

THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

rooted in faith

open in thought

reaching out in service

JUNE 2012

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

We hope for blue skies and sunshine for Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, but she is Queen of England, and those who were there sixty years ago for her coronation stood in heavy rain, clad in macs and rainhoods, with umbrellas to hand to witness and celebrate her accession to the throne at Westminster Abbey. Noting that the ceremony by which she took on the role as Head of State took place in Westminster Abbey – a Church rather than a great building of state – one of the commentators said it is an 'event of deep spiritual significance to both the Queen and her people.'

It is this note of spiritual depth, duty, and responsibility, amidst all the paraphernalia of monarchy, state and national identity, that shines through both the television coverage of the coronation, and the 60 years' service as Queen. On 2 June 2012 The Queen celebrates 60 years as Head of State, and also as Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England. In both roles she has had no political or executive powers, but she has had a profound symbolic role providing identity, unity, stability and continuity, which has required change over time, as memory or any visit to her website (www.royal.gov.uk/hmthequeen) will testify.

Day in and day out, in good times and bad, the Queen has faithfully carried out the duties she took on 60 years ago and has clearly indicated that she will continue to do so. In some sense she embodies national long term memories, of 60 years and more, and in doing so gives us continuity with the past and a vision for the future.

In a recent article in *Standpoint Magazine* (April 2011), Nigel Biggar, the Regius Professor of Moral and Pastoral Theology at Oxford, points out how important it is for the whole country that the Head of State receives 'authorization from above, not from below', because 'the moral legitimacy of government issues primarily from its faithfulness to the given principles of justice, and not from its reflection of popular will,' and notes how important this is for our liberal constitutional democracy in a multi-faith society.

This is supported by the ComRes poll for the BBC published on 15 May in which 'almost three quarters (73%) of people in England think that the Queen and future monarchs should keep the title of Supreme Governor of the Church of England and 'Defender of the Faith'.' Additionally, four-fifths (79%) agree that the Queen still has an important faith role.

In February the Queen spoke of this role at Lambeth Palace to leaders of nine faith communities: 'gently and assuredly, the Church of England has created an environment for other faith communities and indeed people

of no faith to live freely. Woven into the fabric of this country, the Church has helped to build a better society – more and more in active co-operation for the common good with those of other faiths.' Archbishop Rowan Williams affirmed, 'if we take seriously the way our constitution works, the UK is a society where we might expect people to grasp the importance of symbols and traditions, not as a sign of mere conservatism or nostalgia, but as a sign of what holds us together, what commits us to each other.'



We rightly celebrate, as a nation, the gentle and assured commitment of the Queen over 60 years in a time of great and complex change. Among all the celebrations, we as a Church rightly give thanks to God and pray for her at St Mary The Boltons on 3 June in our service and at our Big Jubilee Lunch, and nationally in the Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral on 5 June.
Ruth Lampard

Sunday 3 June 2012: The Big Jubilee Lunch 12.15pm

We are 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. Everyone is welcome, both from Church and the 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.

Those who wish to leave in time to watch the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant are welcome to do so (2.0pm to 6.0pm).

Tickets £5 for adults, children free.

Please put your name on the sign up sheet at the back of church, or register with the parish office john@stmarytheboltons.org.uk and 020 7835 1440, if you would like to come. Pay on the door.

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

Art Exhibition

The Art Exhibition at St Mary The Boltons will commence with a Preview on Thursday 14 June, 7.00pm - 8.30pm and will continue until Wednesday 20 June. Professor Ken Howard OBE RA will open the show at 7.30pm. 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.

The dates the exhibition runs are as following
Thursday 14 June Preview
Friday 15 June 10am to 5pm
Saturday 16 June 2pm to 5pm
Sundays 17 June 2pm to 5pm
Monday 18 June 10am to 5pm
Tuesday 19 June 10am to 5pm
Wednesday 20 June 10am to 5pm

We look forward to seeing you.
Ann Mulcare and Loraine Baxter

Graham Caldbeck

As many of you already know, Graham Caldbeck, our Director of Music, will be leaving in July and moving to Jersey. His last Sunday will be 15 July. If you would like to make a donation to his farewell present, please contact the parish office, Ginny or Ruth. Any cheques should be made payable to 'St Mary with St Peter & St Jude PCC' and the envelope should be marked 'For Graham Caldbeck's present'.

St Mary The Boltons Summer Fair Saturday, 16 June, 12.0 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 trust that people will 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 to continue the Jubilee celebration and help our 2012 Charities. The charities chosen 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.

Wonderful things are coming in for the Splendid Hampers, and it is such fun to see how people think around the subject and what makes them unique. The Splendid Hampers will be full of wonderful things that will be worth far more than the £10 ticket price and with only 25 on sale, for each hamper the odds are a lot better than the lottery! We are planning on having several of the hampers ready the weekend before the Fair so that members of the congregation can have a sneak preview and the opportunity to buy tickets in advance of the great day itself. Please let your minds wander around the themes, and all contributions are gratefully received. The Really Splendid Hampers are more than food and drink, books, films, CDs of music, ceramics and glassware, textiles and more. Humour and plays on words are always welcome and we are hoping that the baskets will then be attractive to lots of people who will be able to use and enjoy the contents without feeling inundated with quantities of foods they will never eat!

Please leave any offerings at church and we will pick them up to put things together. Or please give me a call (phone numbers below) and I can arrange to come and collect at a time convenient to you. The themes for this year include Family fun and games (inspired by the Olympics with contributions from Sunday School and Little Lambs), A Musical Medley, Floral and Environmental (with contributions from the Sustainability Group), The Jubilee (we felt the PCC could contribute to this one!), The United Kingdom (all things north south east and west!), International (speaks for itself and open to everything), The Gentleman's Hamper, A Chocolate Hamper, among others including, we hope the most popular one last year 'The Independence Day' Hamper.

We also need raffle prizes, so why not ask your favourite restaurant or shop to see if they might consider donating something. The fact that all the money raised at the Summer Fair goes to charity, and not to us, is often a selling point. It is lovely being involved in something when other people are so kind and volunteer.

Contributions to the stalls are also important, the children's books and toys are inspiration for a

clear out, as is the bric-a-brac stall and maybe even the book stall, Have a look through your bookshelf and see if there is anything that can be moved on – or perhaps you can make space for new purchases from the Fair to find a home! Unfortunately, we are not allowed to accept electrical items or clothes. As you know, space is rather limited at church so if you could bring these in to church from Sunday 10 June that would be much appreciated. If you need the space sooner, please call me and I'll collect and work out somewhere to store it!

We need cakes for the Produce stall, and maybe some savouries too this year like quiche or sausage rolls, cheese scones and cheese straws, fresh bread. Jams and Marmalades and pickles and chutneys are always popular and quick sellers so the more the merrier.

The bottle stall needs bottles – everything and anything in a bottle not just alcohol, soft drinks and mixers too, bubble bath, olive oil, ketchup, hand cream, oven cleaner, nail polish, makeup remover, perfume, mouthwash - if it's in a bottle, we'd love to put a ticket on it and throw it's partner in the drum!

The Coconut shy will be doing its business as usual and the Children's Games will be organised and divided into big and small children. The Olympics it won't be and no doubt there will be many false starts but medals will abound and I think a St Mary the Bolton's medal for the Summer Fair sack race is worth just as much as the men's 100m sprint at the Olympic stadium.

The Games will run between the Magic Shows – there will be two of these during the afternoon and the Fire Brigade and the Police Horses are hoping to come along too. We'll also have balloon swords and hats to play with and a pot up your own mini herb garden too.

The Barbecue will be fired up and extra sausages have been ordered too with Ketchup and Mustard on the Saturday Morning shopping list!

Tea will be served and we are hatching plans to do creative things with the area outside the church hall so come along to see what is on offer.

As with every event, it takes time and muscle power to create it and dismantle it so offers of help on Saturday morning to construct the

gazebos and the rain shelters is always helpful along with the carrying of stuff to stalls. The end of the day is always tiring and those of you who can help after four are angels in disguise too. Manning the stalls during the day is essential and we have now got a team of relief stall holders so there will be time for everyone to have a look at what is on offer and to have a sit down and something to eat and drink!

One final thing is that this year we are introducing a token system for payment. Tokens will be available at the entrances and used for payment on all stalls. There will be a few exceptions where cash can be used but it is hoped that this will ease the fingers of our noble treasurers. We'll still be able to track how much each stall has taken for those who want to know.

Organising the Summer Fair is one of those things when you feel highly aware that all you seem to do is ask for favours, but then you get the complete thrill when people say yes. I seem to come up with the problems and everyone else seems to come up with the answers, which is truly wonderful and thank you all so much for helping to make it a happy and successful day.

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 hearing from you.

The Sustainability Group is planning to encourage people to grow their own herbs at the summer fair. Thanks to the lovely Verena Tschudin who answered our prayers and took on the sowing of the herb seeds with great success there will be herbs for people to choose and plant on into a pot. Plant pots have been accumulated and are washed and ready but we will need broken pots to create drainage and also some compost. So far the aim to reuse and recycle and create something desirable seems to be coming to effect!

Katrina

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07769 663792

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A behind the scenes look at the installation of the lectern window.

Attention to detail in both planning and execution are essential to the success of any joint enterprise, but if an idea is to be transformed into reality, other and more intangible aspects must also be present. Firstly, there needs to be a common vision, and this has to be fully and rigorously tested if there is to be meaningful shared understanding. Beyond this, trust and hope are also required. However forensic the forethought, and however detailed the plans for execution, the unexpected will always occur. Life will intervene. At such points, trust and hope are essential. All these factors are present in the story of the new lectern window.

The records of the PCC in the late 1950s and early 1960s show that it was always the aim to have more than clear glazing in the lectern window, but the funds from the War Damages Commission were not enough to complete this plan at that time. It was left to another generation to share the same vision and to make this dream a reality. So it was that a private vision of a window using the work of an artist known for his depiction of religious subjects was shared with a vicar who was bold enough to take it up, when the unexpected happened: just as the original project was getting under way at the end of 2009 the artist himself died. Due entirely to the commitment of a few key individuals, and with the permission of the artist's family, the project survived this setback and was reborn as a memorial for the artist.

There is a very detailed process in the Church of England that has to be followed before changes can be made to a church building, its contents or its grounds. This legal process, known as obtaining a Faculty, exists alongside local authority planning permission, and for listed churches, like St Mary's, it takes the place of listed building consent and conservation area consent. The process that has to be followed by a church is every bit as complex as obtaining planning permission from a local authority. For a project as significant as the new window, obtaining the faculty involved informal on-site consultations with the Diocesan Advisory Committee, which is responsible for oversight of the process, as well as a detailed formal written application. The formal approval of the PCC was

also necessary and the final decision to go ahead with the project was taken in January 2011 at a special meeting held in church on a Saturday morning in order to look at all the details in daylight. The PCC was, however, relieved of one potentially burdensome aspect of the project, for at a very early stage it became clear that the private vision for the project extended to how it might be funded, and came with a commitment to raising the necessary funds, for which the PCC is extremely grateful.

In 2012 the project entered its final construction phase, with a timetable set for actual installation of the window by Easter, with a formal dedication on Ascension Day. Hopes were high after a trip in January to Bavaria to check out the factory where the glass was to be made. Again, the unexpected happened: the weather intervened. Snow on the continent delayed the shipping of the glass. Better news filtered through in March after the glass had finally arrived in Birmingham: the first stages of the work at the John Hardman Studios where the window was being created, were going well and no problems had arisen as the glass was being etched and fired.

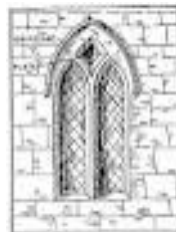
Although formal dedication of the new window was arranged for Ascension Day in May, the plan was to have it installed for Easter, which fell on 8 April, and to use it for reflections during the Three Hour Service on Good Friday. The timetable had become very tight. Installation was finally set to go ahead early in Holy Week. Again, life – or rather contaminated fuel – intervened, not once, but twice. On the appointed day, the master builders from Fine Design and Build, the Birmingham based firm which was to carry out the actual installation, were expected to arrive early. They finally arrived just after midday, as their lorry had broken down on the journey to London and had to be replaced. By the end of the day they had only removed the tracery at the top of the window and installed the new glass in its place. On their return journey that evening their second lorry broke down on the motorway, and their day, which had started at 5.30am, ended at 1.30am. But they rose early, again, after just a few hours' sleep, to return to London. Even then, they had to wait for another lorry in order to be able to get the roof bars needed to bring their ladders! However, the process of installation went smoothly throughout, with three and sometimes four master builders working on the window at the same time. For several hours,

work on removal of the old window went on in tandem with fitting the new one: at one point, when a new pane was being supported on one single finger, a voice asked: Is it hurting? Another replied, Yes. No complaint was uttered, nothing was rushed. The window was installed just in time for the service on Maundy Thursday.

In the process of 'doing the pictures' there was regularly a great deal of 'nudging the paint about, and getting things wrong before you get them right' for Craigie Aitchison. So, too, adjustments were required to the new window. Brilliant as it was for the Easter celebrations, in response to the cooler and critical eye of Edwina Sassoon, who had originated the project, changes had to be made to the tree and hill, and some panes had to be replaced to make the tonal range more consistent from bottom to top. The new panes were brought down from Birmingham for the final fitting, but even then the pane with the Bedlington had to be taken across London to the workshop of another stained glass artist who had the necessary equipment to make the final sandblasted adjustment to the image of the dog. Finally the window had taken shape; surely it will now stand the test of time.

Leo Fraser-Mackenzie

Our new Window



In many ways we think of Easter as a festival of new light. Ruth Lampard, in her moving account of the *Exultet* in the March edition of *The Clarion* describes one of them. When we came into the church on Easter Day we encountered another, finding one bit of the building newly bathed in colour. The Lectern corner is a favourite spot anyway, with its brassy eagle and the flower stand where, regardless of season, Boo Simpson and her helpers set out their magnificent displays. What we were seeing was daylight filtered through fields of orange, red and purple of an intensity far exceeding that in the tantalising sample panes, which were all we had been allowed to see until then, for reasons which now became obvious. To most people, who knew nothing of the artist's work beforehand, first sight of the figures etched on the panes came as a shock. For those in the know it was a different story, because the same elements had been appearing in his works all his life.

Craigie Aitchison was born in Edinburgh in 1926, son of a distinguished lawyer and politician of the same name, who served as Lord Advocate from 1929 to 1933. His grandfather had been minister at the United Free Church ('wee frees') Erskine Kirk in Falkirk. Craigie Aitchison was educated at Loretto School until the death of his father in 1941 and then at home by private tutors. In the Second World War he was rejected for military service on medical grounds. He studied law in Edinburgh and London for six years but it did not suit him. He returned to Edinburgh in 1950 to practice painting, and then studied at the Slade School in London from 1952 to 1954 under William Coldstream. He won a prize for the best still life in his second year. In 1955 he was awarded a British Council scholarship to study in Italy, where he was bowled over by the exuberance of the Catholic churches and the ravishing colours of Giotto, Masaccio and, above all, Piero della Francesca. He moved to Kennington in 1963, where he occupied the same Victorian town house for 35 years, and in 1973 he bought a ruined farmhouse in Italy which he restored and lived in for a few months every year. He bought Wayne, the first of his woolly Bedlington terriers,ⁱ from Crufts in 1971. He continued to own Bedlingtons for the next 28 years and in the latter part of his life he owned three.

Aitchison is best known for his many paintings of the Crucifixion, (one of which hangs behind the altar in the chapter house of Liverpool Cathedral); Italian landscapes; and portraits, mainly of black men or of dogs. His simple style with bright, childlike colours defies description, and has been compared to the Scottish Colourists, or naive artists, although Brian Sewell dismissed him as 'a painter of too considered trifles.' Less rarefied critics have tended to dismiss his work as the sort of thing a 10-year old might do. Indeed at first sight his paintings are childlike, but it is precisely that quality of innocent spontaneity that admirers have so liked in him, along with the exuberant pastel colour grounds within which the deceptively simple subjects of his paintings acquire meaning. Against his powerful reds, bold saffron yellows, jelly-bright greens, deep black blues and blancmange pinks, Aitchison's simplified and delicately-drawn Bedlingtons, single flowers, fragile birds or crucified Christs look almost incidental – symbols of spiritual isolation that pack a surprisingly powerful emotional punch.

Aitchison was elected a Royal Academician in 1988. Exhibitions of his work were held at the Serpentine Gallery in 1981, at Harewood House near Leeds in 1994, and at the Gallery of Modern Art in Glasgow in 1996. Other shows were held at the Museum of Modern Art, Powys in 2001 and at the Royal Academy in London in 2003. He won the Royal Academy's Korn Ferry International Award in 1989, the first £30,000 Jerwood Painting Prize, sponsored by *The Sunday Telegraph* in 1994; and the Nordstern Art Prize in 2000. He was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1999.

In person, Aitchison was a gentle man with a halo of snowy hair and a look of permanent astonishment.ⁱⁱ He was engagingly other-worldly and ignorant of contemporary culture. When he was told that one of his paintings had been bought by Elton John, Aitchison asked who that might be. Although he was not a regular churchgoer, he saw the Crucifixion as central to human experience. 'It is the most horrific story I've ever heard,' he said. 'They were all ganging up against one person. As long as the world exists one should attempt to record that. It was so unfair.'

Aitchison died in December 2009. The idea of putting up a window in his memory at our church came from Edwina Sassoon, who lives in the parish. She has always worked in the visual arts, starting at a gallery in Cork Street before moving on to the Courtauld Institute and then the British Council where she organised exhibitions. From 1980-1990 Edwina worked at the Tate Gallery before setting up her own consultancy business, using her experience to advise both sides of the arts and business partnership. Her wide experience covers both commercial and academic fields, public relations and promotion, commissioning of works of arts, exhibition and event organisation, corporate sponsorship and fundraising. She is a Director of the Friends of the Royal Academy, and a Trustee of the Courtauld Institute of Art. Edwina has travelled extensively in developing countries and has a wide-ranging interest in cultural heritage. She was awarded the Victoria & Albert Museum's 'Knowledge and Inspiration' Medal in 2010. We are extremely grateful to her for bringing this project to a successful conclusion, at no cost to our funds. Congratulations also to the clergy and church wardens for embracing it so enthusiastically.

Hugh Beach (with acknowledgement to Wikipedia, and the *Telegraph* obituary of 21 December 2009)

¹ Calmer and less boisterous than many other terriers, the Bedlington is known as a dog with a good nature and mild manners. It is fearless and fast enough to bay a [badger](#) or a [fox](#), quick and agile enough to course a [hare](#) and is a first-rate [water dog](#). Incredibly smart and attentive to its owner, the Bedlington is one of the most reliable terriers. They are problem solvers and loyal family companions, cheerful and eager to please.

Fulham News



The owners of Fulham News celebrated their 25th anniversary on 7 May with a party for over 200 of their customers and friends. Visiting

them, it is easy to see why the newsagent has been such a success. The small bright shop is an Aladdin's cave of magazines and newspapers with titles ranging from art magazines as thick as books to publications in a multitude of languages. Their customers are welcomed as friends and Mr Amin will do his best to find you any magazine that is not already on the well-stocked shelves. Pankaj and Shradma met while studying in North London and continued to work in a hospital there with no thoughts of running a shop; Shradma had even promised herself that she would not marry a shop owner! It was a friend of Pankaj who spotted the opportunity on the Fulham Road and encouraged him to consider it. With only two days in which to decide whether to take the shop, Pankaj and Shradma quickly made up their minds to take the chance. It turned out not to be the only change for the family as their first child was born just nine months after Pankaj and Shradma took over the newsagent. All three children grew up in and around the shop and Mrs Amin remembers customers popping in to chat and sometimes looking after the children for a few hours.

Pankaj has noticed the area becoming more cosmopolitan over the years and this increasing diversity has encouraged the extension of his magazine and newspaper selection. The shop has recently moved a few doors down and has been refurbished to provide more space. Pankaj and Shradma live close to the newsagent and enjoy being part of the local community; it is clear that they, and Fulham News, are at the heart of our friendly neighbourhood.

Miriam Lindsay

Jack Dunn's ordination

Jack's ordination will take place on Sunday 24 June at 3.0pm at St Mary Abbots. Can you please let John at the parish office know if you are planning to attend?

Sustainability Group Top Tip

Our Church events in June have sustainability woven into them and our top tip this month is simply to be aware of the connections we are making between faith, flourishing local life, and care for creation.

The Big Jubilee Lunch on Sunday 3 June is part of the national Big Jubilee Lunch, which started as a very simple idea from the Eden Project, encouraging people to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee by sharing a meal with neighbours. Our Big Jubilee Lunch will have Coronation Chicken on the menu (what else!), the free-range chickens coming from a farm near Haslemere via Margarete Geier. Do invite friends and neighbours, and sign up or call the parish office to let us know you are coming.

Our Summer Fair on Saturday 16 June will have a stall where people can make up a simple pot of herbs – single herbs or a mix – to take away. Green fingers can flourish from a window sill and there is nothing quite like putting home grown herbs into a salad!

The Great Garden Adventure on Saturday 30 June is for children and families, opening our eyes, minds and hearts to the living creatures in our midst. This year we are having a standing display of birds of prey; I hope our local owls will swoop by for a look!

Ruth Lampard

Shakespeare

We have had a theatre group using the church for rehearsal space for four days for upcoming productions of Twelfth Night and The Tempest. The plays run from 5-30 June and 3-21 July respectively, at 8.0pm. Tickets cost £10 (£8 concessions). The performances take place in the Drayton Theatre (Drayton Arms), 153 Old Brompton Road, SW5 0LJ, 020 7835 2301.

www.thedraytontheatre.co.uk

**The Great Garden Adventure!
Saturday 30th June 2012**



Let Bramham Garden gates swing open for children to explore, through story, bughunt and art, the creatures hiding in the beautiful gardens...

Visiting for the day: birds of prey!

Storytelling

Bug-hunt by Karis Tanner London Wildlife Trust

Birds of Prey by Countrywide Falconry

Sessions start at 10.30; 11.00; 11.30

Venue: Bramham Gardens, SW5 OHF (off Earl's Court Rd)

(If wet, in St Mary's Church, The Boltons, SW10 9TB)

Tickets £2.50 payable on the door
To be sure of a place (last year was a sell-out!)

register your child for a session by contacting:

**St Mary The Boltons Parish Office,
020 7835 1440**

john@stmarytheboltons.org.uk

**Thursday Lunch Meeting Report:
10 May: Talk by Graham Caldbeck**

Graham was the guest speaker at the monthly Thursday lunch at St Mary's on 10 May. His range of musical activities has been extraordinary and this scribe soon gave up trying to keep track of them. A flavour is given by the following, gleaned in part from the internet.

After reading music at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was a Choral Scholar under Richard Marlow, Graham sang with Guildford Cathedral Choir under Barry Rose, and

Winchester Cathedral Choir under Martin Neary and David Hill. He holds both the Fellowship and Choir Training diplomas of the Royal College of Organists and is a former Assistant Organist at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London, where he played for regular BBC World service broadcasts and televised services. Graham's first post, from 1972 to 1974, was as Director of Music and Organist at Stockport Grammar School in Cheshire. He remembers one pupil saying to him: 'I've really enjoyed being taught by you, Mr Caldbeck, but I haven't understood a word you've said!' After this, he went on to become Director of Music at Alleyn's School in Dulwich where he taught for six years.

Graham was one of the co-founders of Southern Voices and conducted the choir from 1984 until the end of 1999, establishing it as one of the leading choirs in the area. He has conducted the Somerset Chamber Choir since 1990, giving annual concerts in Wells Cathedral and, from 1996, has also directed the Nonsuch Singers, described by *The Times* as 'one of London's best chamber choirs.' With both choirs he has performed with many of the UK's finest vocal soloists and period instrument ensembles.

In 2003 Graham conducted the Nonsuch Singers in the televised world première of Sir John Tavener's *Exhortation and Kohima* as part of the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance in the Royal Albert Hall, in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen, the composer, the prime Minister and the Archbishop of Canterbury. From 2005 he has also been conductor of the Mayfield Festival Choir in East Sussex. Graham was Head of the Hampshire Specialist Music Course at Peter Symonds College in Winchester between 1980 and 1989 and then moved to the Royal College of Music where, between 1989 and 2004, he held a succession of senior posts, as well as working as an Academic Studies professor and conducting the Junior Department choirs, RCM Chorus and RCM Chamber Choir. He left the College to pursue a freelance career as conductor, teacher, vocal coach and keyboard player.

Graham made the wonderfully self-effacing remark that it always gave him a good feeling when people taking over from him were better than he!

In September 2004 he took up the position of our Director of Music here at St Mary's, a post he is shortly to vacate on moving to live in Jersey. He is well known for his witty anecdotes at St Mary's choir practices. Asked if he might sometime publish a selection of these, he modestly declined the suggestion. However we live in hope!

Thank you, Graham. It has been a 'privilege and pleasure that we treasure beyond measure' (W.S.Gilbert, *The Gondoliers*) to have had you with us these last eight years.

John Barker

What is Heaven?

One of the more challenging times in the Lent Course I attended this year was our discussion on heaven, prompted by our consideration of The Lord's Prayer. What is heaven? Where is it? How do we envisage it? We all had different visions, which I will not attempt to summarise, but the concept of heaven being here on earth, as well as being elsewhere, did resonate with me.

Then I read an article by Jon Meacham in *Time* magazine (16 April 2012) headed 'Heaven Can't Wait - why rethinking the hereafter could make the world a better place.' A pastor and nephew of a leading Bishop in the American religious right believes that heaven is not just a place you go to; heaven is how you live your life. He says 'What's trending is a younger generation, teens, college-aged, who are motivated by causes - people who are motivated by heaven are also people motivated to make a positive difference in this world.'

According to Gallup, 85% of Americans believe that life does not end at the grave, but there is no consensus on what heaven is. Bishop Wright, a former bishop of Durham, has asked 'What if Christianity is not about enduring this sinful, fallen world in search of a reward of eternal rest?' What if the authors of the New Testament are actually talking about a bodily resurrection in which God brings together the heavens and the earth in a wholly new, wholly redeemed creation? This view is very much at odds with the pearly gates vision of heaven.

For the author of the *Time* article, who is a Christian, this scholarly redefinition of heaven has been illuminating. Heaven, he says, thus becomes for now the reality one creates in the service of

poor people, those who are sick, enslaved, and oppressed. It is not paradise in the sky, but acts of selflessness and love that bring God's sacred space and grace to a broken world.

Other religions have a different concept of heaven to those of Christians, and some were summarised alongside the article. Buddhists of the Pure Land school believe they can enter a Pure Land, the Western Paradise, to be brought to full enlightenment. Tibetan Buddhists associate Mount Kailasa in the Himalayas, which no human being has ascended, with Demchog, the central deity of the archetypal mandala.

Hindus believe that their great god Vishnu reposes far above the highest heavens in Vaikuntha, a gathering place for those who have achieved moksha, or spiritual liberation through him. The Torah tells Jews little about heaven, but the mystical writings of Kabbalah divide the cosmos into several spheres and layers through which move the sparks of souls. The highest of these realms is Atziluth, from which the pure deity emanates.

In Taoism, a Chinese religion, heaven was not merely the sky, but a god, and in Zoroastrianism, after death souls must try to cross a bridge. The blessed will ease over into Garo Demana, the House of Song. The damned go to Drujo-Demana, the House of the Lie. This brings us right back to Christianity and the Roman Catholic belief in the existence of both heaven and hell.

Until we die, we shall never have the answer to this question of what heaven is. It is a question that has challenged people for thousands of years and I find it reassuring that so many people across the world and the centuries have, and still do, believe it exists. For now, the call to do our best to create heaven on earth while we are here is surely the right one, and a call to which we should respond.

Anthony Williams

'Super Confis'

Every year my husband Philip and I spend two weeks at the end of April and beginning of May in the beautiful spa town Bad Pyrmont, 60km south-west of Hannover, Germany.

Our rented holiday flat is only a five-minute walk from the Evangelical Lutheran St. Petri Church.

On Sundays I always look forward to the service that starts at 10.00am. This year, on 29 April, was a very special occasion, i.e. *Festgottesdienst zur Konfirmation*. Twenty-one young people (15-16 year-olds) were publicly committing themselves as full members of the world-wide Church, of which St. Petri's congregation is a part.

The church, dating back to the 11th century, was packed solid. The service started with a rousing organ recital. Pastor Bettina Burkhardt began her sermon by turning to the confirmands, who were sitting in the two front rows, and asking them: 'The whole world is looking for super models, super pop stars; now, are you super confirmands?' There was great laughter when one boy raised his hand. Pastor Burkhardt then pointed out that everyone who has had aspirations to become a top star, has had mentors. 'In your case,' looking directly at the confirmands, 'it all started when your mother and father made the decision on your behalf to have you baptised when you were a baby or a young child. Then as teenagers you embarked on a two-year confirmation course where you had to learn by heart the Ten Commandments, the Twenty-third psalm, several hymns, attend at least two services per month and - horror of horrors - had to switch off your mobile phones during the services!

'Through your own, personal acceptance of your faith in Christ, you are today no longer children, but grown-ups. This means that you not only act out your faith in church but also in your everyday life. Growing in faith never ends. Since your baptism, the decision has already been made: You are all 'super confis' - super confirmands.'

This contemporary style service had us all spell-bound. Every confirmand declared in front of the congregation: 'I believe in Christ' and then the pastor read out the bible verse, which each individual had chosen for himself or herself, which was followed by the laying on of hands by the minister, and then a final blessing.

To my great joy one young man, Nico Janssen, had chosen Psalm 73, verse 23-24 as his text:

Yet I am always with thee
thou holdest my right hand
thou dost guide me by thy counsel
and afterwards will receive me with glory.

My father had selected the same passage for me at my own confirmation on 14 May 1953.

All the hymns were sung sitting down. They were quite modern, even two gospel songs in English: 'Let there be peace on earth' and 'May the Lord send angels.'

In my opinion the German practice of new confirmands and the congregation sharing and celebrating the commitment to Christ in their home church, shows a powerful and unifying connectedness.

It was a humbling experience to witness young people taking a lead in our fast, often critical, and increasingly atheistic and materialistic world, to reassure me, a 73 year-old Christian, that Christ is the way, the truth and life.

Anne Swift



REACHING BEYOND

Reaching Beyond is an artistic event in East London (visual arts, poetry, community involvement) culminating in an exhibition at Bow Road Methodist Church between 23 July and 2 September 2012. The exhibition site is about mile from the Olympic Park. The title, Reaching Beyond, is intentionally open to a wide range of interpretation.

Reaching Beyond is coordinated by Colloquy, an Art and Theology project which is part of the Methodist Church. We have an inclusive remit, welcoming people of all faiths and none. We want to encourage people to join in the project, and to think creatively beyond limits of any one language, medium or culture.

The Reaching Beyond exhibition at Bow Road Methodist Church (2 Merchant Street, London E3 4LY) will include the work of about twenty artists, with works in various forms including paintings, icons, sculptures, mosaics, cartoons and fabrics. The works will be augmented week-by-week with the winning works of the young people's art competitions and the poetry competitions.

Admission is free. Normal opening hours 12 noon to 6.00 pm Monday to Saturday. 23 July to 1 September 2012. www.reachingbeyond.co.uk
<http://facebook.com/reachingbeyonduk>
A driving force of the exhibition is Richard Smith, whose sculpture we used one year for our Lent

Course, and who opened our Art Exhibition two years ago.

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.
Ruth Lampard

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

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.

Upcoming Dates

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

Joan Palin

Pamela Shaw

Gary Davies

Britta Osbahr

Leonard Berry

David Dixon

Evelyn Davson

Madge Terry

Hugo Pdhil

Marjorie Cooling

Kenrick Prescott

Gisela Osbahr

Doreen Allen

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am Eucharist

10.30am Sung Eucharist

4.30pm Evening Prayer.

The meeting room at the back of the church is available for people with pre-school children. There is a baby changing facility in the wheelchair accessible toilet in the hall.

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Usually Morning Prayer is said daily at 8.30am

(Eucharist on Feastdays); Evening Prayer is

usually said at 5.30pm on Monday, Tuesday,

Wednesday and Thursday except Public Holidays.

Wednesday 7.00pm Eucharist

READINGS in June 2012

Sunday 3 June

Readings at 10.30

Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6. 1-8;

Romans 8. 12-17;

John 3. 1-17

No Evening Prayer

Eucharist

2 Timothy 1. 1-3, 6-12;

Mark 12. 18-27

Wednesday 6

Readings at 7.00pm

Thursday 7 **Corpus Christi**
Eucharist
Readings at 8.30am *1 Cor 11: 23-26*
John 6: 51-58

Sunday 10 June **First Sunday**
after Trinity
Readings at 10.30am *Genesis 3.8-15;*
2 Corinthians 4. 13-5.1;
Mark 3. 20-end

Wednesday 13 Eucharist
Readings at 7.00pm *1 Kings 18. 20-39;*
Matthew 5. 17-19

Sunday 17 June **Second Sunday**
after Trinity
Readings at 10.30 *2 Corinthians*
5. 6-10, 14-17;
Mark 4. 26-34

Wednesday 20 Eucharist
Readings at 7.00pm *2 Kings 2. 1, 6-14;*
Matthew 6. 1-6, 16-18

Sunday 24 June **Birth of John**
the Baptist
Readings at 10.30 *Isaiah 40. 1-11;*
Acts 13.14b-26;
Luke 1. 57-66, 80

Wednesday 27 Cyril Bishop & Teacher
Readings at 7.00pm *2 Kings 22. 8-13; 23. 1-3*
Matthew 7. 15-20

Sunday 1 July **Fourth Sunday**
after Trinity
Readings at 10.30 *Lamentations 3. 22-33;*
2 Corinthians 8. 7-end;
Mark 5. 21-end

Regular Events

Thursdays 9.30am onwards Fabric Group
Sundays Sunday School & Little Lambs
in term time

Up coming in June 2012

Sunday 3 12.15pm Big Jubilee Lunch
Monday 4 Bank Holiday. Church closed
Tuesday 5 Bank Holiday. Church closed
Wednesday 6 10.30am Bible Study
Thursday 7 Corpus Christi
7.30pm Taizé Service
Saturday 9 3.00pm Wedding
Edward David and
Amparo Martinez-Russotto
Sunday 10 2.30pm Baptism of Plum Mckenna
Monday 11 7.00pm Bible Study
Wednesday 13 7.45pm Wedding Preparation
Thursday 14 Art Exhibition opens 7-8.30pm
Saturday 16 Summer Fair 12 noon to 4.00pm

Sunday 17 10.30am Baptism of
Clara Bryceson
3.00pm Baptism of Mary Tritton
Wednesday 20 10.30am Bible Study
11.00am Home Communion
St Teresa's
7.30pm Wedding preparation
Monday 25 7pm Bible Study
Wednesday 27 2.30pm Home Communion
Ellesmere House
7.45pm Wedding preparation
Thursday 28 2.30 to 4pm Time for Tea
Saturday 30 10.30am to 1pm
The Great Garden Adventure
4.30pm Wedding of
David McKee and Lucinda Crabbe

DIRECTORY

Parish Postal Address, Telephone, Fax & Website

St. Mary's Church House, The Boltons, London
SW10 9TB Tel 020 7835 1440 Fax 020 7370
6562 www.stmarytheboltons.org.uk
Office open 9.15am – 2.15pm Monday to Friday
Vicar The Revd Ginny Thomas
020 7835 1440, mobile 07590074951. Day off:
Tuesday genny@stmarytheboltons.org.uk
Associate Vicar The Revd Ruth Lampard
Days off Friday & Saturday
ruth@stmarytheboltons.org.uk

Parish Administrator

John McVeigh 020 7835 1440 (church office)
Mon to Fri 9.15am-2.15pm
john@stmarytheboltons.org.uk

Director of Music Graham Caldbeck
07774 655028

Verger / Caretaker David Ireton
020 7244 8998 / 07881 865386 Day off Tuesday

Churchwardens; Leo Fraser-Mackenzie 020
7384 3246. Ann Mulcare (Elect) 020 7937 2005

Members of the Parochial Church Council

Rev Ginny Thomas (Chair), Mr Philip Bedford-Smith, Mr Leo Fraser-Mackenzie, Miss Margarete Geier (Deanery Synod Representative), Miss Joanna Hackett (PCC Secretary), Revd Ruth Lampard, Mr Kevin Loprimo; Mr Timon Molloy, Mrs Ann Mulcare Deanery Synod Representative), Mr David Parsons, Mrs Katrina Quinton, Mrs Kristin-Anne Rutter, Miss Camila Ruz, Mrs Ann Tait

**Contributions for the July/August Clarion
should be sent in to the church office by 18
June 2012**

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