

THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

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

September 2015

From the new Vicar

Q: How many Anglicans does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: CHANGE????!

‘All Change’ were the words that began August’s delightful and challenging *Clarion* leader. But why challenging? Change and growth are the hallmark of all living things; but then ‘Change and decay in all around I see, O Thou who changest not, abide with me’ indicates that for many of us change is not always seen positively. I write this the morning after I was licensed to this parish, still at a stage where there is so much that is new, and in a year when my life has changed enormously. What have I learnt so far of St Mary’s? Well, Arthur Tait’s excellent history of the church made it wonderfully clear how much current generations owe to the dedication and diligence of those before them: and dauntingly plain, how much difference a leader can make. At first hand last night I also learnt that you have more than mastered the discipline of celebration, and that you match the dedication and diligence of your predecessors. It is also a real joy to be around such wonderful children, and I look forward to getting to know them and all of you over the coming weeks and months.

People have asked me ‘So what are you going to DO?’ – some, simply because they don’t realise that I don’t just work on Sundays; but others because they do know how churches run and want to know what my plans are. Well, whatever I do or plan to do, it’s good to keep before me the job description from the rite of ordination to the priesthood in this church. This speaks of a priest being a servant and shepherd to their people, teaching,

preaching, baptizing, discipling, calling people to repentance and declaring God’s forgiveness, presiding at the Eucharist, interceding, ministering to those who are sick and preparing the dying for death. So far, so familiar.

It also has these lines in it: ‘They are to... resist evil, support the weak, defend the poor ... (and)... search for his children in the wilderness of this world’s temptations, and to guide them through its confusions, that they may be saved through Christ for ever.’

There are times in every person’s life when an idea on TV or in a film or in a book, or in someone’s words changes the way you think about something forever. I still remember the impact of the film *Ghandi* in terms of its presentation of the power of peaceful resistance. I still remember the time when in 2012 I heard a man called Alan Hirsch speak about the reasons for church growth. He said the reason some churches were not growing was because they were not using the five-fold ministries St Paul speaks about in his letter to the church in Ephesus: ‘And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.’ (Eph 4:11-12)

It sounds a bit like these are different sorts of people, but it is best to see them as roles: within a church they may be done by more than one person, and one person may well have more than one ministry. You will see how easily a priest’s role fits under the headings of pastor and teacher. The apostolic role involves leadership and the prophetic and can also be found within that priestly exhortation to resist evil, support the weak and defend the poor.

Which leaves the evangelistic: searching for God's children in the wilderness of the world's temptations.

You might think, therefore, that the ordinal suggests that your vicar is the one responsible for all these jobs: apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher. Fortunately there is a final line in that same ordinal that changes everything: 'Guided by the Spirit, they are to discern and foster the gifts of all God's people, that the whole Church may be built up in unity and faith.'

There are many things that I could *do* here at St Mary's; but I believe the most important thing I can *be* is someone able to discern and foster your gifts so that together we can better serve God in this place and parish. I would love your prayers so that I might grow in my effectiveness in this area. The body of Christ here in this place has an illustrious past; I am sure that together we have an exciting future.

Sarah Archer

Interregnum Prayer

Just over a year ago, as we began to get to grips with the reality and uncertainty of an interregnum, we published a Prayer for the Interregnum. Our prayer focussed on the love and joy and peace that we all long for, and reminded us of the trustfulness, faithfulness and openness that enable love, joy and peace to flourish. As we move into a new season in the life of the Parish, we have adapted the prayer so that it is now a Prayer for a New Ministry.

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 individually and together with Sarah
we discern anew the life and mission of the
parish
through Jesus Christ.

Amen

Your help please: An appeal from the Charity Committee

We need your help and suggestions! By the end of September we have to decide which charities we are recommending to the PCC for St Mary's to support by raising money for them during 2016. We cannot do this properly unless we have a good range of nominations from members of the congregation. Please tell us if you know of an organisation that you think is a worthy cause and would justify this support. If you made an unsuccessful nomination in the past, do not be discouraged. Every nomination that meets our PCC approved criteria is considered very carefully. Our framework for giving means that each year we rotate the projects we support so that there is always an opportunity for a previously unsuccessful charity to be selected this time.

The Committee is charged with selecting one overseas charity who will receive one third of both the 2016 and 2017 Charitable Pots. We will also be looking for a balance of local and overseas projects to support for just one year and they will share a further third of the 2016 Charitable Pot. Each charity or one of its projects should be small enough for our funds to make a difference; it should support people on the margins of society and who encounter social injustice. UK projects should be as close to the parish as possible and benefit people in the Kensington Episcopal area. The remaining third of the 2016 Pot will support Arts4Dementia for a second year.

The nomination process is very simple. A nomination form is enclosed with this issue of *The Clarion*. Further copies can be obtained from the Parish Office in both hard copy or electronic form. **They must be returned to the Parish Office by Sunday 4 October.** The final decision is scheduled to be made by the PCC at its November meeting. Please understand that while we are not able to support all charities for which we receive

nominations, the Committee values and appreciates every suggestion that is made. The members of the Charity Committee are Julie Crutchley, John McVeigh, Katrina Quinton, Katrin Roskelly, Edwina Sassoon and Anthony Williams.

Anthony Williams



Sleep out so others don't have to

Glassdoor, formally WLCHC, is organising another sponsored Sleep Out on Friday

9 October to raise £140,000 so that they can offer more beds to homeless people in their night shelters throughout the coming winter. Cadogan Estates are once again hosting the event at Duke of York Square, Chelsea, and will provide lavatories and security on the night. All you need to participate is a sleeping bag and mat. Please sign up to sleep out now. To register, visit the website at www.wlchc.org, call the sleepout hotline on 020 7351 4948 or email your contact details to sleepout@glassdoor.org.uk

Invitation from the Bishop of London

Welcome and Installation of the Bishops of Kensington, Edmonton, Islington and the Archdeacon of Hampstead

Evensong, Tuesday 6 October, 5pm, St Paul's Cathedral

This past year has seen so many familiar figures in the Diocese retire or move on to new posts. Times of transition or shaking, as the writer to the Hebrews puts it, can be discomfoting and even perilous, but by the grace of God they can also prove to be times of blessing and renewed vision as we prove yet again that Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, is the same yesterday, today and forever. (Hebrews 13, 8)

After all the months of praying and listening to God and each other, we dare to believe that God has provided for us men and women to join the diocesan leadership team who will strengthen us all to pursue our ministries with Confidence, Compassion and Creativity.

Rather than major welcoming events in the different Areas, and because the Bishop of Islington will be working throughout the Diocese and beyond, I hope that many of you will join with us in St Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday 6 October, when we will welcome and pray for our newest bishops and archdeacon as they take up their public offices and are installed by the Dean. Even if you cannot be with us that evening, I hope you will still join in prayer for God's blessing to rest upon Graham Tomlin, Rob Wickham, Ric Thorpe and John Hawkins. The new Archdeacons of London and Hackney will be welcomed in the new year when they take office and there will be details of this in due course.

With thanks for our partnership in the Gospel

The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Richard Chartres
KCVO DD FSA



At St Paul's Cathedral

St Paul's Forum is a programme of events at St Paul's Cathedral exploring Christian life, ethics and spirituality. The programme is open to all and includes public debates, reflective study days, meditative services, retreats, workshops and talks. All are welcome.

Sunday Forum

**First Sunday in every month, 1-2pm
Wren Suite, Cathedral crypt**

Free and unticketed

A Sunday lunchtime series where some of the liveliest contemporary theologians and spiritual teachers speak about the challenges, contradictions and joys of being a Christian in the world today.

Being Human: How to Become the Person You Were Meant to Be

Tuesday 29 September 2015

Steve Chalke says that God calls each one of us to play our part in his plan for a just and loving world, and it's finding our place in that story that will shape us and our lives into everything we were meant to be.

The Kingdom of God: Getting to the Heart of the Gospels

Tuesday 20 October 2015

Tom Wright challenges us to read what the Gospel writers are actually saying and find Jesus larger and more compelling than we ever imagined.

Light in the Darkness: A Good Christmas

Tuesday 8 December 2015

Rowan Williams will explore the meanings of Christmas, the darkness and strangeness of the story at the beginning of our faith as well as its message of eternal joy and hope.



Harvest Festival date for diary

Harvest Festival this

year is on Sunday 4 October and will be followed by a family Parish Lunch. The cost is £5 per adult and free for children. If you would like to attend please put your name at the back of the church or call the parish administrator.

The God of our deepest prayer 2

This is Hugh Beach's second article in this series.

Please see July Clarion for the introductory article.

The question is: how does the spacious and indescribable experience of the God deep within us – as described in the previous article - relate to God the Creator of all that is external, tangible and subject to scientific investigation? The important point to note is that the Christian religion has no monopoly on the art of contemplation. The practice of mental prayer embraced by mystics is common across all the great religions (Hindu, Buddhist, Sufi and Taoist as well as Christian). As Aldous Huxley explained in his compendium of mystical writings: 'Philosophia Perennis, - the metaphysic that recognises a divine reality substantial to the world of things and lives and minds; the psychology that finds in the soul something similar to or even identical with divine reality; the ethic that places mankind's final end in the knowledge of the immanent and transcendent Ground of all being - the thing is immemorial and universal' (*The Perennial Philosophy*, Chatto and Windus 1945, p. 1). The only proviso, Huxley says, is that the nature of this reality cannot be directly and immediately apprehended except by those who have chosen to fulfil certain conditions, making themselves loving, pure in heart and poor in spirit. (He does not know why).

In our own time the practice of contemplation is being adopted as a useful discipline by people with no religious aspiration at all. An organisation called 'Meditatio', a branch of 'The World Community for Christian Meditation', specifically engages with the 'secular and scientific mind and other faiths from the common ground opened by the universal wisdom of meditation.' I attended a conference held by Meditatio and sponsored by the Economics and Social Research Council in the offices of a big London firm of accountants. The participants were mainly academics from business schools and company directors.

Although one of the leading speakers was a Benedictine monk (Laurence Freedman OSB) and another was well versed in Buddhist meditation (Peter Case, Professor at the Bristol Business School), there was no explicit religious reference. The aim was simply to encourage 'ethical leadership'.

This is a crucial insight because it would make no sense at all if the source of all creation was accessible in the depths of human consciousness only to a tiny group of Christian mystics. An analogy may be helpful here. While the Israelites were in exile in Babylon, in contact with Persian and other religions, the revelation dawned on them that their God was too small. It no longer made sense to think of Jahweh as their private property, uniquely the protector and preserver of the Hebrew tribes. Isaiah 54:2-5 captures this moment: 'Enlarge the site of your tent and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. For the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the *God of the whole earth* he is called (New Revised Standard Version – my italics).

Sister Ilia Delio OSF, a professor at Georgetown University who concentrates on the relationship between science and religion, elaborates on this point, in speaking of humans as co-creators of an evolutionary universe. 'It is in the mystery of the human person that the fulfilment of the universe lies. Love has the power to transform, and the power of transforming love lies within us, for each of us has the power to make present the living God. I wonder, however, if we have not become too privatized in our culture and sedentary in our ways to really live the Christ mystery in its fullness today and go forward in newness, spontaneity and freedom. We have something of the middle-class blues and these blues bear the weight of inertia. Living in the fullness of the mystery of Christ is to believe that every

person, regardless of race, religion or creed, belongs to Christ, and that loving our neighbour in Christ is the path to unity with God. Such unity extends not only to our brothers and sisters of other cultures, religions and languages but to the earth itself, recognising that the earth and we are on the journey to God together.' (*The Humility of God: a Franciscan Perspective*, Franciscan Media, Cincinnati, OH, 2005, p. 140.)

On this basis there is no problem in seeing that God the creator and the God of our deepest prayer are one and the same. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955), a Jesuit priest and palaeontologist whose religious thought has greatly influenced Christian spirituality, saw no contradiction. 'In order to take possession of me, my God, you who are so much more remote in your immensity and so much deeper in the intimacy of your indwelling than all thing else, you take to yourself and unite together the immensity of the world and the intimate depths of my being.' (*Hymn of the Universe*, translated by Simon Bartholomew, Collins, London, 1965, p. 152.)

Lest this be thought of as too 'New Age' I will cap this with a quotation from the New Testament: St Paul's famous speech in Athens, probably given around 50AD, brings together in few words all the themes explored in this article. 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription "To an unknown God." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and

he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him – though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said.’ (Acts, 17: 22-28, NRSVersion). (To be continued). *Hugh Beach*

Out in the garden...

The garden put on a pretty good show this summer, though not always as expected. Many of the seeds sown for summer flowering are only now beginning to grow. The petunias in the front bed were meant to spread all over, but barely managed to stand up. However, the hollyhock that had flowered all through last winter made another stem this summer and according to Dave is probably 12ft tall now and still flowering. The garden also maintained several families of robins, of which the front west family is particularly friendly and keeps me in smiles and entertained with soft burbling music from nearby branches and stalks. I have begun some re-ordering of plants and some ‘landscaping’, so please give me any comments or hints. I am always willing to hear what improvements can be made.

Verena Tschudin



Exploring a church on Vancouver Island

In May I went to a niece’s wedding in

Victoria, British Columbia, at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, North Saanich, on the outskirts of Victoria. I found it to be a surprisingly small church, completed in 1885 with the help of much voluntary labour. It was hardly big enough to hold many more than the

70 or so guests who had been invited to the wedding.

I decided to return for a Sunday service, and found that because of the limited space in the building there were three services, at 8.00, 9.00 and 10.30am. The 10.30 was a Choral Eucharist at which the average age of the congregation was definitely greater than mine, and the service was based on the Book of Common Prayer, which took me right back to my mother’s church a few decades ago. Yet the church was full, they all sang, helped by a robed choir (of similar vintage), and – a warning to anyone from St Mary’s who happens to visit there – the sidespeople shut the doors firmly as soon as the service got under way. Hymns were all well known, and as the Sunday before Pentecost is remembered there as Jerusalem Sunday when they pray for the church in Jerusalem and in the Middle East generally, they sang ‘Jerusalem’ too, but with a suitable change of wording to ‘...in this our green and pleasant land’!

I had a real admiration for the organist/keyboard player. As well as having a day job, she plays for the 9.00am service as well as directing the choir at the 10.30am. The former is a family service where they have worship songs, although probably not the most recent ones. She had also played for the wedding a couple of days earlier, when she filled in valiantly for an extra 35 minutes with various operatic arias and other numbers before the bridal party turned up.

The church’s stated Mission is ‘to be a warm and welcoming community centred in spiritual growth and worship; and to be a tangible witness of God’s love through Christian outreach’. Even the oldest member is able to take part in this through a daily prayer list for the local community, the parish, the diocese and the Anglican Communion. The service

sheet included as an insert a Diocesan appeal for response to the Nepal Earthquake.

The many ministries the church offers in the community include visiting care homes, using its own van to transport people to church, provision of Christmas hampers, diabetes-conscious lunches, special occasion contacts, Grannies (supporting people with AIDS in Africa), and support of food banks and other activities in the wider area. However, in common with other churches there was currently a shortage of people who had offered to serve coffee after the services.

The church has also developed a remarkable link with a group of First Nations neighbours. (The indigenous inhabitants who were there before the European settlers came along.) There are regular social events and communion services, some in a nearby reservation, and recently a period of bell-ringing was held in the church. The bell ringing had a particular purpose, to remember over a thousand First Nations women and girls who had gone missing or been murdered across Canada in recent decades.

The Anglican Church in Canada is going through a very similar set of challenges to ours in England, such as the gradual secularisation of public life and a change in the social mix, with fewer people who remember having once lived in Britain. However, I can testify that there is plenty of spiritual life in this particular corner of Vancouver Island.

Philip Bedford Smith

September's Year's mind

Elizabeth Richardson
Hilda O'Connor
Vera Gregory
Pamela Bryceson
Allan Campbell
Kevin Kendrick
Kathryn Carr
Michael Quin

Hans Schleger
Alexander Pringle
John Christie
Claud Hawker
Angela Lambert
Heather Larkin



Lifeboats

Please support our 5th Annual Concert at St Mary's

In aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution
(organised by the RNLI Kensington Branch)

Thursday 29 October 2015 at 7.15 pm

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

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

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 Feastsdays); except Public Holidays.

Wednesday 7.00pm Eucharist

Sunday 13 September Patronal Festival

Readings at 10.30am *Isaiah 61. 10-end;*
Galatians 4. 4-7;
Luke 1. 46-55

Sunday 20 September Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Readings at 10.30 *Proverbs 31. 10-end;*
James 3. 13-4.3, 7-8b;
Mark 9. 30-17

Sunday 27 September Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Readings at 10.30am *Ester 7. 1-6, 9-10, 9, 20-22;*
James 5. 13-end;
Mark 9. 38-end

Parish Office

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

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

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 Cauberghs
Ms Julie Crutchley
Mr Craig Drake
Miss Margarete Geier (Deanery Synod
Representative)
Miss Joanna Hackett (PCC Secretary)
Mrs Ann Mulcare (Deanery Synod
representative)
Mr Edward Quinton
Mrs Judy Rydell
Mrs Katrin Roskelly
Ms Camila Ruz
Ms Kelly Webb

Safeguarding Officer

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

If you have any concerns, please contact Julie
on 07764497413. 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

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 October Clarion
should be sent to the church office by 25
September**

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