God's principal motive for the incarnation. He seeks above all to abolish the idea of a debt to be paid before God's forgiveness can take effect, and insists on God's absolute freedom to love and forgive as he chooses. These are deep waters, and it may be best to acknowledge that fully to grasp what is going on is beyond human understanding.

Yet there is another quite different way in which Christians can identify with the passion of Christ. According to his biographers, St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) prayed for increased suffering, so that he could share in the sufferings of Christ. This has always been a very difficult idea. My friend Nell, a member of

the Third Order* of the Society of St Francis, had an experience which, she says, helped her to see where Francis was coming from. As a result of a fall she broke a vertebra in her neck. It was extremely painful. Her doctors recommended that she wear a 'Halo Vest' for three months to keep her spine immobile. She agreed, and they fastened a metal ring with four bolts into her head. After a fortnight they tightened the bolts and it then became a question of enduring the daily grinding pain of the Halo.

She wrote: 'I see that the acceptance of pain gives unity with Christ. In Him the love and the pain are the same. The phrase 'The Glory of Christ Crucified' comes from a prayer by Michael Ramsey; it has been a focus I have pondered. I feel that Christ on the Cross is love and pain and forgiveness all in one. Sharing His pain is the greatest privilege. 'Come Lord Jesus' means come, in the pain. 'Follow me' is imperative; He is not saying that there will be no suffering, but that where He goes we should follow. Jesus sanctified suffering by undergoing it willingly; his greater burden makes ours the lighter. So I tried to accept my 'Cross' time daily, undergoing my 'passion' sometimes not so patiently. What helped was concentrating on breathing in and out, staying with the 'Isness' of the present moment; also aware that being weak gave opportunity for His grace. When the pain was at its worst I could do nothing but surrender. Having no agenda at all led to some lightness of spirit.

I have discovered, in part, that I can only grow in the 'Now', and pain does give me opportunities. I do not think I shall ask 'Why?' again about suffering. I attempt to move from being a victim, to being a witness of pain, and that is a much better place. Another discovery – it actually helps to distinguish pain itself from a commentary on pain – the thought makes it worse. I try to be still before pain. Quiet times become more valuable than ever, and were possible at home when they were not in

hospital. I aim to accept pain in love; looking at the figure of Christ on the Cross is my way. Most of all I try to respond to Christ, breathing in His love as the mainspring of life, and breathing out acceptance, forgiveness of self and others. This response is what we can do about suffering; we are not powerless.

A significant aspect of it has been increased awareness for me that suffering 'levels the playing field' to share situations with all people. And sharing seems to help; we can respond to our fellows with genuine concern. Pain is definitely not just mine, but universal. A spark of God's love in me recognizes the spark of God in others. Martin Laird says: 'True healing happens when we go into our pain so deeply that we see it, not just as our pain, but everyone's.' (*Into the Silent Land*, DLT, London, 2006, p.100).) Letting go of most of my occupations has left me more of a 'Being' than a 'Doing'. I know and even value my dependence on God. I have had to learn to live with unresolved pain, and not to expect it to be 'sorted'. Perhaps this is part of 'bearing His wounds in our hearts'. We try to follow Him, seeking to absorb pain and not pass it on – sharing the bearing'.

*The Third Order consists of men and women in ordinary occupations, seeking to live 'in the spirit' of the rule of St Francis.

Hugh Beach (To be concluded)

APCM

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place in Church on Sunday 24 April.

Ann Mulcare and Leo Fraser-Mackenzie were re-elected as Church Wardens, and Ann Tait, Sheila Gibbs, Anthony Williams, and Anthony Bryceson were newly elected as PCC members; and Judy Rydell as an additional Deanery Synod representative.

There were about 35 parishioners present. It was a difficult meeting with many comments from the floor concerning the accuracy of the Report, communication, music at the main Sunday and Festival Eucharists, the Sunday School and parish management. The vicar responded to the interventions.

Ann Mulcare and Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

In line with the message preached on the day of the APCM which made reference to Matthew 18 as a model of how we manage disagreement in the Church, the Vicar is offering the opportunity to all those who have made comments to discuss them individually with her.



Out in the garden...

If you have gone over the garden recently, you will see that the bluebells have more

or less taken over now and from the earlier pale yellow of the primroses, have changed the colour and the 'feel' of the garden. Everything seems now in a fair frenzy to get growing and flowering and bursting with life. The birds share this need for new life, and the first nestlings made themselves heard the other day.

The four half-moon beds outside the Hall, which are on loan to the Paint Pots school, have been cleared of the shrubs and are now awaiting sowing and planting by the children. To begin with it will probably be potatoes and carrots, but you never know if we might be in for a surprise with some exotic vegetables.

The annual treatment of the lawn was carried out this week, hence there is hope of a good turf for the summer and for delighting all users of the garden, including – hopefully – you.

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

Parish Office

St. Mary's Church House, 020 7835 1440
The Boltons, SW10 9TB
www.stmarytheboltons.org.uk

Vicar

The Revd Dr Sarah Archer 020 7835 1440
vicar@stmarytheboltons.org.uk
(Day Off Friday)

Director of Music

John Ward 07853 406050
boltonsmusic@gmail.com

Verger / Caretaker

David Ireton 020 7244 8998
(Day Off Tuesday) 07881 865386

Upcoming in May 2016

Monday 2 Church Closed (Bank Holiday)
Monday 30 Church Closed (Bank Holiday)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Usually Morning Prayer is said daily at 8.30am & 5.30pm: except Public Holidays. Wednesday 12noon Eucharist.

Readings in May 2016

Sunday 1 May Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings at 10.30am Acts 16. 9-15
Revelation 21. 10, 22-22.5
John 5. 1-9

Wednesday 6 Eucharist with prayers for healing

Readings at 12.00md Acts 1. 15. 22-18.1
John 16. 12-15

Wednesday 5 May ASCENSION DAY

Readings at 8.00am Acts 1.1-11
Ephesians 1.15-end
Luke 24. 44-end

Sunday 8 May Seventh Sunday of Easter

Readings at 10.30am Acts 16. 16-34
Revelation 22. 12-14, 16-17, 20-end
John 17, 20-end
Taizé Eucharist

Monday 9 May
7.00pm

Wednesday 13 Eucharist
Readings at 12.00md Acts 8. 1b-8;
John 6. 35-40

Sunday 15 May PENTECOST

Readings at 10.30am Acts 2. 1-21
Romans 8. 14-17
John 14. 8-17

Wednesday 18 Eucharist
Readings at 12.00md James 4. 13-end
Mark 9. 38-40

Sunday 22 May TRINITY SUNDAY

Readings at 10.30am Proverbs 8. 104, 22-31
Romans 5. 1-5
Mark 10, 17-27

Wednesday 25 May Eucharist, The Venerable Bede

Readings at 7.00pm 1 Peter 1, 18-end
Mark 10, 32-45

Sunday 29 May First Sunday after Trinity

Readings at 10.30am 1 Kings 18. 20-21, 30-39
Galatians 1. 1-12
Luke 7. 1-10

Churchwardens

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie 020 7384 3246

Ann Mulcare 020 7937 2005

Members of the PCC

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

Richard Brudenell

Antony Bryceson

Tania Cauberghs

Julie Crutchley

Margarete Geier (Deanery Synod
Representative)

Joanna Hackett (PCC Secretary)

Ann Mulcare (Deanery Synod
representative)

Edward Quinton

Judy Rydell (Deanery Synod
representative)

Anthony Williams

Katrin Roskelly

Kelly Webb

Ann Tait

Sheila Gibbs

Safeguarding Officer

The St Mary The Boltons Safeguarding Officer is Julie Crutchley. Her role is to help us to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk. She is the first point of contact for children, adults at risk and other members of the congregation regarding suspicions of abuse and other safeguarding concerns.

If you have any concerns, please contact Julie on 07764497413. Alternatively, speak to:

Annette Gordon, Diocesan Safeguarding
Adviser: 020 7932 1224

Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service
(CCPAS) helpline: 0845 120 4550

Family Lives: 0808 800 222

Childline: 0800 1111

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

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

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

Social Secretary

Margarete Geier 020 7373 1639

Sunday School Parish Office

EDITOR'S NOTE

I am dealing with *The Clarion* ONLY on a temporary basis until a new Administrator is in place. Please send all contributions for the next issue to my home email address:

v.tschudin@btinternet.com until further notice.

Verena Tschudin

Contributions for the May Clarion should be sent by 24 May 2016.