

THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

rooted in faith

open in thought

reaching out in service

MAY 2012

The Vicar's Remarks at the APCM

At the APCM last year I mentioned that there were four things that kept me awake at night:

- The numbers were beginning to fall at our Sunday services
- Sunday School numbers were also dropping
- The older generation, who provide much of our core congregation, are getting older and are not being replaced by a younger generation
- The financial shortfall in our annual accounts

I am pleased to report that I have been sleeping better recently. Of those four things, only one continues to give me serious concern, while the other three, for the time being at least, have receded into the background, although they remain pertinent to our being a flourishing church.

It has been a great relief that last year, 2011, we were able to close our financial deficit and as you will have seen from the accounts, to have a small surplus. This was due to the Planned Giving Programme, which we held in the autumn, and as I mentioned in the annual report, I am extremely grateful to the people who ran and organised the campaign. We were also very fortunate to have had three large donations totalling £12,000, which helped a great deal in closing the gap.

From now on, however, we will have to have an annual planned giving programme in order to remain financially healthy.

Last year I was concerned that our Sunday School numbers were falling. However, during 2011 the numbers increased and I am very grateful to the parents who lead Sunday School. The increase came through new families coming to church, but also through children who had 'graduated' from Little Lambs and were now of Sunday School age.

Little Lambs continues to be very popular and I am very grateful to the parents who lead it.

Looking at the attendance figures for our Sunday services, you will have seen that last year there was a decrease in the average number of adults attending our Sunday services, and this is also reflected in the overall number, which includes children. I think there are two reasons for this. The first is that over the past year or so we have 'lost' about 10 regular members of the congregation who probably worshipped on 45 Sundays of the year and came to the other major services, such as Ash Wednesday. That small number of regular worshippers makes a great difference to the overall number of those worshipping here regularly.

The second reason is linked to the passing of the older generation. It is the older generation who, for a number of reasons, are the most faithful members of our congregation. They were brought up to come to church regularly, which means weekly, but times have changed. Many people who worship with us are not able to come regularly, either because they are often away or because they have commitments on Sunday mornings, which prevent them from coming. We are also in a part of London that has a relatively high turnover of the population and this includes our congregation. People come to London for a few years and then move on, or with a growing family prefer to move out of London.

It is these factors that provide a challenge in keeping our church well attended and active, providing volunteers both to run and support our activities. We can no longer rely on those who used to form the core of our congregation and we need to find ways that attract newer members of the congregation to become active and committed.

While these matters continue to give me cause for concern, there is much to celebrate at St

Mary's, as the annual report shows, and there is much to look forward to this year.

The Craigie Aitchison memorial window has been a hugely exciting project. It was installed on Maundy Thursday and provided the focal point for our Good Friday 'Watch by the Cross' service. It is to be officially dedicated by the Bishop of London on 17 May, Ascension Day. The window has attracted a great deal of comment, mostly enthusiastic and positive, although there have been some adverse comments. For the most part, new things are challenging and often require us to change the way we think, believe and act. The Craigie window, I believe, has this important function.

Other events to look forward to this year include our annual Summer Fair, which will incorporate celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee and the Olympic Games and the Art Show of works by local artists, which will coincide with the Fair. I am delighted that the distinguished artist Professor Ken Howard RA has agreed to open the show.

During the Olympic and Paralympic Games St Mary's will be on a walking trail, which the London diocese is putting together for those visiting London during the games. During the games the church will be open from 9.0am to 6.0pm and we will be offering refreshments to those who visit. We will therefore be looking for volunteers to be in church to welcome visitors. We also hope to play a role in providing refreshments for spectators during the men's and women's road cycle races, which will take place along the Fulham Road.

There will be a significant change at St Mary's this year with the departure of Graham Caldbeck, our Director of Music. Graham has been at St Mary's since 2004 and he has made a wonderful contribution to the music at St Mary's, both with our church choir and with the professional singers who are engaged from time to time. I am very grateful to Graham and all he has given to St Mary's over the past eight years. His last Sunday will be July 15 and we are hoping to appoint his successor from 1 September.

On a more mundane note, we have started to look carefully at health and safety issues at St Mary's and I am very grateful to Anthony

Williams, who has taken on this large, all-encompassing task. Anthony has also been instrumental in advising on the renewal of the church's sound system that has been less than perfect, and I am delighted that it will be installed in time for the service on 17 May. Earlier this year we also set up a communications committee to look at the various ways in which we might communicate better, both with regular members of the congregation and with the general public. The committee will be giving its recommendations in the near future.

St Mary's continues to be a lively and active church and I count myself very fortunate to be here. In closing I would like to thank everyone who worships with us, contributes to our life together, and makes St Mary's a lively and active church. I would particularly like to thank the wardens for their support and hard work behind the scenes, members of the PCC for their work and commitment, and last but not least Ruth Lampard, our Associate Vicar, John McVeigh, our parish administrator, and David Ireton, the vergier, whose commitment to St Mary's is shown by their hard work and willingness to go the extra mile.

Ginny Thomas

Thursday Lunch

The monthly Thursday Lunch restarts on Thursday 10 May. The guest speaker this month is our Director of Music, Graham Caldbeck. If you would like to attend please put your name on the sign up sheet at the back of the church.

The Craigie Aitchison Memorial Window at St Mary's

The Craigie Aitchison memorial window is an exciting project for St Mary's. It was installed in time for Easter and it will be dedicated by the Bishop of London, The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dr Richard Chartres on 17 May at the Ascension Day service.

The project was conceived by Edwina Sassoon, a parishioner, and Craigie had agreed to it before his death in December 2009. After his death, his family and Trustees fully supported the project. The window has been funded through the generosity of The Linbury Trust, The Jerusalem Trust and Mary Lewis and her family.

The Good Friday Service at St Mary's was based on the window, and the text for the service will be available shortly in pamphlet form at the back of the Church.



100th Birthday Congratulations!

Many congratulations to May Beswick who celebrates her 100th birthday on Sunday 6 May. May has been a long time member of St Mary's Church and attended St

Mary's regularly until she moved to Christ Church Street, Chelsea where Ginny regularly visits her.

May will celebrate her birthday with a party given by her daughter Martine. We send May every good wish for her birthday and many, many congratulations on reaching her centenary.

St Paul's Cathedral Sunday Forum

St Paul's Forum runs a programme of events at St Paul's Cathedral exploring Christian life and spirituality. The programme is open to all.

For more information see

www.stpauls.co.uk/Learning-Education/St-Pauls-Forum

Sunday, 6 May 1.0-2.0pm:

The Meaning in the Miracles

The Very Revd Jeffrey John, Dean of St Alban's Cathedral and author of *The Meaning in the Miracles* (Canterbury Press, 2001) will explore the Gospel miracles' prophetic and theological significance, and in particular, how the healing miracles challenge us to consider if and how we ourselves want to be healed.

Sunday 3 June 1.0-2.0pm

Hildegard of Bingen's Vision of the Trinity

The Revd Professor June Boyce-Tillman, Professor of Music at Winchester University and author of *The Creative Spirit: Harmonious Living with Hildegard of Bingen* (Canterbury Press 2000), looks at Hildegard's Vision of the Trinity to see if we can find a way, with her, to fall in love with the interconnectedness of God, the world and ourselves.

The Book of Common Prayer

The Book of Common Prayer is the short title of a number of related [prayer books](#) used in the

[Anglican Communion](#). The original book, published in 1549 in the reign of [Edward VI](#), was a product of the [English Reformation](#) following the break with [Rome](#). It was the first prayer book to include the complete forms of service for daily and Sunday worship in English. It contained [Morning Prayer](#), [Evening Prayer](#), the [Litany](#), [Holy Communion](#), and also the occasional services in full: the orders for [Baptism](#), [Confirmation](#), [Marriage](#), 'Prayers to be said with the sick' and a [Funeral](#) service. It also set out in full the parts of the service which varied throughout the Church's Year: the [Collect](#), [Epistle](#) and [Gospel](#) readings for the Sunday Communion Service, and the [canticles](#), (mostly biblical) that were to be said or sung between the readings. The [Psalms](#) and readings from the Old and [New Testaments](#) for daily prayer were given in the form of lists and tables.

The forms of parish worship in the late medieval church in England followed the Latin [Roman Rite](#), varying according to local practice. By far the most common found in Southern England was the '[Use of Sarum](#)' (as used at Salisbury (Sarum), then the dominant liturgical centre). This was not consolidated into a single book. The forms of service that were to be included in the Book of Common Prayer were drawn from the [Missal](#) (for the Mass), [Breviary](#) (for the daily office), Manual (for the occasional services; Baptism, Marriage, Burial etc.), and [Pontifical](#) (for the services appropriate to a [bishop](#), i.e. Confirmation, Ordination).

The work of producing an English language version was largely that of [Thomas Cranmer](#), [Archbishop of Canterbury](#). First to be completed was a Communion Rite, basically a translation of the Latin Mass, mainly following the familiar structure in the [Use of Sarum](#). By outwardly maintaining familiar forms, Cranmer hoped to establish the practice of weekly congregational Communion. He included exhortations to encourage this, and instructions that Communion should never be received by the [priest](#) alone. This represented a radical change from late medieval practice in which the focus of congregational worship was attendance at the consecration and adoration of the elevated [Consecrated Host](#). Congregations normally received Communion once a year at [Easter](#); and individual lay people could expect to receive Communion only when gravely ill, or by way of a [Nuptial Mass](#) on being married.

Cranmer's work of simplification and revision was also applied to the Daily Offices, which became [Morning](#), and [Evening Prayer](#). He hoped this would be used by the Laity as a daily form of prayer and he set up a biblical cycle of readings. The Psalter was to be read through once a month; the New Testament (other than the [Book of Revelation](#)) three times a year, and the [Old Testament](#), including the [Apocrypha](#), once. Of the canticles, only the [Te Deum](#) was retained of the non-biblical material.

The 1549 book was soon succeeded by a more reformed revision in 1552 under the same editorial hand of [Thomas Cranmer](#). It was only used for a few months, because when Edward VI died in 1553 his half-sister [Mary I](#) restored Roman Catholic worship, and for good measure, had Cranmer burnt to death at Oxford on 21 March 1556. She died in 1558, and in 1559 [Elizabeth I](#) reintroduced Cranmer's 1552 book with a few modifications to make it more acceptable to traditionally minded worshippers. After the Civil War and the return of Charles II another revision was published in 1662, and this has remained the official prayer book of the Church of England ever since.

The actual language of the 1662 revision was little changed from that of Cranmer, except that the readings for the Epistle and Gospel at Holy Communion, which had been set out in full in 1549, were changed from the text of the Great Bible (1538) to that of the King James Bible (1611). However the Psalter, which in the previous versions had been given only as a daily list, was now printed out in full. It retained the text of the Great Bible because this was thought to be more rhythmical and suitable for singing. This was a blessing, because this translation, the work of Miles Coverdale, is one of the great jewels of the Book of Common Prayer (see my article in *Clarion* October 2009).

After 1662, development ceased in England until the early twentieth century, when work began on a revised prayer book. In 1927 this book was approved by the Church of England Convocations and Church Assembly, but as the Church of England is a state church, Parliament also had to approve. A Resolution to this effect was passed in the House of Lords by a large majority, but a similar resolution was defeated in the House of

Commons by thirty-three votes after two MPs 'inflamed all the latent Protestant prejudices in the House', arguing that the proposed book was 'papistical', a restoration of the Roman Mass, and implying the doctrine of Transubstantiation. After this, Prayer Books often printed the 1662 and 1927 forms of service in parallel columns, although the legal basis of the revised version was clearly moot. The consequence was a wide variation in liturgical practice from parish to parish, with very few churchmen adhering consistently to the strict observation of either the 1662 or the 1927 forms of worship.

After this fiasco no further attempts were made to revise the Book of Common Prayer, and work began on an alternative book. This led to the publication of the mysteriously named 'Series 1, 2 and 3' in the 1960s, the '[Alternative Service Book](#)' in the 1980s and the '[Common Worship](#)' series of books in 2000. All differ substantially from the Book of Common Prayer, though the latter includes, in the Order Two form of the Holy Communion, a very slight revision of the Prayer Book service, largely along the lines proposed for the 1927 Prayer Book. Order One follows the pattern of modern liturgical scholarship and provides a number of alternative Eucharistic prayers. This is where our 10:30am Sunday Communion Service at St Mary's comes from. At 8:00am we still use the Book of Common Prayer, for which many thanks.

Together with the [King James Bible](#) and the works of [Shakespeare](#), the Book of Common Prayer has been one of the founding texts of modern English. In particular, many Christian prayer books have drawn on the collects for the Sundays of the Church's Year – mostly translated by Cranmer from a wide range of Christian traditions, but including a number of original compositions – which are widely recognized as masterpieces. Common Worship has retained fifty of them.

The *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* contains over 400 extracts, two thirds of them from the *Psalter*. Examples of well-known phrases include:

- 'Speak now or forever hold your peace' from the [marriage](#) liturgy.
- 'Till death us do part', from the marriage liturgy.
- 'Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust' from the [funeral](#) service.

- 'From all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil' from the [litany](#).
- 'Read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest' from the [collect](#) for the second Sunday of [Advent](#).
- 'Evil liver' from the rubrics for Holy Communion.
- 'All sorts and conditions of men' from the Order for Morning Prayer.
- 'Peace [in our time](#)' from Morning Prayer, Versicles.

The Book of Common Prayer is also the unique founding document and focus of unity for the Anglican Communion. This year is the 350th Anniversary of its publication in definitive form and deserves to be celebrated as we did the King James Bible last year (see the *Clarion* of February 2011).

Hugh Beach (with due acknowledgement to Wikipedia)



Christian Aid Quiz Night, 26 May

Due to the success of last year's event, we are holding our second Quiz Night on 26 May to raise funds for Christian Aid. St Marys has been supporting this international relief and development agency for several years and so do please buy a ticket for the quiz night and help us to continue to raise much needed funds for the charity.

The quiz takes place in the church hall, starting at 7.0pm, with several rounds of thought-provoking questions and there is a break in the middle for a buffet supper. Tickets at £15 include the food and wine, are available from Joanna Hackett after services or from John in the Parish Office.

We look forward to seeing you on the night. Come along on your own or as a ready-made team – everyone is welcome.

Flower Arranging

If you can help our small team of volunteers who arrange flowers for occasional weddings, please contact Anita Dowbiggin on 020 7370 5882.

Sunday 3 June 2012: The Big Jubilee Lunch 12.15pm



We're celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with people up and down the country with The Big Jubilee Lunch on Sunday 3 June 2012. This is also the day of the Thames Pageant, and although many of you will wish to head down to the river to see the Queen and the flotilla pass by, others may not want to queue to get a good view, or cope with the crowds, so, The Big Jubilee Lunch is a good way to join in the festivities of the day. If the weather is good, we will be having a picnic in The Bolton Gardens; please bring rugs, picnic chairs etc to sit on. If the weather is inclement we will be in Church. All are welcome, both from Church and our wider community. Many will have great memories of our last Boltons Big Lunch in 2009, when over 100 people sat down for a great festive lunch in Church.

We aim to be finished by 1.30pm so that those who wish to watch the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant can do so (2pm to 6pm).

Tickets £5 for adults, children free. Register to attend with John McVeigh in the parish office 020 7835 1440, john@stmarytheboltons.org.uk Pay on the door.

NB We are limited to 120, first come, first served; please register early!

Saturday 30 June: The Great Garden Adventure

The Great Garden Adventure returns to Bramham Gardens on 30 June with stories, wonder, creatures to ponder, all on our doorstep.

Put the date in your diaries, and tell your friends and neighbours. Sessions will start at 10.30, 11.00 and 11.30am. We aim to be finished by 1.30pm so that those who wish to watch the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant can do so (2pm to 6pm).

Tickets available from 1 June.

Ruth Lampard

St Mary The Boltons Summer Fair Saturday, 16 June, 12.00 noon till 4.0pm



Please tell all your families,
neighbours and friends!

It's that time of year again when thoughts turn to letting everyone know that the Summer Fair is on its way! This year we are bringing the timings forward to start at 12 noon and to finish a little earlier at 4.0pm. We thought people may want to join us for lunch and then stay and enjoy themselves to get their appetite up for tea and strawberries, perhaps mingled with a glass of Pimms or maybe a champagne cocktail to continue the Jubilee celebration and help our 2012 Charities. The charities agreed to by the PCC for this year are Pump Aid, The West London Churches Homeless Concern, Willow Day Service, St Cuthbert's Centre, The Great Garden Adventure and St Mary's Olympic Outreach.

The Poster is being worked on, the Band is booked, and the Fire Service and Mounted Police have the date in their diary. As always there will be books, bric-à-brac, the bottle tombola, children's books, toys and games, running races (slightly more structured than in previous years!), home-made produce and flowers, as well as the Raffle, and we are going to have the Splendid Hampers again. We are researching a few new ideas and the Krispy Kreme donuts will return, as will the Face Painter and the coconut shy! If anyone knows a caricaturist who might be able to join us for the afternoon please do let us know. One of the new things we are planning is to operate the fair on a token system, where tokens are bought and used as currency during the afternoon.

This year we are hoping to ask different groups to create their own hampers, but we welcome contributions and suggestions. At the moment our themes are: A Jubilee Celebration, The United Kingdom, International, Music, Outdoors Fun, Indoor Entertainment, Cheese and Wine, All things Floral, and Gentleman's Relish. May they tempt your thoughts and tickle your fancy and prompt donations! We are hoping to get the Hampers together a week before the fair so that those who might not be able to make the day itself can still see what is on offer and buy one of

the limited tickets. The Hampers are not just food hampers, they are baskets around a theme and the imagination can (and does) run riot in some cases.

Raffle Prizes are always welcome and very much appreciated, so if you are able to contribute, or know an organisation or an individual who may be able to contribute, we would be very grateful. Needless to say, all the stalls need things to sell, so if you are able to keep the fair in your mind when sorting out your cupboards, we would be so pleased. If you need items collected, please do let us know and we can try and work something out. Storage at church is always a nightmare, but we will give more details in the months to come.

Summer Fairs are successful because they are a community event. We are so grateful for everyone's help and contributions and especially on the day and manning the stalls. This year – because we got it wrong last year – we need a relief team of stall holders who can man stalls to allow others time to enjoy the fair themselves and have a bit of a rest during the course of the afternoon.

More details are to come over the next few months, and all offers of help and support are much appreciated. Please keep the date in your diary and please come and join us. The team organising the fair is Katrina Quinton, Jessica Molloy and Sophie Hunt. Please do get in touch with any of us; our details are below and we look forward to a happy and successful day. Thank you.
Katrina Quinton: katrinaquinton@gmail.com - 0775 398 6523

Sophie Hunt: Sophie@spencer-wood.co.uk - 07769 663792

Jessica Molloy: jessicam@cipr.co.uk

Art Exhibition

The Art Exhibition at St Mary the Boltons will commence with a Preview on Thursday 14 June, 7.0pm - 8.15pm. This will be an open evening with light refreshments and wine. It will give you an opportunity to view the paintings and meet with some of the artists. The object of the exhibition is twofold: firstly, we hope that it will encourage both members and non-members of the congregation to visit the Church. Secondly, to raise funds for the Church and give the artists an opportunity to sell their work and benefit from that sale.

Artists who have confirmed that they are exhibiting will be contacted as regards a meeting with the organisers prior to the exhibition. If you have not yet reserved a space but are prepared to exhibit your work, please let us know, giving your name and contact details. A letter, headed 'Art Exhibition' giving your contact details, can be left at the Church.

We look forward to hearing from you.
Ann Mulcare

Confirmation

Now is the time to speak to Ginny or me if you would like to prepare for confirmation this year: this is the service by which those who have been baptised as children to take their own step of faith and become full members of the Church. Those who have not been baptised can be baptised as well as confirmed at the service. We will hold two series of meetings, one for adults and one for young people (aged 11 to 18). These will take place in September and October, preparing for confirmation at St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday 3 November at 5.0pm. There will be seven or eight sessions exploring a variety of aspects of the Christian faith; the timing is arranged to suit those who come forward for confirmation. **Now is the time** because autumn seems a long way off, but once summer appears it is easy for that really important conversation to slip through the gap, and September is too late as sessions get underway at the very beginning of the month.
Revd Ruth Lampard

Upcoming Dates

Thursday 17 May

6.00pm Dedication of Craigie Aitchison Memorial Window

Sunday 3 June

Big Jubilee Lunch

Thursday 14 June

Opening of the 2012 Art Exhibition

Saturday 16 June Summer Fair

Saturday 30 June The Great Garden Adventure

Years 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

St. Martin-in-the-Fields WC2N 4JJ

Friday 22 June 2012 at 7.30pm

HANDEL – ISRAEL IN EGYPT

*Epic storytelling. Great drama.
Dynamic choruses.*

NONSUCH SINGERS

CANZONA (*Director Theresa Caudle*)

Nathalie Chalkley *soprano*

Sofia Larsson *soprano*

James Neville *countertenor*

Rupert Charlesworth *tenor*

Johnny Herford *bass*

Gareth John *bass*

Graham Caldbeck *conductor*

*This is Graham's last concert with
Nonsuch Singers.*

He has conducted the choir since 1996.

Please do come!

Box Office 020 7766 1100

Online www.smitf.org

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

**Contributions for the June Clarion should
be sent in to the church office by 15 May
2012**